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ABSTRACT

This Kids Count report examines statewide trends in the well-being of South Carolina's children. The statistical portrait is based on 44 indicators in the areas of demographics, family, economic status, health, readiness and early school performance, scholastic achievement, and adolescent risk behaviors. The indicators are: (1) population; (2) births to teen mothers; (3) births to mothers not completing high school; (4) births to single mothers; (5) divorce rate; (6) single-parent family; (7) parents working and child care; (8) family violence; (9) separation from parents; (10) abuse and neglect; (11) out of home placements; (12) adult/child ratio; (13) poverty; (14) income; (15) child support payments; (16) prenatal care; (17) low birth weight; (18) infant mortality; (19) childhood injuries and deaths; (20) immunization; (21) sexually transmitted diseases; (22) healthy lifestyles; (23) tobacco use; (24) disabilities; (25) emotional and behavioral disorders; (26) inadequate health care; (27) Medicaid enrollment; (28) ambulatory care; (29) first-grade readiness; (30) first- through third-grade failure rates; (31) over-age for grade three; (32) special education; (33) exit exam failures; (34) achievement trends; (35) Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test results; (36) dropout rates; (37) adolescents not in school or employed; (38) alcohol use; (39) heavy drinking; (40) drug use; (41) sexual activity and pregnancy; (42) juvenile delinquency; (43) not in school or employed; and (44) adolescent deaths. Statewide data and summary information are provided for each indicator. The bulk of the document presents data by county for each indicator. The data on families, economic status, health,

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readiness, school achievement, and adolescent risk behaviors suggest that too many children are at risk of not growing up to become self-supporting adults, good family members, and responsible community citizens. Thirty-one percent of children live in single-parent families, 18.8 percent live in poverty, 34.8 percent will not graduate from school, 37.1 percent of high school students use alcohol, and 20.1 percent use drugs each month. On the positive side, 85.5 percent of the state's children are born to non-teen mothers, 59.9 percent are born to married parents, and 68.7 percent live in two-parent families. 81.2 percent are not poor, and 86.4 percent are assessed as ready for the first grade. (HTH)

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ED 477 273

Kids Count 2003

South Carolina

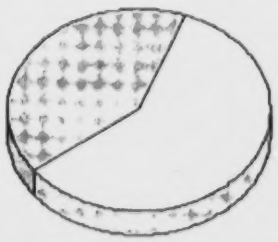
DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2000 there were an estimated 1,009,641 children under age 18 in the state. Of these, 598,188 were White, 369,514 were African-American, and 41,939 were other races. There were 920,207 children under age 18 in 1990, 941,966 in 1980, 955,163 in 1970, and 992,476 in 1960.

Children represent a shrinking portion of the state's population. Those under 18 constituted 25.2% of the population in 2000, down from 41.7% in 1960, 36.9% in 1970, and 30.2% in 1980.

In 2000 the 318,543 pre-schoolers under age 6 were 7.9% of the overall population: 7.1% of Whites and 9.3% of African Americans.

Figure 1: Population Ages 0-17 in 2000



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* In all charts African-American is combined with other races, and often abbreviated as AA&O. Other races comprise 4.2% of children in the state, with "two or more races" at 1.7% and "some other race alone" at 1.2% as the largest Other groups.

FAMILY

Families have always been the most important influence in a child's life. Children depend on their families for material needs, stimulation and guidance. Family life is different in numerous ways from previous generations, and many families now face exceptional challenges.

Families with children now make up a smaller share of all households. Only 32.3% of all households in 2000, as compared with 49.0% of households in 1960, had children below the age of 18.

Births to Teen Mothers: In 2001, 2,807 babies were born to mothers younger than age 18. They were 5.0% of all babies born in the state; 3.5% of all White and 7.9% of all African-American and Other babies were born to teen mothers under the age of 18. Of the babies born to these teens in 2001, 91.3% were born to single mothers, including babies whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers.

In 2001, 8,080 babies were born to mothers younger than age 20. These babies were 14.5% of all born in the state; 11.1% of all White and 20.5% of all African-American and Other babies were born to mothers under the age of 20. Of the babies born to these mothers in 2001, 82.8% were born to single mothers, including paternity acknowledeged babies.

Education of Mothers Giving Birth: Children's success is strongly influenced by the education of their parents. In 2001, 11,703 babies, 21.1% of all babies, were born to mothers of all ages who had not completed the 12th grade. In

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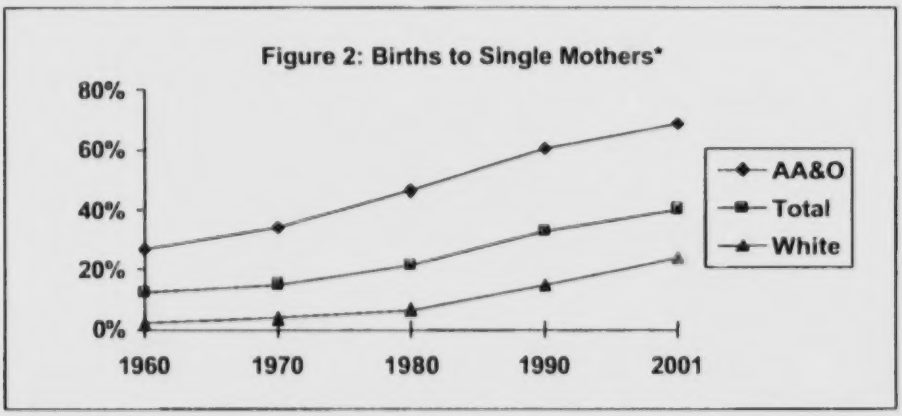
2001, 19.3% of White and 24.3% of African-American and Other babies were born to mothers who had completed less than the 12th grade. This is a substantial improvement from 44.6% in 1970. In addition, during 2001, 34.8% had completed 12 grades (30.5% of Whites and 42.4% of African Americans and Others) and 44.1% had more than a high school degree (50.2% of Whites and 33.3% of African American and Others).

Births to Single Mothers: Births to single mothers have increased steadily over four decades. In 2001, 14,775 babies, 26.5% of all babies, were recorded as born to single mothers. A decade earlier in 1990, the percentage was 28.7% and in 1960 it was 12.3%. In 2001, 12.5% of White children and 51.5% of African-American and Other children were born to single mothers. These numbers, however, do not include paternity acknowlegement births.

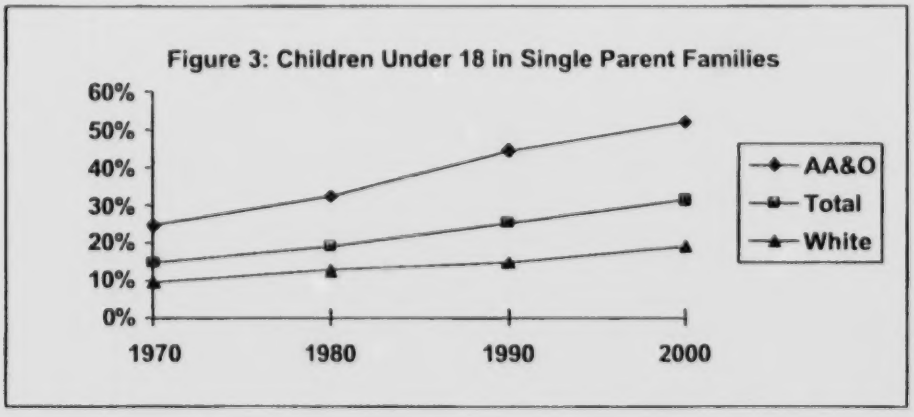
Thus, to these numbers should be added an additional group of 7,556 babies, 13.6% of all born in 2001, whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers. When the paternity-acknowledged babies are added, the total number born to single mothers in 2001 was 22,331, constituting 40.1% of all babies, 23.9% of White babies, and 68.9% of African-American and Others.



*Includes paternity acknowleged babies in 1980, 1990 and 2001. Prior to 1979, paternity acknowleged cases were not a statistical category, and thus were included in births to single mothers.

Divorce Rate: In 2001, 40,128 marriage licenses were issued, while 14,657 divorce decrees involving 11,712 children were filed. In 1970, only 6,741 children were in families involved in divorce.

Single-Parent Family: Increasing numbers of children live in single-parent families. In 2000, 273,880 children lived with only one parent. This was 31.3% of all children, up from 25.1% in 1990, 18.9% in 1980, and 14.5% in 1970. In 2000, 19.0% of White and 52.0% of African-American and Other children lived in single-parent families. Also in 2000, 75,251 or 29.0% of children under age 6 lived in single parent families: 15.7% of White and 53.4% of African American and Other pre-schoolers.



Parents Working and Child Care: Increasingly, parents must divide their time between children and employers. In order to meet family financial needs, most parents must work and thus have less time for family life. In 2000, 66.1% of mothers with children under 6 and 73.1% with children 6 - 17 were in the labor force. This has increased substantially from 1960 when 36.8% of mothers with children under 6 were in the labor force. Most fathers also work: 62.6% of children under 6 are in families where the single parent or both parents work. Caring for children is a problem for parents unable to obtain quality, affordable daycare while they are at work.

Overall, there are 144,795 spaces in state-regulated childcare facilities* in the state, 92.2% of these are in licensed programs and 7.8% are in registered programs. Of the spaces, 83.5% are in licensed childcare centers serving more than 12 children, 6.8% are in registered or licensed family childcare homes serving six or fewer children, 2.4% are in licensed group childcare homes serving 7-12 children, and 7.4% are in registered or licensed church programs.

The homes and centers are severely constrained by the limited ability of parents to pay. In the state, the average weekly charge is $ 80.40 for centers and $ 68.41 for homes. Consequently, center wages are low: 25.2% of centers with pre-school staff and 36.3% of centers with assistant pre-school staff report paying these staff under $6 per hour. Paying $6-$8 per hour are 57.7% of centers with pre-school staff and 51.4% of centers with assistants. Low wages attract workers with limited education. In 46.7% of centers, most pre-school staff and in 51.4% of centers most assistants have only a high school degree. In 47.5% of centers few to none of the pre-school staff have early childhood credentials. In childcare homes, 57.4% of lead providers have no more education than a high school degree or GED; 15.7% have less than a high school degree.

Family Violence: In 2000, 34,773 domestic assaults were recorded by law enforcement officials. These domestic assaults comprised 30.4% of all assaults, which include aggravated assaults, simple assaults, and intimidation. Overall, 56.0% of all domestic assaults involve spouse abuse which constitutes 17.0% of all assaults. Since most family violence is not reported, the true incidence of family disruption is much more widespread than even the large number of reported cases would indicate.

Separation from Parents: Some children do not live with their natural parents. In 2000, 7.1% of all children did not live with their natural parents. Approximately 49,737 or 4.9% of all children lived with relatives, 15,928 or 1.6% lived with non-relatives, 1,295 or 0.1% were householders or spouses, and 4,839 or 0.5% were in institutional facilities.

Abuse and Neglect: In 2000-01, there were 19,250 investigations into reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children. Through its investigations, the Department of Social Services (DSS) determined that 6,651 of the investigations were indicated for abuse or neglect: 15.1% for physical abuse, 6.4% for sexual abuse, 0.6% for mental injury, 30.2% for physical neglect, 4.8% for educational neglect, 3.0% for medical neglect, 38.6% for threat of harm for physical/sexual abuse, and 1.4% for other types of abuse.

In the indicated cases of abuse and neglect, DSS determined there were 11,128 children who were victims of abuse or neglect. Of these, 49.6% were male, 50.4% were female; 52.3% were White, 47.7% were African-American and Other. By age, 37.1% were ages 0 - 5, 40.7% were ages 6 - 12, and 22.2% were ages 13 - 17. In the indicated cases, 31.1% of the children lived in two-parent families, 46.5% in single parent families, 15.9% with unmarried couples, and 6.6% in other circumstances.

Out of Home Placements: As of June 2001, 5,110 children lived in foster care. The median age at first placement in the state is 6.9 years. The ages of children in foster care were 15.4% 0-2, 11.4% 3-5, 22.3% 6-10, 16.7% 11-13, and 34.3% 14 and above. The foster care population is 48.6% males and 51.4% females. Regarding their future, 31.3% were under a plan for placement in adoptive homes, 36.6% for return to a parent or guardian, 4.0% for placement with a relative, 14.0% for independent living, 13.7% for permanent foster care, and 0.4% for other circumstances.

Adult/Child Ratio: A measure of potential adult attention for children from family and community is the ratio of adults to children and youth. In 2000 there were 2.97 adults for every person below age 18. This was up substantially from 1960, when there were only 1.40 adults for every person under the age 18. This indicates that today there are more adults potentially available to provide attention and care for each child than in the past.

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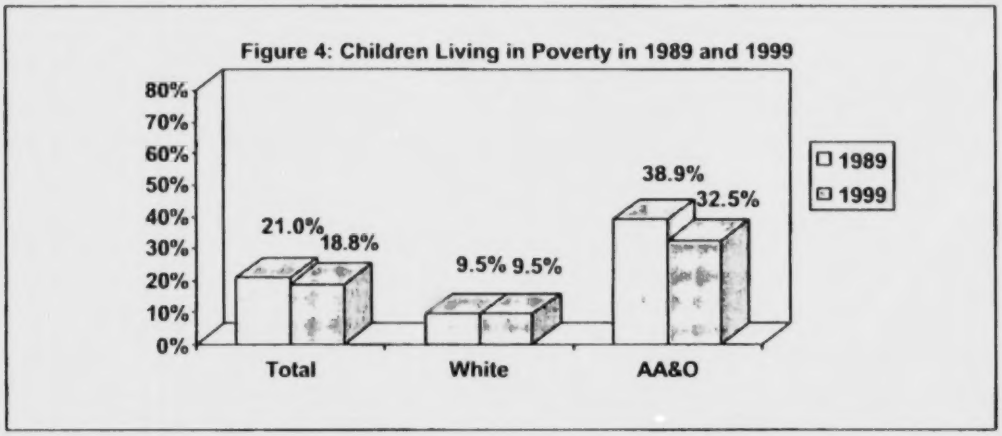
* This data is the best currently available; however, an effort is being made to check the coverage and improve the accuracy. As soon as more recent and complete data becomes available, it will be posted on the website.

ECONOMIC STATUS

Low income makes it difficult for many families to provide the material and environmental enrichment necessary for healthy child development.

Poverty: In 1999, 187,275 children and youth under the age of 18 lved in 87,631 families with incomes below poverty, comprising 18.8% of all children and youth: 9.5% of Whites and 32.5% of African-Americans and Others. A rough estimate of child poverty in 2001 calculated by the Census Bureau was 23.0%.



Poverty has always been a serious problem. While the rate among children under age 18 in 1989 was 21.0%, it was 21.2% in 1979 and 28.7% in 1969.

Children and the elderly are the age groups most seriously affected by poverty. In 1999, 20.2% of children 0 - 5 (10.1% White, 35.8% African-American and Other), and 17.7% of children 6 - 17 (8.6% White, 30.7% African-American and Other), lived in poverty; 13.9% of persons 65 years and older lived in poverty. Historically, the poverty rate among the elderly was much higher. During the last three decades, federal policy actions have substantially improved the economic status of older persons but have not done so for children.

Single-parent families are most likely to be poor. In 1999, 40.2% of children in single-parent families lived in poverty, but only 7.5% of children in married-couple families were poor. Children in single-parent families made up 68.0% of all the state's children living in poverty.

In 2002, the poverty level was $15,020 for a family of three and $18,100 for a family of four. The poverty threshold is often criticized as an arbitrary number. People can still be poor but may be just above the poverty level. Federal programs utilize varying thresholds. For example, in 1999 there were 426,484 children ages 0-17 who were less than 200 percent of poverty; thus an additional 239,209 children were above the poverty level but could still be considered poor or near-poor with incomes below $30,040 and $36,200 respectively for 3 and 4 person families.

Children Under 18 in Poverty in 1999

Percent of Poverty	Total		White		African American & Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 50%	89,538	9.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 100%	187,275	18.8%	56,181	9.5%	131,094	32.5%
Under 125%	245,464	24.7%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 150%	308,538	31.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 175%	368,490	37.1%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 185%	393,255	39.5%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 200%	426,484	42.9%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total Children	1,009,641		598,188		411,453	

Note: Missing data will be released by the Census Bureau later in 2003, and will be posted on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

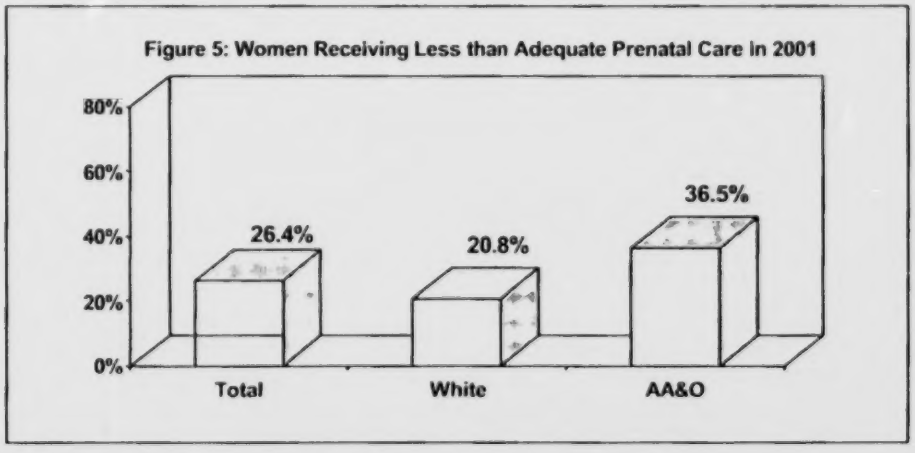
Income: The mean income of families with children in 1999 was $52,011. In 1989 it was $46,153, and 1979, it was $41,959, adjusted for inflation (i.e., in 1999 dollars). The mean income of single-parent families with children was $24,322 for single parents in 1999, as compared with $64,607 in married-couple families with children. From 1999 to 2000, South Carolina real dollar per capita income (eliminating inflation) increased by 1.3%.

Child Support Payments: There were 29,547[7] families receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families in fiscal year 2002, but only 24.0 % had child support court orders. Their average monthly payment of child support was $ 252, including child support receipts and tax refund intercepts. In addition, during fiscal year 2002, an estimated 68,035 parents in non-TANF families were obligated to pay a monthly average of $ 231. Information is not available regarding the amount actually paid.

HEALTH

Good health during a child's formative years helps children to reach their maximum potential. Good health requires healthy lifestyles and effective primary care, starting during the prenatal period and continuing through adolescence into adulthood. Children's health reflects the well-being of the community, as well as how adequately they are protected.

Prenatal Care: Early and continuous prenatal care can make a significant difference in assuring births of healthy babies. Delayed or insufficient prenatal care is associated with low birthweight and other health risks for infants. In 2001, 11,480, or 20.6% of pregnant women received no prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy. In 2001, 14,739, or 26.4% of pregnant women received less than adequate prenatal care: 7,435 or 20.8% of Whites and 7,303 or 36.5% of African-Americans and Others. In that same year, 410 women received no prenatal care at all.



Low Birthweight: Low birthweight of less than 5.5 pounds and very low birthweight of less than 3.3 pounds are associated with health risks and growth and development problems. In 2001, 5,349 or 9.6% of all babies in the state were born with low birthweight: 13.7% of African-American and Other babies and 7.3% of White babies. During 1999-2001, approximately 3,284 or 2.0% of all babies were born with very low birthweight and had the most serious complications: 1.3% of White babies and 3.2% of African-American and Other babies. The cost of hospitalization for each newborn low birthweight baby in the state in 1999 - 2001 was $13,731 and $91,517 for each very low birthweight baby, compared with $1,933 for a baby of normal birthweight. The result was excess cost in the state of $99,501,765 for all low birthweight babies, of which $69,516,776 was for very low birthweight babies.

Infant Mortality: During the decade since 1989-91, the overall infant mortality rate decreased by 21.6% from 11.9 to 9.3 per 1000 live births. For Whites, the rate decreased 28.9% from 8.4 to 6.0 per 1000 live births, while for African-Americans and Others the rate decreased 11.7% from 17.0 to 15.0 per 1000 live births. Over the three-year period 1999-2001, 634 White and 914 African-American and Other infants died before age one. By comparison, 880 White and 1,174 African-American and Other infants died during 1989-91.

[7] Number is an unduplicated count for the entire fiscal year.

Child Injuries and Deaths: Childhood deaths and injuries reflect whether communities are safe for children. In 2001, children in the South Carolina went to the emergency room 112,282 times because of injuries. Boys are injured more often than girls. Children visit the emergency room at comparable rates for each age from 0 to 17.

In South Carolina, the major causes of death among young children are unintentional injuries, cancer, homicide, and congenital anomalies. Over the three year period 1999-2001, 351 White and 282 African-American and Other children ages 1-14 died in the state. During 1989-91, 430 White and 368 African-American and Other children died.

Immunization: Immunization rates are an important indication of whether young children are receiving adequate preventive health care. During FY 1989-90, 52.1% of children less than two years old seen in public health clinics were not fully immunized against such preventable diseases as Polio, Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Haemophilus Influenza B and Whooping Cough. After a concerted statewide campaign to increase immunizations, the percentage of children seen in public health clinics who were not fully immunized in January 2001 had declined in the state to 11.9%. The DHEC statewide birth registry survey of all two year old children found that 88.1% were fully immunized in 2001. This success demonstrates the potential to improve the status of children when the leadership of the state and its communities act decisively together.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Children and youth are infected with sexually transmitted diseases through sexual abuse or irresponsible sexual activity. National prevalence rates indicate: a 1 in 8 chance that sexually active 15 year-old girls will develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), the most rapidly increasing cause of infertility; 10% of sexually active adolescent girls and boys are infected with chlamydia, the most common cause of PID; and as many as 15% of teen girls are infected with human papilloma virus, often with strains linked to cervical cancer. Furthermore, research evidence indicates that susceptibility to HIV/AIDS increases by 3 to 8 times through prior infection with various STDs.

According to national studies, approximately 1 in 4 sexually experienced youth aged 13-19 acquires a STD ever year; since two-thirds of all high school students have had sexual intercourse and half engage in intercourse over a three month period, this would suggest that 10-15% of teens are infected with STDs annually. For 2000, this would indicate that an estimated 40,839 to 61,258 youth ages 13-19 in the state were infected with a STD. Many infections are either not identified for treatment or not reported. In the state, there were 214 reported cases of children under age 15 and 2,786 youth ages 15 - 19 infected with gonorrhea; 363 youth under 15 and 5,751 ages 15 - 19 were reported infected with chlamydia. Youth with undiagnosed and untreated STDs often spread their infections.

Healthy Lifestyles: The Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2001 found that many high school students are not following good health habits. The YRBS revealed that 26% felt that they were overweight; 42% were trying to lose weight: 27% of boys and 57% of girls. Although during a week 79% of high school students ate fruit, 59% ate salad, and over 83% ate vegetables, only 17% ate the recommended five or more servings of fruit and vegetables per day. During a week, 49% did stretching or muscle strengthening exercises, and 59% exercised three or more times for 20 minutes in sports that made them sweat or breathe hard. However, 11% of students engaged in no vigorous or moderate activity at all during a week: 8% of boys and 13% of girls.

Tobacco Use:* Cigarette smoking starts at a young age and often becomes habitual. In the state during 2002 among all students 15 and older, 16.7% first smoked by age 11, 36.3% by age 13, and 51.4% by age 15. In a typical month, 17.1% of 7th and 8th graders and 25.3% of high school students smoked cigarettes. White youths were much more likely than African-Americans to smoke: 26.4% of White male and 27.2% of White female 7th to 12th graders used cigarettes, as compared with 18.9% of African-American males and 12.2% of African American females. A smaller but significant group of high school students (5.4%) used smokeless tobacco monthly; it was used primarily by White males (15.9% compared with 1.1% of all other race and sex groups).

* Data is from the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking.

Disabilities: No data are collected on the true prevalence of disabilities within the state. According to national reported estimates, over 10% of children and youth have developmental disabilities at any point in time, and more than 17 are affected at some time before age 18 by deafness, blindness, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, speech defects, development delays, learning disabilities, and emotional or behavioral problems. For 2000 this suggests that at least 100,964 children ar youth under age 18 in the state are currently affected by disabilities.

Approximately 5% of children and youth nationally have serious disabilities which have lifelong implications f work, social life and community living. Typically among children and youth, there are 1 - 2% who are mentally retarded, - 3% with serious emotional disturbances, over 1% with orthopedic or multiple disabilities, including cerebral palsy an many hereditary conditions, and under 1% with visual or hearing impairments.

Other chronic health problems also affect the lives of many children. Over 3% of children have one or more these limitations. Such serious chronic conditions affect 1 - 2% who have respiratory problems (asthma and chron bronchitis), 0.5 - 1.0% with neurological problems (epilepsy and seizures), and less than 1% with circulatory problen (congenital heart defects and acquired diseases).

Other disabilities are identified primarily in school performance. These would include 45,428 students in grades 12 with learning disabilities and 22,038 students in grades 1-12 with speech/language deficits.

Disabilities are caused by genetics, disease, poor prenatal conditions, injuries, and environmental factors. For example, lead exposure, primarily from paint dust, was detected in over 1% of all children screened, including 492 in South Carolina.

Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: While over 20% of 9-17 year olds meet diagnostic criteria for some form of mental disorder, the number with serious emotional disturbance and impaired functioning in family, school, or community activities is: 9-13% for substantial functional impairment and 5-9% for extreme functional impairment. The rates among poor children are at the higher end of these ranges. Based on a federal formula for estimating prevalence, in the state there are 12% or 62,442 seriously emotionally disturbed 9-17 year olds with substantial functional impairment and 8% or 41,628 with extreme functional impairment during the course of a year. Conduct disorders, attention deficit, depression, and anxiety disorders are the most prevalent, each affecting 3% or more of school-aged children. These disorders may occur simultaneously in a child. The prevalence rates are highest among males, adolescents, and disadvantaged persons in communities under stress and lacking social cohesion; depression, however, is more prevalent among females. On the YRBS, 20% of boys and 33% of girls in high school reported that during the past year they felt so sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that they stopped doing some usual activities. Another indicator of emotional problems is the 8% of high school students in South Carolina who reported that they had "attempted suicide" in the past year: 5% of boys and 10% of girls. Suicide attempts resulted in 4% of high school students reporting that they required treatment by a doctor or nurse for injury, poisoning, or overdose.

Inadequate Healthcare: No county level data is routinely collected regarding the number of children and youth with inadequate healthcare. According to estimates for 2000-02 by the Bureau of the Census through the annual Current Population Survey, the statewide average rate of uninsured children and youth under age 18 in families with incomes under 200% of poverty in South Carolina was 16.6%, and 9.9% above 200% of poverty. If these rates are applied to the state, there are 70,893 children in the state below 200% of poverty with no health insurance, and 57,871 children above 200% of poverty with no health insurance, for a total of 128,764 uninsured children in South Carolina. The number lacking basic accessible primary care is at least double the number lacking insurance. Those lacking primary care are often dependent on health services at school. The ratio of students to nurses recommended nationally is 750:1. In the state, this would suggest the need for 870 nurses, compared with 539 currently working in the schools.

Medicaid: For several years, the State of South Carolina has emphasized enrolling eligible children into Medicaid. In late 1997, South Carolina implemented its version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, Partners for Healthy Children (PHC), and aggressively pursued outreach enrollment for PHC and Medicaid. As a result, enrollment of children ages 0 through 18 in South Carolina has increased by 78.7% from June 1997 to June 2001; thus Medicaid and PHC were serving 41.9% of all children in that age range. The total Medicaid expenditures in South Carolina for services provided to children ages 0 through 18 for state fiscal year 2002 were $991 million, at an average statewide expenditure of $2,343 per child enrolled.

In June 2001, the total number of South Carolina children, birth through 18, enrolled in Medicaid was 423,146. The total can be broken down into the following age and race groupings:

	White	African American	Hispanic	Other	Total
Children under 1	13,657	16,538	1,340	1,596	33,131
Children 1 - 5	47,310	68,320	2,869	5,854	124,353
Children 6 - 14	66,260	120,336	2,122	8,225	196,943
Children 15 - 18	23,605	43,100	475	1,539	68,719
Total	150,832	248,294	6,806	17,214	423,146

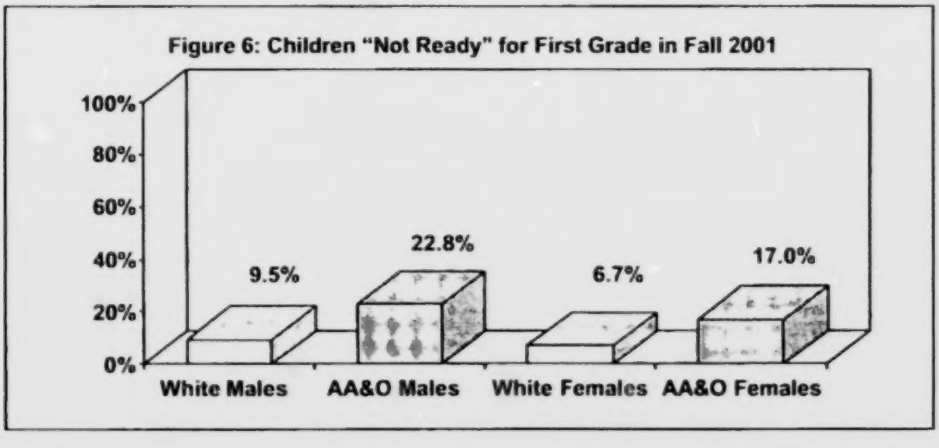
Ambulatory Care: When children lack adequate primary care, whether through lack of insurance, through limite access, or through failing to utilize available care, preventable and treatable conditions become serious and requi hospitalization. A useful indicator of inadequate primary care is the percentage of all hospitalizations that could typicall have been avoided through ambulatory care, especially for pneumonia, asthma, diarrhea and vomiting, dehydration, a severe ear, nose, and throat infections. The share of hospitalizations for these types of conditions could normally be ke below 20%; for children in the state under the age of 18 during 2001, the share was 27.9% for Whites and 29.9% f African-Americans and Others.

READINESS AND EARLY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Too many children reach school without the readiness skills needed for success in learning, such as language, soc skills, visual and auditory discrimination, memory recall, and knowledge of colors, letters, numbers, names of objects, et Likewise, some schools are not ready to respond appropriately to the varying developmental levels of children in the ear grades. As a result, too many students do not experience the success needed to create the motivation and engagement th sustain learning.

1st Grade "Readiness" on 2001-02 Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB):

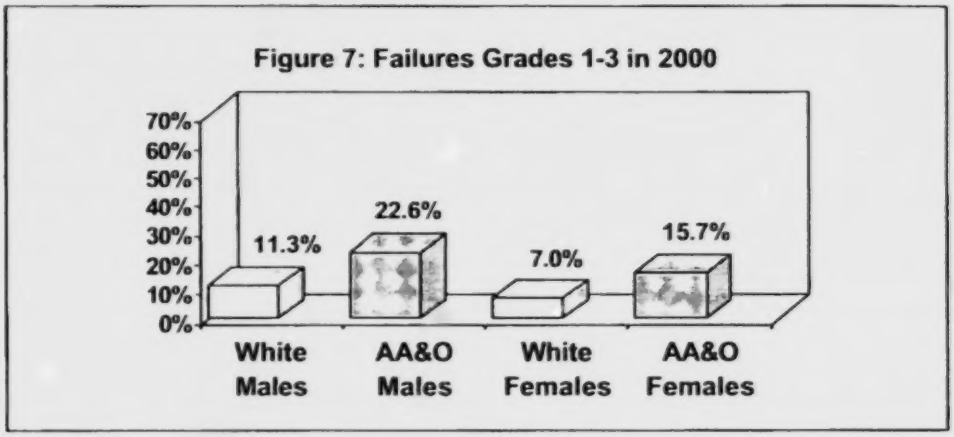
6,763 children not ready 13.6% children not ready



1st Grade Failures in 2002:

3,400 children failing 6.6% children failing

Failures Grades 1-3 in 2002 (approximate cumulative percentage of grades one, two and three):	
6,692 children failing	12.9% children failing



Over-age for Grade 3 in 2001	
8,318 children over-age	17.2% children over-age

Special Education: Large numbers of children are placed in special education classes. In elementary school, 16,078 six and seven year olds and 16,960 eight and nine year-olds were enrolled in special education classes during 2001-02, approximately 16.2% and 16.1% of their age groups respectively: 16.0% of White 8 – 9 year olds were in special education and 16.3% of African American and Others.

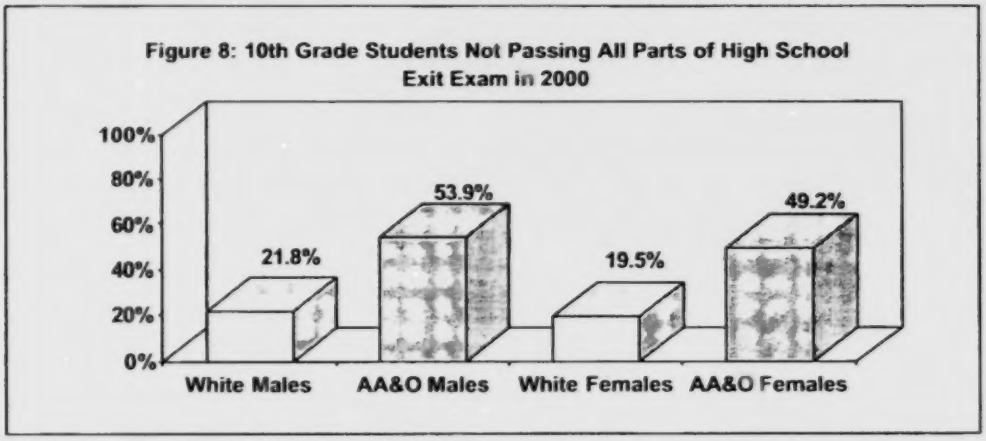
Readiness Summary: A serious problem exists in terms of student readiness and school success in the early grades. With 13.6% assessed not ready for the 1st grade, 17.2% over age in grade 3, and 16.1% of eight and nine year-olds placed in special education, unacceptably large numbers of students still begin school without good prospects of success in future school achievement and graduation; however, great improvement has occurred since the mid 1990s.

SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

By the end of elementary school, significant numbers of students perform below minimum standards. The following standardized test measures, comparing student performance to state minimum standards, should be used in combination with routine classroom assessments more reflective of real-world performance skills.

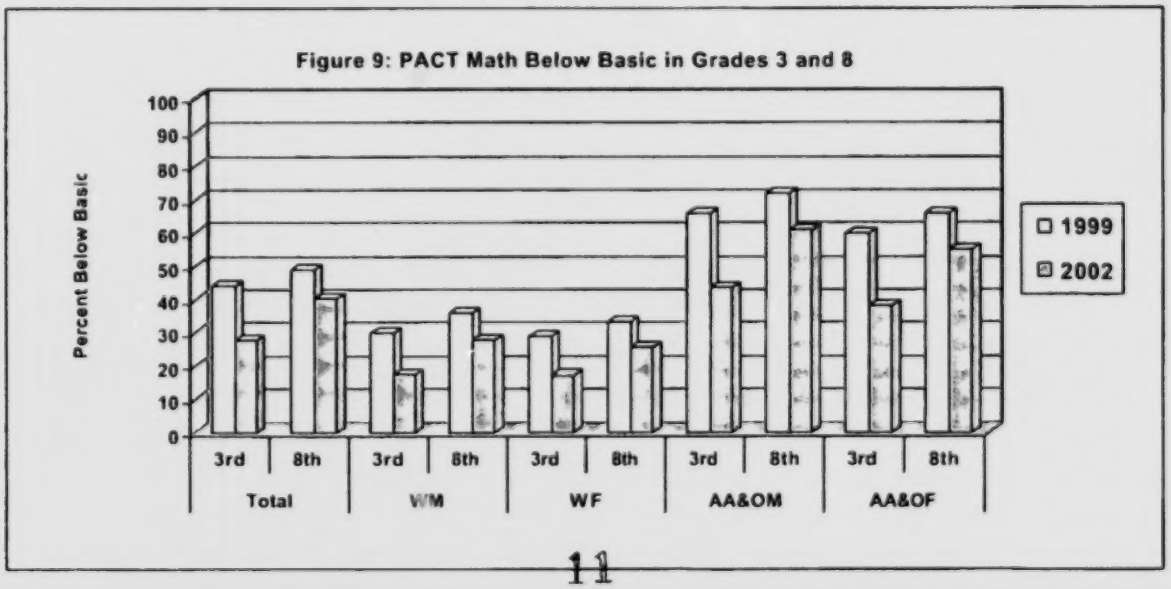
Special Education: Special education placements reflect both the significant number of children with serious handicapping conditions and a large number of students with mild learning and behavioral problems that have not been accommodated successfully by the regular educational program. The result is a large system of self-contained, resource, and itinerant services to meet the needs of 22,038 speech and language impaired, 45,428 learning disabled, 5,971 emotionally disabled, 16,821 mentally impaired, and 7,787 physically handicapped, deaf, blind, and other handicapped students. Special education classes served approximately 15.0% of all students in grades 1 - 12 during 2001-2002.

Exit Exam - not passing all parts of Exit Exam on first attempt in the 10th grade in 2002	
13,424 students did not pass all parts	33.3% of students did not pass all parts



Achievement Trends: How has performance on standardized achievement tests changed over the past 20 years? During the 1980s, student performance on the BSAP tests improved dramatically. Between 1981 and 1990, the percentage of 8th grade students in South Carolina who did not meet standards declined from 57.4% to 27.5% in math and from 49.1% to 23% in reading. During the 1990's the BSAP trend changed, with 35% not meeting 8th grade math standards in 1998 and 31.6% in reading. On standardized tests, the first year when South Carolina students take the exam is comparable to the challenge encountered by the national norm group which took the test only once. Looking at first year data, the percentage of 4th grade students at or below the 25th percentile of national norms was 28.2% in 1983 on the CTBS, 31.4% in 1990 on the Stanford, and 30.6% in 1995 on the Metropolitan; for 9th graders, the percentage in the bottom quarter was 31.7% in 1990 and 29.5% in 1995. Although not comparable, the percent below basic on the 4th grade PACT in 1999, the first year of administration, was 40.0%, but in 2002 25.4% of 4th graders were below basic in reading and math; the percentage of 8th graders below basic in reading and math averaged 43.0% in 1999 and 36.7% in 2002.

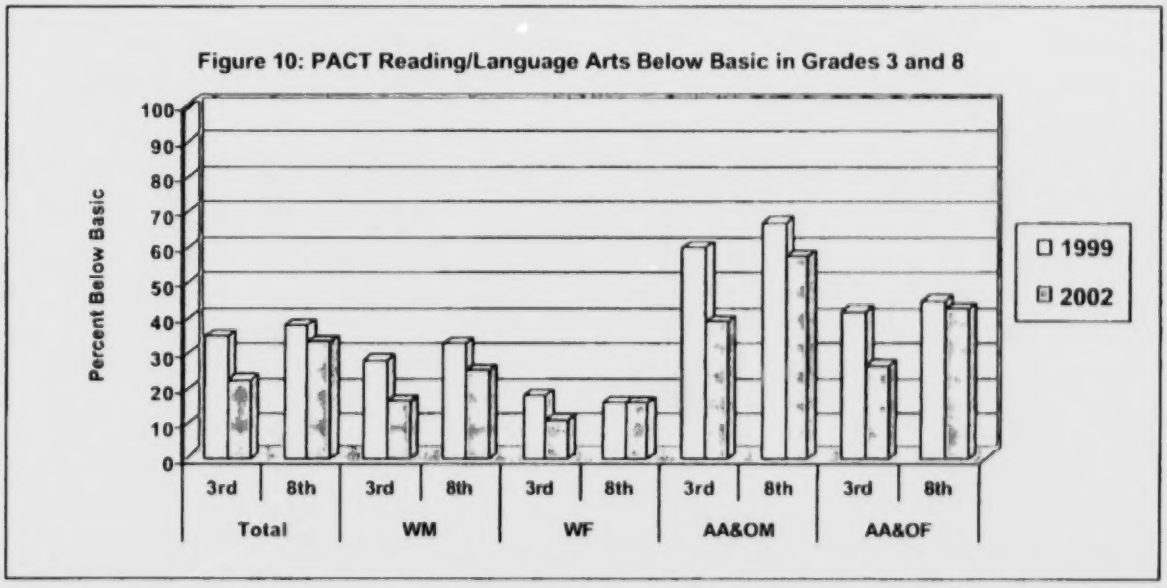
PACT: The Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) was first administered in 1999 for grades 3 - 8 in math and reading/language arts. Math assesses skills in numbers, numerical and algebraic concepts, patterns and functions, geometry, measurement, probability and statistics. The percentage of students scoring below basic in math has decreased by 22.6% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 64,957 students below basic in grades 3-8 but there would have been an additional 18,950 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
		Math (%)				
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	27.9	17.2	17.1	43.6	37.9
	4	27.3	15.7	15.3	43.8	39.9
	5	31.8	20.3	18.9	49.1	44.8
	6	32.2	20.4	17.9	51.8	45.3
	7	41.6	29.3	26.1	62.4	55.6
	8	40.0	27.6	25.7	60.8	54.7
Basic	3	41.0	39.3	41.1	40.8	43.3
	4	37.0	34.0	36.3	38.0	40.7
	5	39.8	38.5	41.6	38.1	41.1
	6	39.0	37.8	41.5	36.4	40.2
	7	31.6	32.2	35.8	26.4	30.8
	8	41.1	43.8	47.3	32.4	38.0
Proficient	3	19.1	24.8	24.5	11.3	13.6
	4	20.3	26.5	26.4	12.4	13.3
	5	17.3	22.8	23.1	9.7	10.8
	6	18.3	24.5	25.5	8.5	11.2
	7	14.5	18.8	20.3	7.3	9.0
	8	12.3	17.5	17.8	4.8	5.5
Advanced	3	12.0	18.7	17.3	4.4	5.1
	4	15.3	23.9	22.0	5.8	6.1
	5	11.1	18.3	16.3	3.2	3.3
	6	10.5	17.3	15.1	3.2	3.3
	7	12.3	19.7	17.8	3.9	4.6
	8	6.6	11.1	9.3	2.0	1.8

Reading/Language Arts assesses reading, listening, speaking, writing, research, and communication with technology. The first PACT assessment found a high percentage of elementary and middle grades students performing below standards and only a modest number above basic. The percentage of students scoring below basic in reading/language arts has decreased by 24.4% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 51,401 students below basic in grades 3 - 8 but there would have been an additional 16,595 at 1999 performance rates.

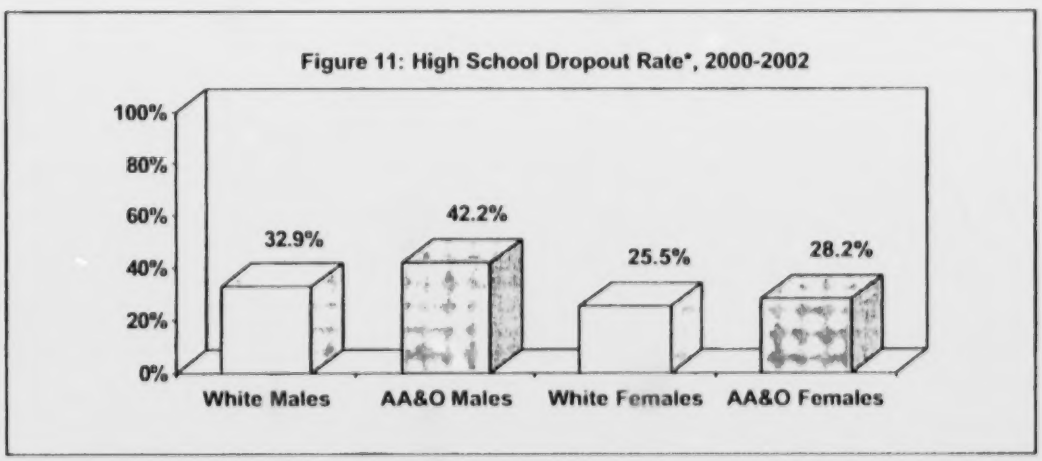
Figure 10: PACT Reading/Language Arts Below Basic in Grades 3 and 8



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
	Reading/Language Arts (%)					
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	22.5	16.5	11.1	39.1	26.6
	4	23.5	18.6	10.5	41.9	26.7
	5	29.1	22.0	13.5	49.8	36.2
	6	31.7	24.8	14.6	55.5	37.0
	7	29.8	23.5	12.2	52.8	36.4
	8	33.3	25.4	15.9	57.7	42.6
Basic	3	36.8	33.4	30.6	39.7	45.1
	4	44.0	42.3	38.3	45.4	51.7
	5	46.9	48.7	46.5	42.2	50.0
	6	35.6	36.4	33.1	32.2	41.0
	7	43.9	45.4	42.6	38.9	48.6
	8	40.4	43.6	40.4	34.1	42.4
Proficient	3	36.7	45.5	50.1	20.3	26.6
	4	30.3	36.9	46.2	12.4	20.8
	5	22.7	27.9	37.0	7.9	13.4
	6	25.5	30.9	37.7	10.8	18.6
	7	22.7	27.4	37.3	7.8	13.7
	8	21.7	26.2	34.4	7.3	13.4
Advanced	3	4.0	4.5	8.3	0.8	1.7
	4	2.2	2.2	5.1	0.3	0.8
	5	1.4	1.4	3.0	0.1	0.5
	6	7.3	7.9	14.6	1.5	3.4
	7	3.6	3.7	7.9	0.6	1.3
	8	4.5	4.8	9.2	1.0	1.5

Dropout Rate - 8th grade students no longer enrolled in grade 12
(average of students for the three years ending 2000-2002)

16,648 students drop out annually **31.9% students drop out?**



Dropouts: Distressing numbers of students drop out and fail to graduate. An average of 30.1% of 8th graders failed to graduate** from state schools five years later during the period 1980-84, 30.2% during 1985-89, and 29.8% during 1990-94, 31.9% during 1995-97 and 34.8% during 1998-2000***.

During 2001-02, 97.0% of all who did graduate received the State High School Diploma, while the remaining 3.0% received a State Certificate for meeting the required Carnegie units but not passing the Exit Exam.

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*12th grade enrollment compared to 8th grade enrollment four years earlier

** This is calculated by using 8th grade enrollment to graduation data.

*** 2001 data will be available soon and will be posted on the website

Fortunately, many dropouts enroll in adult education programs and either earn a high school diploma or obtain a GED. During 2001-02, 1,378 Adult Education high school diplomas were awarded to school completers and in 2001 7,759 GEDs were awarded in the state. Over time, adult education high school diplomas and GEDs increase the effective school completion rate substantially. In the 2000 Census, 16.8% of state resident 25 - 34 year-olds said they had not completed either high school or a GED.

Achievement Summary: The numbers of students testing below basic on the PACT and dropping out range from 22.5% to 45.3%. Thus, far too many students fail to acquire the knowledge, skills, learning habits, and motivation necessary to compete in the economy or contribute to society in the 21st Century.

ADOLESCENT RISK BEHAVIORS

Academic achievement is greatly influenced by the prevailing youth culture which often promotes popularity with peers and partying rather than studying and doing well in school. The prevalence of adolescent risk-taking and under-achievement is illustrated by the poor grades of substance-abusing teens.

Substance Abuser Rates at Levels of Academic Performance

	Usual School Grades in Past Year					Total
	A Range	B Range	C Range	D Range	F Range	
Smoked Cigarettes (in past 30 days)	13.3%	22.4%	31.7%	42.8%	63.6%	25.3%
Drank 5 or More Drinks on One Occasion (in past 30 days)	12.4%	17.3%	22.6%	26.8%	43.5%	18.9%
Used Any Illicit Drug (in past 30 days)	11.5%	17.1%	25.1%	34.1%	53.0%	20.0%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

As influence from parents and other adults declines during adolescence, significant numbers of students engage in violence, crime, school offenses, depressive emotions and attempted suicide:

Risk Behaviors Participated in During Past 12 Months	White Male		White Female		African American Male		African American Female		Total		Total (Grade 7-12)
	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	
Carried a handgun or knife for self-defense?	22.5%	26.1%	5.3%	6.3%	14.6%	20.2%	5.0%	7.6%	12.2%	14.9%	13.7%
Carried a handgun or knife as a weapon?	6.8%	9.4%	1.3%	1.6%	9.0%	13.9%	3.0%	5.0%	4.8%	6.9%	5.9%
Been in a fight with someone?	40.1%	31.3%	18.5%	16.2%	41.4%	31.9%	29.4%	22.4%	31.7%	24.9%	28.0%
Hit your boyfriend or girlfriend?	2.0%	1.6%	6.9%	10.0%	5.7%	4.9%	17.7%	24.2%	7.4%	9.7%	8.7%
Been hit by your boyfriend or girlfriend?	7.1%	6.1%	6.1%	8.5%	11.5%	9.7%	9.5%	10.6%	8.1%	8.5%	8.3%
Rec'd detention or in-school suspension?	38.1%	37.3%	22.4%	25.0%	41.6%	37.6%	34.3%	30.7%	33.3%	32.1%	32.7%
Been suspended from school?	12.9%	13.9%	5.2%	7.2%	24.0%	22.6%	14.8%	15.4%	13.1%	13.8%	13.5%
Stolen anything worth > $5?	12.9%	17.6%	6.9%	10.7%	14.2%	15.6%	8.5%	8.4%	10.4%	13.1%	11.9%
Had an accident while driving?	NA	14.3%	NA	12.6%	NA	7.7%	NA	6.3%	NA	11.0%	NA
Been arrested and booked?	3.9%	6.1%	1.5%	2.7%	5.7%	8.1%	2.2%	2.9%	3.2%	4.7%	4.0%
Felt hopeless for two weeks or more?	14.8%	15.9%	21.8%	29.0%	14.0%	13.3%	22.0%	24.8%	18.2%	21.4%	19.9%
Seriously considered attempting suicide?	6.9%	8.4%	9.6%	14.3%	5.5%	5.4%	6.8%	8.7%	7.4%	9.7%	8.7%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

Adolescence is often a time of taking risks and asserting independence from adults. When asked whether they would tell an adult about a problem, the following percentages of state students said they would be "not likely" or "very unlikely" to tell if they:

-heard a student threaten to harm someone: 33.2% middle school, 47.0% high school;
-saw a student with a handgun at school: 22.7% middle school, 20.5% high school;
-saw a student with a knife at school: 24.7% middle school, 31.6% high school;
-saw a student with drugs at school: 33.7% middle school, 61.9% high school;

Alcohol Use:* In the state during 2001-02, 21.0% of 7th and 8th graders and 37.1% of high schoolers said they had used alcohol in the past month. Of White males in grades 7 - 12, 33.8% had used it in the past month, compared with 26.0% of African-American males; likewise, 34.5% of White females said they had used alcohol, compared with 26.4% of African-American females. Many youth first used alcohol at an early age: 14.2% had used alcohol by age 11 or younger, 33.0% by age 13, and 61.1% by age 15.

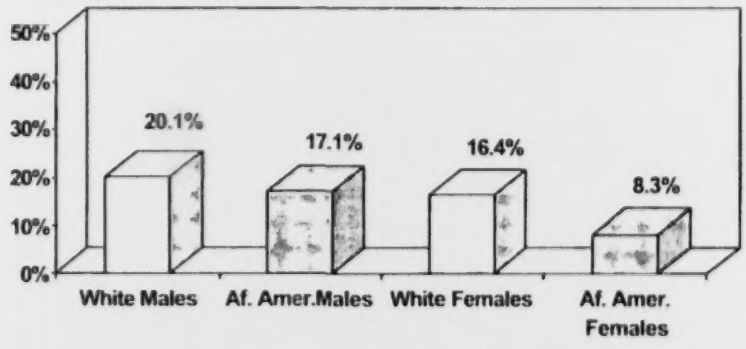
During the previous year, 21.0% of 7th and 8th graders and 30.4% of high schoolers said they had ridden with a drinking driver. Of seniors who drive, 19.4% said they had driven after drinking. Widespread use is encouraged by the ready availability and perceived low risk of alcohol use. Among students who expressed an opinion, 43.6% of eighth graders and 75.4% of seniors felt that beer was easy to get. Also, 71.6% of eighth graders and 70.7% of seniors felt there was not a great risk in drinking two drinks a day, and 47.3% of eighth graders and 53.1% of high schoolers felt there was not a great risk in drinking 5 drinks every weekend.

Heavy Drinking:* In 2001-02, 7.7% of 7th and 8th graders and 18.9% of high school students in the state repor drinking 5 or more drinks in a day during the past month. When asked how many drinks, if any, they usually consur 13.7% of all state students in grades 7 - 12 in 2001-02 responded 3 or more drinks at a time and 7.1% reported usually 5 more drinks. Among high school students, 18.6% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 10.0% 5 or mc Among seniors, 24.7% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 13.7% 5 or more; however 22.9% of seni said that they drank 5 or more drinks in a day once or more during the past month.

Drugs:* In 2001-02, 9.5% of 7th and 8th graders and 20.1% of high schoolers in the state reported using ille drugs during the previous month. Among students in grades 7 - 12, use was reported by 20.1% of White males, 16.4% Wl females, 17.1% of African-American males, and 8.3% of African-American females. Some young people initiated drug at an early age: 5.3% had experienced their first use by age 11 or sooner; 16.3% had used a drug by age 13, and 34.7% by 15.

In the past year, 10.3% of all high school students in the state who drive and 15.4% of seniors who drive said that they had driven after using drugs. Such use is encouraged by the ready availability of drugs: 22.3% of 8th graders who had an opinion said it is easy to get marijuana and 8.4% said it is easy to get cocaine or crack; 65.0% of seniors said it is easy to get marijuana and 29.5% said it was easy to get cocaine or crack.

Figure 12: Drug Use among Students Grades 7-12 during 2001-02*



* Data is from the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking.

Sexual Activity and Pregnancy: Many teenagers now engage in sexual activity. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) administered to a representative sample of high school students throughout South Carolina in 2001 showed that sexual activity begins at an early age: 7% of female and 21% of male students have engaged in intercourse before age 13; by age 15, 38% the females and 49% of males have engaged in sexual intercourse. Statewide, 48% of females and 50% of males in the 11th and 12th grades reported engaging in intercourse during the past three months. Furthermore, 27% of female and 33% of male 12th graders have had intercourse with four or more partners during their lifetimes.

Premature sexual activity often results in pregnancy. In the state, 4,128 girls between the ages of 14 and 17 became pregnant in 1999, 3,973 in 2000 and 3,579 in 2001. This represented 3.1% of all girls ages 14 – 17 in 2001; several times this percentage become pregnant at least once by age 18. The 2001 pregnancy rate for ages 14 - 17 was 2.3% for Whites and 4.3% for African-Americans and Others. Of all pregnancies of 14-17 year olds, 77.1% resulted in live births, with almost all other pregnancies ending in abortions.

Teen pregnancy rates increased substantially across the state during the 1980s; as a result, greater emphasis v devoted to preventing teen pregnancy. Since 1989, the teen pregnancy rate in South Carolina has decreased by 43.8 Overall, it has decreased by 42.5% for Whites, and decreased by 46.3% for African Americans and Others.

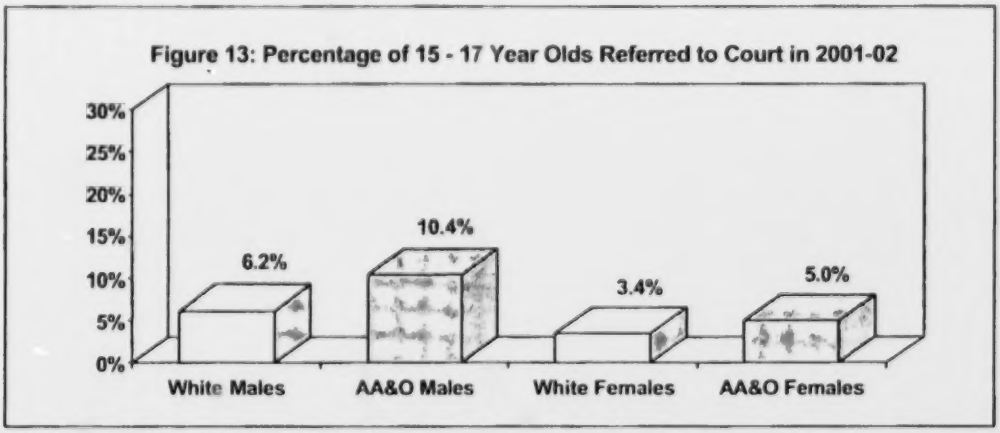
Juvenile Delinquency: In 2001-02, 20,158 individual juvenile offenders in the state were referred to the Solicitor for delinquency; of these, 15.1% were age 12 or younger, 30.9% were 13 or 14, and 54.0% were 15 or older.

Of the referrals to the family court, 8.4% of all referrals were for violent and serious crimes which include drug trafficking, acts against persons for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and serious property offenses for arson and burglary. Also, 3,767 juvenile cases constituting 13.2% of all referrals were for status offenses. Status offenses include truancy, running away, incorrigibility, and other offenses that would not be crimes for adults.

Delinquents are likely to live in families with low income: 28.9% lived in families with income under $10,000, 34.9% with $10,000-$19,999 and 36.2% with $20,000 or more. Furthermore, only 19.1% of delinquents lived with both natural parents, while 53.7% lived in a single parent household, 23.8% lived with other relatives, and 3.4% in other situations including parent plus step-parent. Delinquency or criminal activity occurs among many related family members: 36.2% had at least one family member who was delinquent or had some criminal record.

Youth referred to the family courts are likely to have been there before. In 2001-02, 53.0% had at least one prior referral and 19.5% had been referred to court 3 times or more. Many were referred at an early age. For delinquents 15 - 17 years old, 2.7% had been referred by the age of 10, 9.6% by the age of 12, and 25.2% by the age of 14.

During 2001-02, 10,803 youth ages 15 to 17 were referred to the family courts. In the state, 6.0% of all youth 15 to 17 were referred to court in one year and roughly double that percentage are referred at least once by age 18. Furthermore, the National Youth Survey indicates that typically across the United States the proportion of youth engaging in crime is two or three times the number ever apprehended. In 2001-02, there were 1,990 juveniles committed to DJJ custody and placed in residential programs.



Not in School or Employed: During 2000, 23,957 teenagers ages 16-19 were idle, meaning they neither worked any hours nor were enrolled in school, even part-time. Idle teens comprised 10.2% of their age group: 8.1% for White and 13.2% African-American & Other teens. A much larger number, perhaps twice as many, were not engaged in either school full time or work full time. The data reflect a serious failure in both school completion and the critical transition from school to work, significantly affecting their development as future workers. For an in-depth description of the problems of young adults seeking to enter the labor force, visit our website at www.scyoungadults.org for our state and county reports on 18-29 year olds.

Deaths: During 1997-2001, 1,229 youth ages 15 to 19 died. Historically, automobile accidents have been the major cause, resulting in 505 deaths between 1996 and 2000; homicides killed 140 youth 15 to 19 years old during the five-year period, and 107 youth committed suicide. Alcohol use is often a significant factor in deaths among teenagers.

Summary

Facing the Scope of Problems: The data on families, economic status, health, readiness, school achievement, and adolescent risk behaviors provide a troublesome picture of the condition of children in South Carolina. The 31.3% of children in single-parent families, 18.8% in poverty, 34.8% not graduating from school, 37.1% of high school students using alcohol and 20.1% using drugs each month, and other data profiled in this report suggest that too many children are at risk of not growing up to become self-supporting adults, good family members, and responsible community citizens.

Emphasizing the Positive: South Carolina Kids Count reports have been developed to describe the problems of children in each of the counties. Fortunately, the majority of children and youth are doing well, and some very well. One simple description is the percentage of children who do not fall into the problem categories reported. For the state, 85.5% of children are born to non-teen mothers ages 20 or older, 59.9% are born to married parents, and 68.7% lived in two-parent families; 81.2% were not poor and 57.1% lived in families with incomes above twice the poverty level for a family of three, $30,040 in 2002; 90.4% of babies were born with normal birthweights; 86.4% were assessed as ready for the first grade, 60.0% scored basic or better on PACT for 8th grade math and 66.7% for 8th grade reading, 66.7% passed all parts of the Exit Exam in the 10th grade, and 65.2% graduated with their class. In a typical month, 62.9% of high school students do not drink alcohol, 79.9% do not use drugs, and 74.7% do not smoke. Unfortunately, the absence of a problem is not always an indicator of success. Some data is available for exemplary performance: for example, 40.7% of 3rd graders and 26.2% of 8th graders scored proficient or advanced on PACT in reading and 31.1% of 3rd graders and 18.9% of 8th graders in math. Unfortunately, data on success is not generally available.

Despite the limitations of success data, we must emphasize the positive in providing good support and appropriate influences for children and youth. Recent philosophy and publications such as those of the Search Institute (700 South Third Street, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN, 55415-1138, tel. 1-800-888-7828, www.search-institute.org), emphasize the critical importance of "developmental assets" to promote and support positive development. One short book from the Search Institute, (What Kids Need to Succeed, by Peter J. Benson, Judy Gailbraith, and Pamela Espeland, 1995) presents an excellent array of suggestions for promoting developmental assets through families, community, faith congregations, and schools. If each family, school, religious congregation and community organization assertively worked to build such assets, the problems described in this report would be reduced dramatically. Such positive family-school-community efforts could improve South Carolina's national Kids Count ranking from the bottom 10 to the average or even into the top 10 by prevention of unnecessary problems affecting children and youth, as shown on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

All data presented in this report is the most recent available at the date it goes to the printer. This version of the Kids Count report will be revised as more recent and additional data become available. Please send us your corrections and suggestions for improvement. We welcome your ideas for ways to make the state and county reports more useful and accurate. Please utilize local data sources whenever possible to supplement the profile provided through our report.

Data related inquiries should be directed to:

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1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-4810

Calls for **copies of reports** for other counties and inquiries regarding more recent reports should be made to:

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For **policy questions and general comments**, please contact:

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Comparable reports for all 46 counties and for the state can also be found on the World Wide Web at

www.sckidscount.org

Our website also provides: links to other websites for indicators in our report; high to low rankings for individual indicators; information on how to improve SC's national rank; and a glossary of definitions.

The national Kids Count Report can be found on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website at

www.aecf.org

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South Carolina
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Indicators	Number						Percent				
	Most Recent Year	1980*	1990*	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres
Health											
Low Birth Weight	2001	4,493	5,109	5,349	+19.1%	+4.7%	8.7	8.7	9.6	10.9%	9.9%
White babies	*2001*	*1,836*	*2,179*	*2,606*	*+41.9%*	*+19.6%*	*6.0*	*6.1*	*7.3*	*21.7%*	*18.9%*
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*2,657*	*2,930*	*2,743*	*+3.2%*	*-6.4%*	*12.4*	*12.8*	*13.7*	*10.2%*	*7.4%*
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	2001	19,737	23,447	14,739	+25.3%	-37.1%	38.0	40.1	26.4	-30.5%	-34.2%
White babies	*2001*	*8,429*	*10,581*	*7,435*	*-11.8%*	*-29.7%*	*27.6*	*29.8*	*20.8*	*-24.6%*	*-30.2%*
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*11,308*	*12,863*	*7,303*	*-35.4%*	*-43.2%*	*53.0*	*56.0*	*36.5*	*-31.1%*	*-34.8%*
Infant Mortality	2001	2,506	2,054	1,548	-38.2%	-24.6%	1.6	1.2	0.9	-42.7%	-21.6%
White babies	*2001*	*1,078*	*880*	*634*	*-41.2%*	*-28.0%*	*1.2*	*0.8*	*0.6*	*-49.3%*	*-28.9%*
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*1,428*	*1,174*	*914*	*-36.0%*	*-22.1%*	*2.3*	*1.7*	*1.5*	*-33.4%*	*-11.7%*
Family											
Births to mothers under 18	2001	4,291	3,807	2,807	-34.6%	-26.3%	8.3	6.5	5.0	-39.5%	-23.2%
White babies	*2001*	*1,643*	*1,532*	*1,236*	*-24.8%*	*-19.3%*	*5.4*	*4.3*	*3.5*	*-34.9%*	*-18.9%*
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*2,648*	*2,275*	*1,571*	*-40.7%*	*-30.9%*	*12.4*	*9.9*	*7.9*	*-36.7%*	*-20.7%*
Births to mothers under 20	2001	10,229	9,975	8,080	-21.0%	-19.0%	19.7	17.1	14.5	-26.4%	-15.0%
White babies	*2001*	*4,699*	*4,640*	*3,982*	*-15.3%*	*+14.2%*	*15.4*	*13.1*	*11.1*	*-27.8%*	*-15.1%*
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*5,530*	*5,334*	*4,098*	*-25.9%*	*+23.2%*	*25.9*	*23.2*	*20.5*	*-20.9%*	*-11.8%*
Births to mothers with less than a high school education	2001	16,169	13,953	11,703	-27.6%	-16.1%	31.1	23.9	21.0	-32.6%	-12.0%
White babies	*2001*	*8,060*	*7,445*	*6,868*	*-14.8%*	*-7.8%*	*26.4*	*21.0*	*19.2*	*-27.2%*	*-8.5%*
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*8,109*	*6,508*	*4,835*	*-40.4%*	*-25.7%*	*38.0*	*28.3*	*24.2*	*-36.4%*	*-14.7%*
Births to single mothers**	2001	11,913	19,097	22,331	+87.5%	+16.9%	22.9	32.7	40.1	74.7%	22.8%
White babies	*2001*	*2,030*	*5,174*	*8,551*	*+321.2%*	*+65.3%*	*6.6*	*14.6*	*23.9*	*259.8%*	*63.9%*
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*9,883*	*13,922*	*13,780*	*+39.4%*	*-1.0%*	*46.3*	*60.6*	*68.9*	*48.8%*	*13.6%*
Children in single parent families	2000	162,262	200,590	273,880	+68.8%	+36.5%	18.9	25.1	31.3	65.5%	24.6%
White	*2000*	*62,844*	*74,902*	*104,098*	*+65.6%*	*+39.0%*	*12.5*	*14.5*	*19.0*	*51.6%*	*30.7%*
African American and Other	*2000*	*98,349*	*124,070*	*169,782*	*+72.6%*	*+36.8%*	*32.5*	*44.6*	*52.0*	*60.1%*	*16.6%*
Education											
Not Ready for Grade 1	2001	17,335	14,315	6,763	-61.0%	-52.8%	36.3	25.6	13.6	-62.5%	-46.9%
White males	*2001*	*4,060*	*3,147*	*1,338*	*-67.0%*	*-57.5%*	*29.4*	*19.4*	*9.5*	*-67.7%*	*-51.0%*
White females	*2001*	*2,609*	*1,934*	*855*	*-67.2%*	*-55.8%*	*20.7*	*13.3*	*6.7*	*-67.6%*	*-49.6%*
African American and Other males	*2001*	*5,993*	*5,231*	*2,685*	*-55.2%*	*-48.7%*	*54.2*	*40.0*	*22.8*	*-57.9%*	*-43.0%*
African American and Other females	*2001*	*4,671*	*3,991*	*1,861*	*-60.2%*	*-53.4%*	*45.9*	*33.1*	*17.0*	*-63.0%*	*-48.6%*
Repeating Grades 1-3	2000	8,957	10,936	7,227	-19.3%	-33.9%	19.0	20.6	13.6	-28.4%	-34.0%
White males	*2000*	*2,618*	*2,693*	*1,700*	*-35.1%*	*-36.9%*	*19.1*	*17.5*	*11.3*	*-40.8%*	*-35.4%*
White females	*2000*	*1,426*	*1,686*	*965*	*-32.3%*	*-42.8%*	*11.2*	*11.8*	*7.0*	*-37.5%*	*-40.7%*
African American and Other males	*2000*	*2,974*	*3,966*	*2,712*	*-8.8%*	*-31.6%*	*28.4*	*33.6*	*22.6*	*-20.4%*	*-32.7%*
African American and Other females	*2000*	*1,905*	*2,572*	*1,802*	*-5.4%*	*-29.9%*	*19.1*	*22.6*	*15.7*	*-17.8%*	*-30.5%*
Grade 3 Math below standards***	2002	18,162	7,527	13,355	-26.5%	+77.4%	38.7	15.3	27.9	-27.9%	+82.4%
White males	*2002*	*3,971*	*1,209*	*2,320*	*-41.6%*	*+91.9%*	*28.3*	*8.6*	*17.2*	*-39.2%*	*+100.0%*
White females	*2002*	*3,463*	*1,262*	*2,167*	*-37.4%*	*+71.7%*	*26.2*	*9.1*	*17.1*	*-34.7%*	*+87.9%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*5,725*	*2,545*	*4,746*	*-17.1%*	*+86.5%*	*57.9*	*24.2*	*43.6*	*-24.7%*	*+80.2%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*4,902*	*2,491*	*4,116*	*-16.0%*	*+65.2%*	*51.0*	*23.3*	*37.9*	*-25.7%*	*+62.7%*
Grade 3 Reading below standards***	2002	15,289	5,654	10,748	-29.7%	+90.1%	32.5	11.5	22.5	-30.8%	+95.7%
White males	*2002*	*3,635*	*1,186*	*2,220*	*-38.9%*	*+87.2%*	*25.9*	*8.4*	*16.5*	*-36.3%*	*+96.4%*
White females	*2002*	*2,215*	*713*	*1,404*	*-36.6%*	*+96.9%*	*16.7*	*5.2*	*11.1*	*-33.5%*	*+113.5%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*5,459*	*2,226*	*4,239*	*-22.3%*	*+90.4%*	*55.2*	*21.3*	*39.1*	*-29.2%*	*+83.6%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*3,887*	*1,512*	*2,884*	*-25.8%*	*+90.7%*	*40.4*	*14.2*	*26.6*	*-34.2%*	*+87.3%*
Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT Grade 4	1998	12,396	15,066	11,932	-3.7%	-20.8%	28.2	31.4	25.3	-10.3%	-19.4%
White males	*1998*	*2,925*	*3,533*	*2,223*	*-24.0%*	*-37.1%*	*22.5*	*25.1*	*16.5*	*-26.7%*	*-34.3%*
White females	*1998*	*1,717*	*2,357*	*1,799*	*+4.8%*	*-23.7%*	*13.9*	*17.4*	*13.4*	*-3.6%*	*-23.0%*
African American and Other males	*1998*	*4,380*	*5,119*	*4,245*	*-3.1%*	*-17.1%*	*48.8*	*50.8*	*45.2*	*-7.4%*	*-11.0%*
African American and Other females	*1998*	*3,219*	*4,017*	*3,614*	*+12.3%*	*-10.0%*	*36.0*	*39.7*	*35.3*	*-1.9%*	*-11.1%*

*Year of data is approximate in many cases.
** Data include paternity acknowledgements.
*** BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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South Carolina
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Education (continued)

Indicators	Most Recent Year	Number					Percent				
		1980*	1990*	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres
Grade 8 Math below state standards**	2002	26,870	11,900	19,058	-29.1%	+60.2%	57.4	27.5	40.0	-30.3%	45.5%
White males	*2002*	*5,814*	*2,448*	*3,795*	*-34.7%*	*+55.0%*	*41.6*	*18.5*	*27.6*	*-33.7%*	*49.2%*
White females	*2002*	*5,471*	*2,355*	*3,421*	*-37.5%*	*+45.3%*	*41.7*	*18.6*	*25.7*	*-38.4%*	*38.2%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*7,678*	*3,598*	*6,097*	*-20.6%*	*+69.5%*	*78.6*	*41.8*	*60.8*	*-22.6%*	*45.5%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*7,772*	*3,473*	*5,737*	*-26.2%*	*+65.2%*	*79.4*	*39.7*	*54.7*	*-31.1%*	*37.8%*
Grade 8 Reading below state standards**	2002	23,071	9,967	15,862	-31.2%	+59.1%	49.1	23.0	33.3	-32.2%	44.8%
White males	*2002*	*5,143*	*2,515*	*3,498*	*-32.0%*	*+39.1%*	*36.7*	*19.0*	*25.4*	*-30.8%*	*33.7%*
White females	*2002*	*3,600*	*1,641*	*2,117*	*-41.2%*	*+29.0%*	*27.3*	*13.0*	*15.9*	*-41.8%*	*22.3%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*7,480*	*3,261*	*5,770*	*-22.9%*	*+76.9%*	*76.3*	*37.8*	*57.7*	*-24.4%*	*52.6%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*6,729*	*2,522*	*4,472*	*-33.5%*	*+77.3%*	*68.6*	*28.8*	*42.6*	*-37.9%*	*47.9%*
Grade 9 Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT	1998	NA	14,518	14,278	NA	-1.7%	NA	31.7	30.0	NA	-5.4%
White males	*1998*	*NA*	*3,551*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*25.7*	*19.6*	*NA*	*-23.7%*
White females	*1998*	*NA*	*1,984*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*15.4*	*13.8*	*NA*	*-10.4%*
African American and Other males	*1998*	*NA*	*5,147*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*53.3*	*51.3*	*NA*	*-3.8%*
African American and Other females	*1998*	*NA*	*3,794*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*40.4*	*41.2*	*NA*	*2.0%*
Exit Exam (not passing all parts on 1st attempt)	2002	20,120	11,156	13,424	-33.3%	+20.3%	45.1	29.5	33.3	-26.2%	12.9%
White males	*2002*	*4,397*	*2,358*	*2,563*	*-41.7%*	*+8.7%*	*32.4*	*20.8*	*21.8*	*-32.7%*	*4.8%*
White females	*2002*	*3,623*	*1,783*	*2,333*	*-35.6%*	*+30.8%*	*27.0*	*15.4*	*19.5*	*-27.8%*	*26.6%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*6,082*	*3,614*	*3,964*	*-34.8%*	*+9.7%*	*71.8*	*51.5*	*53.9*	*-24.9%*	*4.7%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*5,945*	*3,335*	*4,437*	*-25.4%*	*+33.0%*	*66.0*	*42.7*	*49.2*	*-25.5%*	*15.2%*
Dropout Rate (8th graders no longer enrolled in 12th grade 4 years later)	2000-02	15,074	14,416	16,648	+10.4%	+15.5%	27.5	30.5	31.9	16.0%	4.4%
White males	*2000-02*	*4,432*	*4,535*	*5,024*	*+13.3%*	*+10.8%*	*28.0*	*30.3*	*32.9*	*17.6%*	*8.1%*
White females	*2000-02*	*3,547*	*3,395*	*3,669*	*+3.4%*	*+8.1%*	*24.0*	*24.5*	*25.5*	*6.4%*	*4.0%*
African American and Other males	*2000-02*	*3,490*	*3,516*	*4,795*	*+37.4%*	*+36.4%*	*33.1*	*34.9*	*42.2*	*27.3%*	*17.2%*
African American and Other females	*2000-02*	*2,408*	*2,296*	*3,161*	*+31.3%*	*+37.6%*	*23.9*	*23.6*	*28.2*	*18.1%*	*16.5%*
Young Adults Not Completing High School (18-24)	2000	124,012	96,350	92,762	-25.2%	-3.7%	27.8	24.3	16.8	-39.7%	-31.0%
White males	*NA*	*42,081*	*31,710*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*26.9*	*23.1*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
White females	*NA*	*31,674*	*24,013*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*22.5*	*18.7*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other males	*NA*	*28,556*	*22,574*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*39.88*	*36.1*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other females	*NA*	*21,701*	*18,053*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*28.29*	*26.3*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*

Economics

Poverty Rate	2000	197,577	190,873	187,275	-5.2%	-1.9%	21.2	21.0	18.8	-11.3%	-10.5%
White children	*2000*	*58,350*	*52,430*	*56,181*	*-3.7%*	*+7.2%*	*10.1*	*9.5*	*9.5*	*-5.9%*	*0.0%*
African American and Other children	*2000*	*137,588*	*138,443*	*131,094*	*-4.7%*	*-5.3%*	*39.0*	*38.9*	*32.5*	*-16.7%*	*-16.5%*
Income of Families w/children (1999 $)	2000	$ 41,959	$ 46,153	$ 52,011	+24.0%	+12.7%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
White families	*2000*	*$ 47,057*	*$ 53,412*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other families	*2000*	*$ 30,047*	*$ 30,524*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*

Adolescent Risk Factors

Teenage Pregnancy (ages 14-17)	2001	6,079	5,435	3,579	-41.1%	-34.1%	5.2	5.1	3.1	-39.8%	-39.2%
White	*2001*	*2,774*	*2,417*	*1,625*	*-41.4%*	*-32.8%*	*3.8*	*3.7*	*2.3*	*-39.2%*	*-37.8%*
African American and Other	*2001*	*3,305*	*3,015*	*1,952*	*-40.9%*	*-35.3%*	*7.4*	*7.4*	*4.3*	*-41.8%*	*-41.9%*
Delinquency	2002	5,262	8,697	10,803	+105.3%	+24.2%	2.9	5.4	6.0	106.8%	11.1%
White males	*2002*	*2,167*	*3,286*	*3,403*	*+57.0%*	*+3.6%*	*3.7*	*6.2*	*6.2*	*66.3%*	*-0.7%*
White females	*2002*	*977*	*1,413*	*1,781*	*+82.3%*	*+26.0%*	*1.8*	*2.9*	*3.4*	*89.9%*	*17.9%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*1,577*	*2,972*	*3,830*	*+142.9%*	*+28.9%*	*4.7*	*9.7*	*10.4*	*122.0%*	*7.6%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*541*	*1,026*	*1,789*	*+230.7%*	*+74.4%*	*1.6*	*3.5*	*5.0*	*210.6%*	*42.0%*

*Closest available data to this year was used in many cases.

**BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Kids Count 2003

Abbeville County

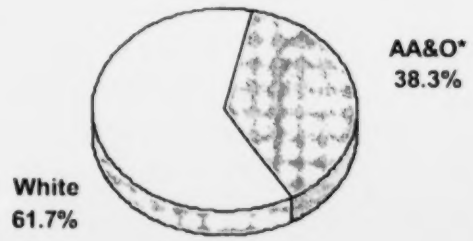
DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2000 there were an estimated 6,621 children under age 18 in the county. Of these, 4,085 were White, 2,391 were African-American, and 145 were other races. There were 6,165 children under age 18 in 1990, 6,588 in 1980, 7,150 in 1970, and 8,359 in 1960.

Children represent a shrinking portion of the county's population. Those under 18 constituted 25.3% of the population in 2000, down from 39.0% in 1960, 33.9% in 1970, and 29.1% in 1980.

In 2000 the 2,105 pre-schoolers under age 6 were 8.0% of the overall population: 7.4% of Whites and 9.1% of African Americans.

Figure 1: Population Ages 0-17 in 2000



* In all charts African-American is combined with other races, and often abbreviated as AA&O. Other races comprise 2.2% of children in the county, with "two or more races" at 1.4% and "some other race alone" at 0.5% as the largest Other groups.

FAMILY

Families have always been the most important influence in a child's life. Children depend on their families for material needs, stimulation and guidance. Family life is different in numerous ways from previous generations, and many families now face exceptional challenges.

Families with children now make up a smaller share of all households. Only 31.7% of all households in 2000, as compared with 42.0% of households in 1960, had children below the age of 18.

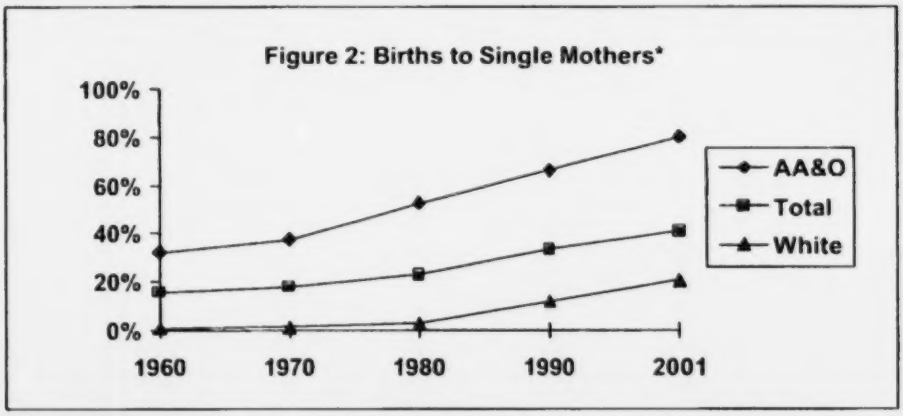
Births to Teen Mothers: In 2001, 18 babies were born to mothers younger than age 18. They were 4.9% of all babies born in the county; 3.7% of all White and 7.1% of all African-American and Other babies were born to teen mothers under the age of 18. Of the babies born to these teens in 2001, 94.4% were born to single mothers, including babies whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers.

In 2001, 50 babies were born to mothers younger than age 20. These babies were 13.5% of all born in the county; 10.6% of all White and 19.0% of all African-American and Other babies were born to mothers under the age of 20. Of the babies born to these mothers in 2001, 80.0% were born to single mothers, including paternity acknowledeged babies.

Education of Mothers Giving Birth: Children's success is strongly influenced by the education of their parents. In 2001, 66 babies, 17.8% of all babies, were born to mothers of all ages who had not completed the 12th grade. In 2001, 16.3% of White and 20.8% of African-American and Other babies were born to mothers who had completed less than the 12th grade. This is a substantial improvement from 44.1% in 1970. In addition, during 2001, 49.5% had completed 12 grades (43.3% of Whites and 61.6% of African Americans and Others) and 32.7% had more than a high school degree (40.4% of Whites and 17.6% of African American and Others).

Births to Single Mothers: Births to single mothers have increased steadily over four decades. In 2001, 101 babies, 27.2% of all babies, were recorded as born to single mothers. A decade earlier in 1990, the percentage was 32.3% and in 1960 it was 15.7%. In 2001, 10.2% of White children and 60.3% of African-American and Other children were born to single mothers. These numbers, however, do not include paternity acknowlegement births.

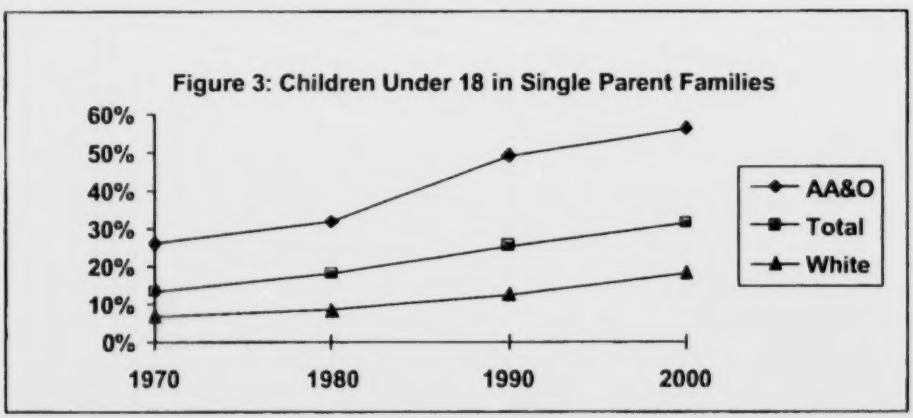
Thus, to these numbers should be added an additional group of 51 babies, 13.7% of all born in 2001, whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers. When the paternity-acknowledged babies are added, the total number born to single mothers in 2001 was 152, constituting 41.0% of all babies, 20.8% of White babies, and 80.2% of African-American and Others.



*Includes paternity acknowleged babies in 1980, 1990 and 2001. Prior to 1979, paternity acknowleged cases were not a statistical category, and thus were included in births to single mothers.

Divorce Rate: In 2001, 193 marriage licenses were issued, while 73 divorce decrees involving 82 children were filed. In 1970, only 36 children were in families involved in divorce.

Single-Parent Family: Increasing numbers of children live in single-parent families. In 2000, 1,777 children lived with only one parent. This was 31.4% of all children, up from 25.3% in 1990, 18.1% in 1980, and 13.4% in 1970. In 2000, 18.3% of White and 56.2% of African-American and Other children lived in single-parent families. Also in 2000, 506 or 33.2% of children under age 6 lived in single parent families: 17.8% of White and 65.4% of African American and Other pre-schoolers.



Parents Working and Child Care: Increasingly, parents must divide their time between children and employers. In order to meet family financial needs, most parents must work and thus have less time for family life. Ir 2000, 67.3% of mothers with children under 6 and 73.5% with children 6 - 17 were in the labor force. This has increased substantially from 1960 when 46.0% of mothers with children under 6 were in the labor force. Most fathers also work: 63.1% of children under 6 are in families where the single parent or both parents work. Caring for children is a problem for parents unable to obtain quality, affordable daycare while they are at work.

Overall, there are 609 spaces in state-regulated childcare facilities* in the county, 84.2% of these are in licensed programs and 15.8% are in registered programs. Of the spaces, 80.3% are in licensed childcare centers serving more than 12 children, 15.8% are in registered or licensed family childcare homes serving six or fewer children, 3.9% are in licensed group childcare homes serving 7-12 children, and 0.0% are in registered or licensed church programs.

The homes and centers are severely constrained by the limited ability of parents to pay. In the county, the average weekly charge is $ 67.50 for centers and $ 68.38 for homes. Consequently, center wages are low: 33.3% of centers with pre-school staff and 33.3% of centers with assistant pre-school staff report paying these staff under $6 per hour. Paying $6-$8 per hour are 66.7% of centers with pre-school staff and 66.7% of centers with assistants. Low wages attract workers with limited education. In 66.7% of centers, most pre-school staff and in 66.7% of centers most assistants have only a high school degree. In 33.3% of centers few to none of the pre-school staff have early childhood credentials. In childcare homes, 68.8% of lead providers have no more education than a high school degree or GED; 12.5% have less than a high school degree.

Family Violence: In 2000, 252 domestic assaults were recorded by law enforcement officials. These domestic assaults comprised 28.2% of all assaults, which include aggravated assaults, simple assaults, and intimidation. Overall, 59.5% of all domestic assaults involve spouse abuse which constitutes 16.8% of all assaults. Since most family violence is not reported, the true incidence of family disruption is much more widespread than even the large number of reported cases would indicate.

Separation from Parents: Some children do not live with their natural parents. In 2000, 8.8% of all children did not live with their natural parents. Approximately 456 or 6.9% of all children lived with relatives, 117 or 1.8% lived with non-relatives, 6 or 0.1% were householders or spouses, and 2 or 0.0% were in institutional facilities.

Abuse and Neglect: In 2000-01, there were 65 investigations into reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children. Through its investigations, the Department of Social Services (DSS) determined that 30 of the investigations were indicated for abuse or neglect: 9.1% for physical abuse, 3.0% for sexual abuse, 0.0% for mental injury, 48.5% for physical neglect, 0.0% for educational neglect, 6.1% for medical neglect, 33.3% for threat of harm for physical/sexual abuse, and 0.0% for other types of abuse.

In the indicated cases of abuse and neglect, DSS determined there were 70 children who were victims of abuse or neglect. Of these, 50.0% were male, 50.0% were female; 72.9% were White, 27.1% were African-American and Other. By age, 35.3% were ages 0 - 5, 42.6% were ages 6 - 12, and 22.1% were ages 13 - 17. In the indicated cases, 27.1% of the children lived in two-parent families, 55.7% in single parent families, 12.9% with unmarried couples, and 4.3% in other circumstances.

Out of Home Placements: As of June 2001, 26 children lived in foster care. The median age at first placement in the county is 8.8 years. The ages of children in foster care were 11.5% 0-2, 15.4% 3-5, 30.8% 6-10, 19.2% 11-13, and 23.1% 14 and above. The foster care population is 46.2% males and 53.9% females. Regarding their future, 15.4% were under a plan for placement in adoptive homes, 69.2% for return to a parent or guardian, 7.7% for placement with a relative, 7.7% for independent living, 0.0% for permanent foster care, and 0.0% for other circumstances.

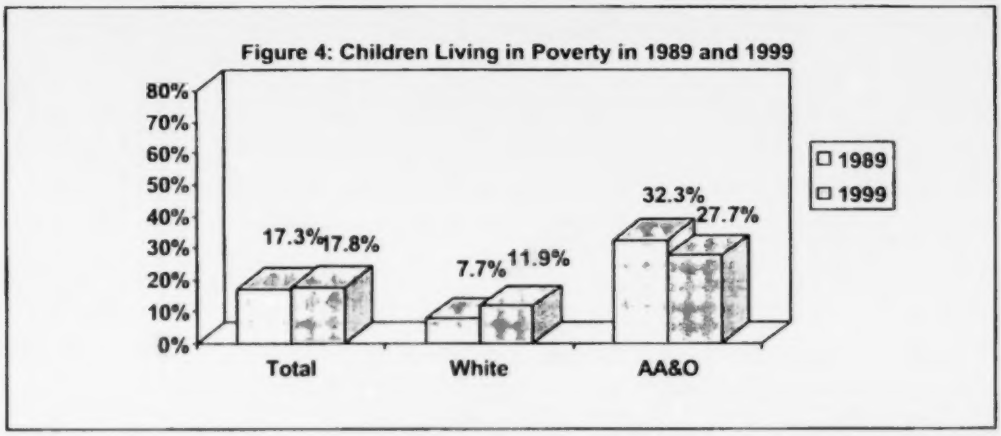
Adult/Child Ratio: A measure of potential adult attention for children from family and community is the ratio of adults to children and youth. In 2000 there were 2.95 adults for every person below age 18. This was up substantially from 1960, when there were only 1.56 adults for every person under the age 18. This indicates that today there are more adults potentially available to provide attention and care for each child than in the past.

* This data is the best currently available; however, an effort is being made to check the coverage and improve the accuracy. As soon as more recent and complete data becomes available, it will be posted on the website.

ECONOMIC STATUS

Low income makes it difficult for many families to provide the material and environmental enrichment necessary for healthy child development.

Poverty: In 1999, 1,165 children and youth under the age of 18 lived in 550 families with incomes below poverty, comprising 17.8% of all children and youth: 11.9% of Whites and 27.7% of African-Americans and Others. A rough estimate of child poverty in 2001 calculated by the Census Bureau was 23.0%.



Poverty has always been a serious problem. While the rate among children under age 18 in 1989 was 17.3%, it was 17.8% in 1979 and 21.9% in 1969.

Children and the elderly are the age groups most seriously affected by poverty. In 1999, 17.9% of children 0 - 5 (12.9% White, 26.6% African-American and Other), and 16.7% of children 6 - 17 (11.1% White, 25.9% African-American and Other), lived in poverty; 16.9% of persons 65 years and older lived in poverty. Historically, the poverty rate among the elderly was much higher. During the last three decades, federal policy actions have substantially improved the economic status of older persons but have not done so for children.

Single-parent families are most likely to be poor. In 1999, 36.5% of children in single-parent families lived in poverty, but only 7.6% of children in married-couple families were poor. Children in single-parent families made up 65.9% of all the county's children living in poverty.

In 2002, the poverty level was $15,020 for a family of three and $18,100 for a family of four. The poverty threshold is often criticized as an arbitrary number. People can still be poor but may be just above the poverty level. Federal programs utilize varying thresholds. For example, in 1999 there were 3,185 children ages 0-17 who were less than 200 percent of poverty; thus an additional 2,020 children were above the poverty level but could still be considered poor or near-poor with incomes below $30,040 and $36,200 respectively for 3 and 4 person families.

Children Under 18 in Poverty in 1999

Percent of Poverty	Total		White		African American & Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 50%	633	9.7%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 100%	1,165	17.8%	483	11.9%	682	27.7%
Under 125%	1,564	24.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 150%	2,113	32.4%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 175%	2,636	40.4%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 185%	2,837	43.5%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 200%	3,185	48.8%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total Children	6,621		4,085		2,536	

Note: Missing data will be released by the Census Bureau later in 2003, and will be posted on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

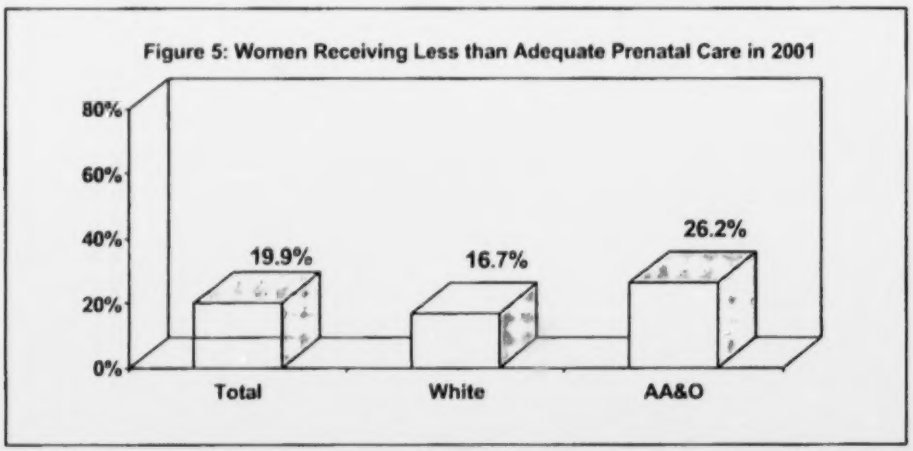
Income: The mean income of families with children in 1999 was $42,889. In 1989 it was $41,874, and 1979, it was $39,834, adjusted for inflation (i.e., in 1999 dollars). The mean income of single-parent families with children was $20,877 for single parents in 1999, as compared with $52,558 in married-couple families with children. From 1999 to 2000, Abbeville County real dollar per capita income (eliminating inflation) increased by 3.5%.

Child Support Payments: There were 252[7] families receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families in fiscal year 2002, but only 29.4 % had child support court orders. Their average monthly payment of child support was $ 235, including child support receipts and tax refund intercepts. In addition, during fiscal year 2002, an estimated 415 parents in non-TANF families were obligated to pay a monthly average of $ 222. Information is not available regarding the amount actually paid.

HEALTH

Good health during a child's formative years helps children to reach their maximum potential. Good health requires healthy lifestyles and effective primary care, starting during the prenatal period and continuing through adolescence into adulthood. Children's health reflects the well-being of the community, as well as how adequately they are protected.

Prenatal Care: Early and continuous prenatal care can make a significant difference in assuring births of healthy babies. Delayed or insufficient prenatal care is associated with low birthweight and other health risks for infants. In 2001, 49, or 13.2% of pregnant women received no prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy. In 2001, 74, or 19.9% of pregnant women received less than adequate prenatal care: 41 or 16.7% of Whites and 33 or 26.2% of African-Americans and Others. In that same year, 2 women received no prenatal care at all.



Low Birthweight: Low birthweight of less than 5.5 pounds and very low birthweight of less than 3.3 pounds are associated with health risks and growth and development problems. In 2001, 41 or 11.1% of all babies in the county were born with low birthweight: 11.1% of African-American and Other babies and 11.0% of White babies. During 1999-2001, approximately 22 or 2.1% of all babies were born with very low birthweight and had the most serious complications: 1.9% of White babies and 2.5% of African-American and Other babies. The cost of hospitalization for each newborn low birthweight baby in the county in 1999 - 2001 was $15,710 and $77,453 for each very low birthweight baby, compared with $1,744 for a baby of normal birthweight. The result was excess cost in the county of $606,662 for all low birthweight babies, of which $378,543 was for very low birthweight babies.

Infant Mortality: During the decade since 1989-91, the overall infant mortality rate increased by 82.5% from 6.8 to 12.4 per 1000 live births. For Whites, the rate increased 17.2% from 5.0 to 5.8 per 1000 live births, while for African-Americans and Others the rate increased 165.5% from 9.4 to 24.9 per 1000 live births. Over the three-year period 1999-2001, 4 White and 9 African-American and Other infants died before age one. By comparison, 3 White and 4 African-American and Other infants died during 1989-91.

[7] Number is an unduplicated count for the entire fiscal year.

Child Injuries and Deaths: Childhood deaths and injuries reflect whether communities are safe for children. In 2001, children in the Abbeville County went to the emergency room 1,268 times because of injuries. Boys are injured more often than girls. Children visit the emergency room at comparable rates for each age from 0 to 17.

In South Carolina, the major causes of death among young children are unintentional injuries, cancer, homicide, and congenital anomalies. Over the three year period 1999-2001, 2 White and 1 African-American and Other children ages 1-14 died in the county. During 1989-91, White and 1 African-American and Other children died.

Immunization: Immunization rates are an important indication of whether young children are receiving adequate preventive health care. During FY 1989-90, 36.8% of children less than two years old seen in public health clinics were not fully immunized against such preventable diseases as Polio, Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Haemophilus Influenza B and Whooping Cough. After a concerted statewide campaign to increase immunizations, the percentage of children seen in public health clinics who were not fully immunized in January 2001 had declined in the county to 22.4%. The DHEC statewide birth registry survey of all two year old children found that 88.1% were fully immunized in 2001. This success demonstrates the potential to improve the status of children when the leadership of the state and its communities act decisively together.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Children and youth are infected with sexually transmitted diseases through sexual abuse or irresponsible sexual activity. National prevalence rates indicate: a 1 in 8 chance that sexually active 15 year-old girls will develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), the most rapidly increasing cause of infertility; 10% of sexually active adolescent girls and boys are infected with chlamydia, the most common cause of PID; and as many as 15% of teen girls are infected with human papilloma virus, often with strains linked to cervical cancer. Furthermore, research evidence indicates that susceptibility to HIV/AIDS increases by 3 to 8 times through prior infection with various STDs.

According to national studies, approximately 1 in 4 sexually experienced youth aged 13-19 acquires a STD eve year; since two-thirds of all high school students have had sexual intercourse and half engage in intercourse over a thr month period, this would suggest that 10-15% of teens are infected with STDs annually. For 2000, this would indicate th an estimated 266 to 399 youth ages 13-19 in the county were infected with a STD. Many infections are either not identifi for treatment or not reported. In the county, there were 2 reported cases of children under age 15 and 25 youth ages 1 19 infected with gonorrhea; 7 youth under 15 and 53 ages 15 - 19 were reported infected with chlamydia. Youth wi undiagnosed and untreated STDs often spread their infections.

Healthy Lifestyles: Although no county data is available, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2001 found that ma high school students are not following good health habits. The YRBS revealed that 26% felt that they were overweight; 42 were trying to lose weight: 27% of boys and 57% of girls. Although during a week 79% of high school students ate fru 59% ate salad, and over 83% ate vegetables, only 17% ate the recommended five or more servings of fruit and vegetabl per day. During a week, 49% did stretching or muscle strengthening exercises, and 59% exercised three or more times f 20 minutes in sports that made them sweat or breathe hard. However, 11% of students engaged in no vigorous or modera activity at all during a week: 8% of boys and 13% of girls.

Tobacco Use:* Cigarette smoking starts at a young age and often becomes habitual. In the state during 2002 among all students 15 and older, 16.7% first smoked by age 11, 36.3% by age 13, and 51.4% by age 15. In a typical month, 17.1% of 7th and 8th graders and 25.3% of high school students smoked cigarettes. White youths were much more likely than African-Americans to smoke: 26.4% of White male and 27.2% of White female 7th to 12th graders used cigarettes, as compared with 18.9% of African-American males and 12.2% of African American females. A smaller but significant group of high school students (5.4%) used smokeless tobacco monthly; it was used primarily by White males (15.9% compared with 1.1% of all other race and sex groups).

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* Schools in the county elected not to participate in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking. Therefore, data for all of South Carolina is presented here.

Disabilities: No data are collected on the true prevalence of disabilities within the county. According to national reported estimates, over 10% of children and youth have developmental disabilities at any point in time, and more than 17 are affected at some time before age 18 by deafness, blindness, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, speech defects, development delays, learning disabilities, and emotional or behavioral problems. For 2000 this suggests that at least 662 children ar youth under age 18 in the county are currently affected by disabilities.

Approximately 5% of children and youth nationally have serious disabilities which have lifelong implications f work, social life and community living. Typically among children and youth, there are 1 - 2% who are mentally retarded, - 3% with serious emotional disturbances, over 1% with orthopedic or multiple disabilities, including cerebral palsy an many hereditary conditions, and under 1% with visual or hearing impairments.

Other chronic health problems also affect the lives of many children. Over 3% of children have one or more these limitations. Such serious chronic conditions affect 1 - 2% who have respiratory problems (asthma and chron bronchitis), 0.5 - 1.0% with neurological problems (epilepsy and seizures), and less than 1% with circulatory problen (congenital heart defects and acquired diseases).

Other disabilities are identified primarily in school performance. These would include 206 students in grades 1- with learning disabilities and 184 students in grades 1-12 with speech/language deficits.

Disabilities are caused by genetics, disease, poor prenatal conditions, injuries, and environmental factors. For example, lead exposure, primarily from paint dust, was detected in over 1% of all children screened, including 7 in Abbeville County.

Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: While over 20% of 9-17 year olds meet diagnostic criteria for some form of mental disorder, the number with serious emotional disturbance and impaired functioning in family, school, or community activities is: 9-13% for substantial functional impairment and 5-9% for extreme functional impairment. The rates among poor children are at the higher end of these ranges. Based on a federal formula for estimating prevalence, in the county there are 12% or 414 seriously emotionally disturbed 9-17 year olds with substantial functional impairment and 8% or 276 with extreme functional impairment during the course of a year. Conduct disorders, attention deficit, depression, and anxiety disorders are the most prevalent, each affecting 3% or more of school-aged children. These disorders may occur simultaneously in a child. The prevalence rates are highest among males, adolescents, and disadvantaged persons in communities under stress and lacking social cohesion; depression, however, is more prevalent among females. On the YRBS, 20% of boys and 33% of girls in high school reported that during the past year they felt so sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that they stopped doing some usual activities. Another indicator of emotional problems is the 8% of high school students in South Carolina who reported that they had "attempted suicide" in the past year: 5% of boys and 10% of girls. Suicide attempts resulted in 4% of high school students reporting that they required treatment by a doctor or nurse for injury, poisoning, or overdose.

Inadequate Healthcare: No county level data is routinely collected regarding the number of children and youth with inadequate healthcare. According to estimates for 2000-02 by the Bureau of the Census through the annual Current Population Survey, the statewide average rate of uninsured children and youth under age 18 in families with incomes under 200% of poverty in South Carolina was 16.6%, and 9.9% above 200% of poverty. If these rates are applied to the county, there are 529 children in the county below 200% of poverty with no health insurance, and 341 children above 200% of poverty with no health insurance, for a total of 870 uninsured children in Abbeville County. The number lacking basic accessible primary care is at least double the number lacking insurance. Those lacking primary care are often dependent on health services at school. The ratio of students to nurses recommended nationally is 750:1. In the county, this would suggest the need for 5 nurses, compared with 1 currently working in the schools.

Medicaid: For several years, the State of South Carolina has emphasized enrolling eligible children into Medicaid. In late 1997, South Carolina implemented its version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, Partners for Healthy Children (PHC), and aggressively pursued outreach enrollment for PHC and Medicaid. As a result, enrollment of children ages 0 through 18 in Abbeville County has increased by 84.4% from June 1997 to June 2001; thus Medicaid and PHC were serving 39.9% of all children in that age range. The total Medicaid expenditures in South Carolina for services provided to children ages 0 through 18 for state fiscal year 2002 were $991 million, at an average statewide expenditure of $2,343 per child enrolled, approximate Medicaid expenditure for children in the county would be $6.2 million.

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In June 2001, the total number of Abbeville County children, birth through 18, enrolled in Medicaid was 2,641. The total can be broken down into the following age and race groupings:

	White	African American	Hispanic	Other	Total
Children under 1	89	99	2	3	193
Children 1 - 5	368	409	5	16	798
Children 6 - 14	488	701	4	24	1,217
Children 15 - 18	164	249	2	18	433
Total	1,109	1,458	13	61	2,641

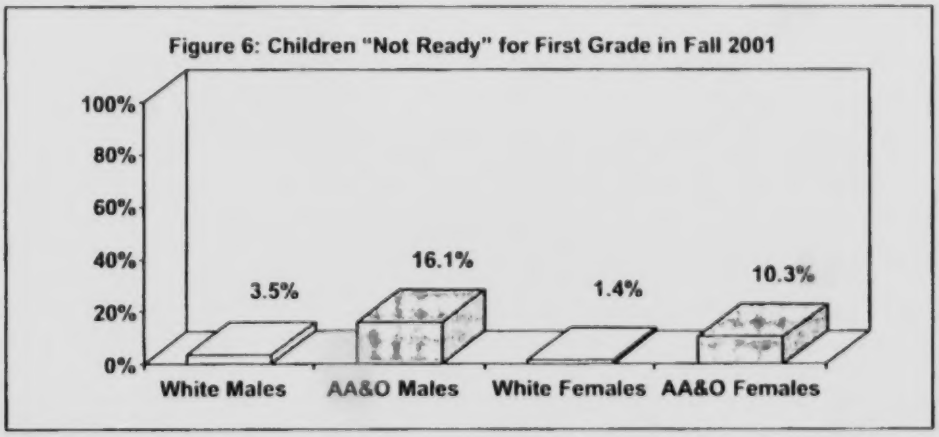
Ambulatory Care: When children lack adequate primary care, whether through lack of insurance, through limite access, or through failing to utilize available care, preventable and treatable conditions become serious and requi hospitalization. A useful indicator of inadequate primary care is the percentage of all hospitalizations that could typicall have been avoided through ambulatory care, especially for pneumonia, asthma, diarrhea and vomiting, dehydration, an severe ear, nose, and throat infections. The share of hospitalizations for these types of conditions could normally be ke below 20%; for children in the county under the age of 18 during 2001, the share was 18.9% for Whites and 22.4% f African-Americans and Others.

Readiness and Early School Performance

Too many children reach school without the readiness skills needed for success in learning, such as language, soci skills, visual and auditory discrimination, memory recall, and knowledge of colors, letters, numbers, names of objects, et Likewise, some schools are not ready to respond appropriately to the varying developmental levels of children in the ear grades. As a result, too many students do not experience the success needed to create the motivation and engagement th sustain learning.

1st Grade "Readiness" on 2001-02 Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB):

20 children not ready 7.2% children not ready

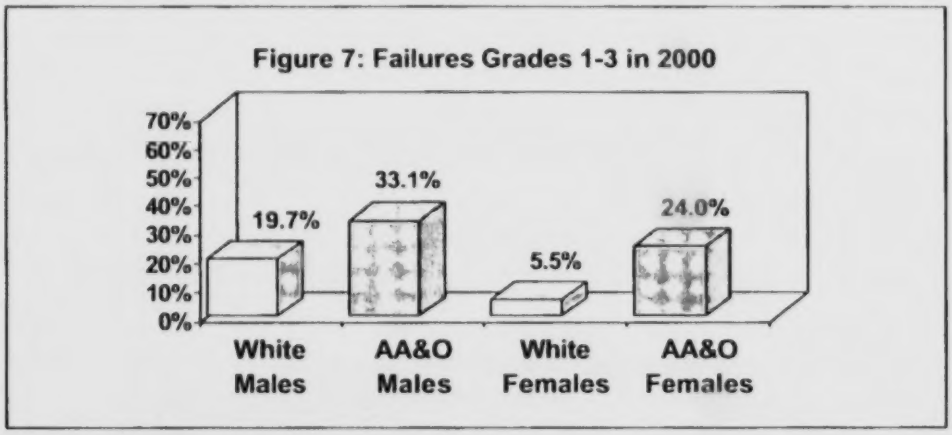


1st Grade Failures in 2002:

35 children failing 11.6% children failing

Failures Grades 1-3 in 2002 (approximate cumulative percentage of grades one, two and three):

51 children failing 17.1% children failing



Over-age for Grade 3 in 2001

52 children over-age 19.3% children over-age

Special Education: Large numbers of children are placed in special education classes. In elementary school, 153 six and seven year olds and 94 eight and nine year-olds were enrolled in special education classes during 2001-02, approximately 25.7% and 16.8% of their age groups respectively: 15.9% of White 8 – 9 year olds were in special education and 17.8% of African American and Others.

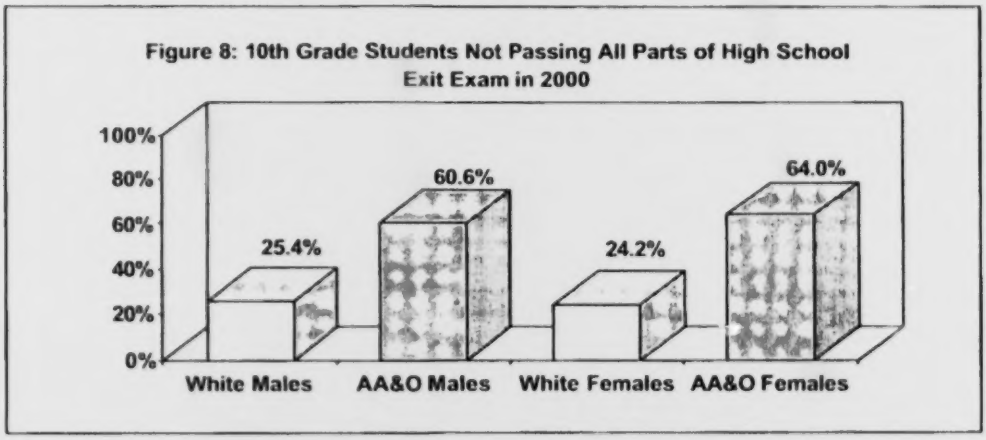
Readiness Summary: A serious problem exists in terms of student readiness and school success in the early grades. With 7.2% assessed not ready for the 1st grade, 19.3% over age in grade 3, and 16.8% of eight and nine year-olds placed in special education, unacceptably large numbers of students still begin school without good prospects of success in future school achievement and graduation; however, great improvement has occurred since the mid 1990s.

School Achievement

By the end of elementary school, significant numbers of students perform below minimum standards. The following standardized test measures, comparing student performance to state minimum standards, should be used in combination with routine classroom assessments more reflective of real-world performance skills.

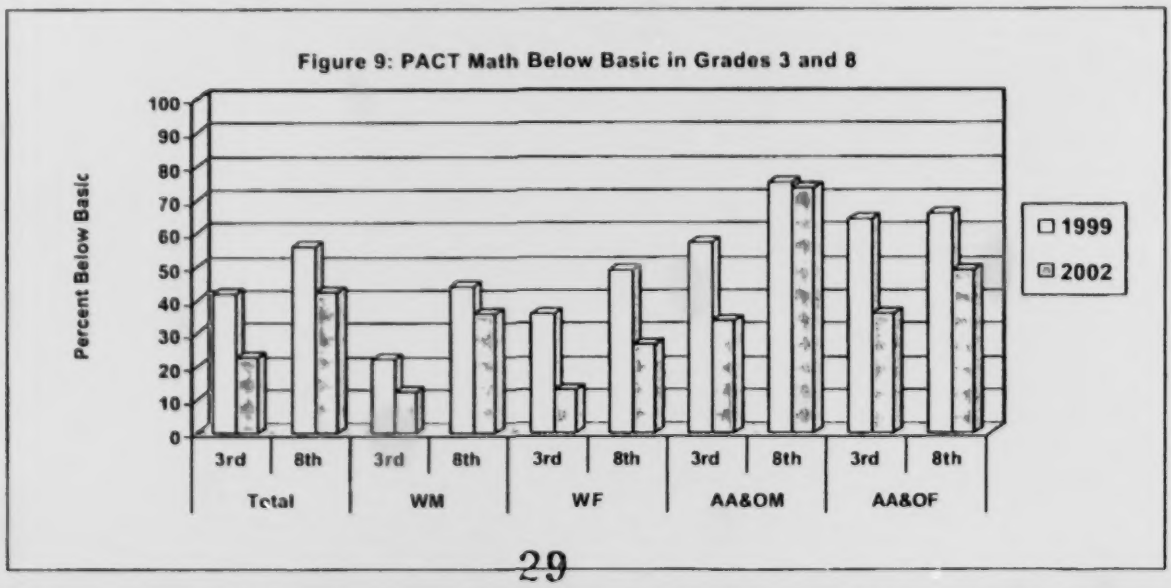
Special Education: Special education placements reflect both the significant number of children with serious handicapping conditions and a large number of students with mild learning and behavioral problems that have not been accommodated successfully by the regular educational program. The result is a large system of self-contained, resource, and itinerant services to meet the needs of 184 speech and language impaired, 206 learning disabled, 26 emotionally disabled, 102 mentally impaired, and 49 physically handicapped, deaf, blind, and other handicapped students. Special education classes served approximately 15.3% of all students in grades 1 - 12 during 2001-2002.

Exit Exam - not passing all parts of Exit Exam on first attempt in the 10th grade in 2002	
86 students did not pass all parts	39.6% of students did not pass all parts



Achievement Trends: How has performance on standardized achievement tests changed over the past 20 years? During the 1980s, student performance on the BSAP tests improved dramatically. Between 1981 and 1990, the percentage of 8th grade students in Abbeville County who did not meet standards declined from 64.1% to 36.9% in math and from 50.4% to 19.5% in reading. During the 1990's the BSAP trend changed, with 50.6% not meeting 8th grade math standards in 1998 and 30.9% in reading. On standardized tests, the first year when South Carolina students take the exam is comparable to the challenge encountered by the national norm group which took the test only once. Looking at first year data, the percentage of 4th grade students at or below the 25th percentile of national norms was 18.2% in 1983 on the CTBS, 22.1% in 1990 on the Stanford, and 23.5% in 1995 on the Metropolitan; for 9th graders, the percentage in the bottom quarter was 34.1% in 1990 and 23.9% in 1995. Although not comparable, the percent below basic on the 4th grade PACT in 1999, the first year of administration, was 36.6%, but in 2002 26.7% of 4th graders were below basic in reading and math; the percentage of 8th graders below basic in reading and math averaged 49.4% in 1999 and 40.2% in 2002.

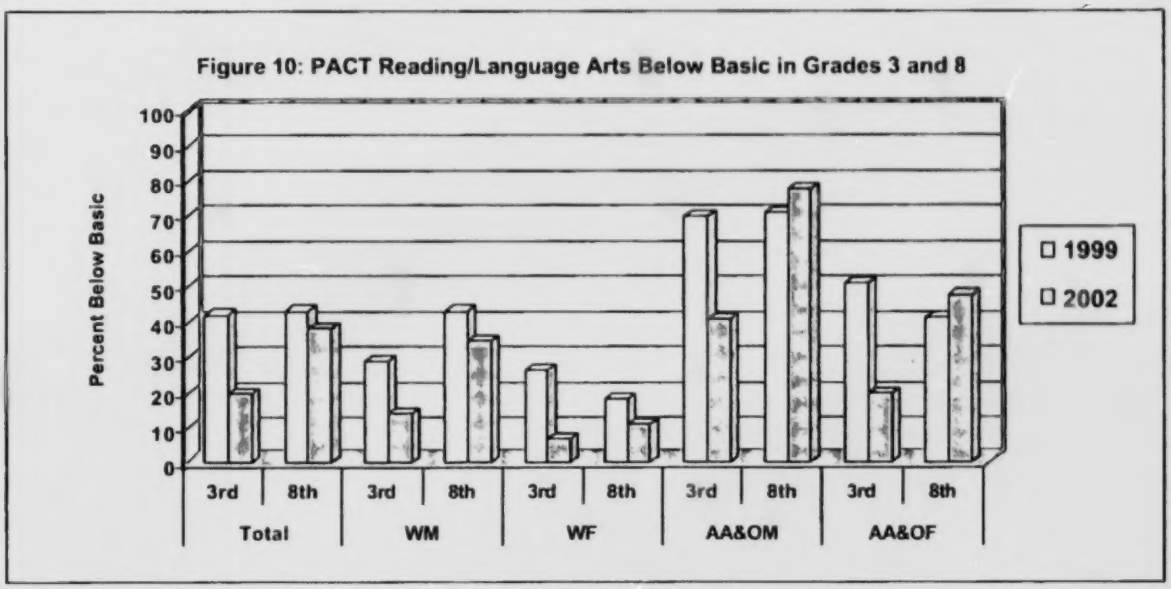
PACT: The Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) was first administered in 1999 for grades 3 - 8 in math and reading/language arts. Math assesses skills in numbers, numerical and algebraic concepts, patterns and functions, geometry, measurement, probability and statistics. The percentage of students scoring below basic in math has decreased by 24.8% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 350 students below basic in grades 3-8 but there would have been an additional 115 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
	Math (%)					
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	22.8	12.3	12.9	33.9	35.7
	4	29.4	19.7	19.3	44.4	31.4
	5	32.2	18.5	13.6	59.1	47.3
	6	32.0	18.4	21.1	48.1	50.9
	7	38.3	23.2	25.9	66.2	47.9
	8	42.5	35.6	26.5	73.5	49.2
Basic	3	48.0	46.6	43.5	52.5	50.0
	4	38.5	30.3	36.8	41.7	44.3
	5	41.3	42.0	46.9	33.3	41.8
	6	38.3	37.9	39.4	38.9	36.8
	7	31.0	30.3	38.3	21.5	32.4
	8	42.9	44.8	56.6	24.5	36.1
Proficient	3	20.0	28.8	22.6	13.6	12.5
	4	18.9	36.4	19.3	11.1	10.0
	5	16.3	22.2	23.5	7.6	7.3
	6	20.8	26.4	31.0	7.4	12.3
	7	17.1	25.3	19.8	6.2	12.7
	8	10.0	10.3	13.3	2.0	11.5
Advanced	3	9.2	12.3	21.0	0.0	1.8
	4	13.2	13.6	24.6	2.8	14.3
	5	10.2	17.3	16.0	0.0	3.6
	6	8.9	17.2	8.5	5.6	0.0
	7	13.6	21.2	16.0	6.2	7.0
	8	4.6	9.2	3.6	0.0	3.3

Reading/Language Arts assesses reading, listening, speaking, writing, research, and communication with technology. The first PACT assessment found a high percentage of elementary and middle grades students performing below standards and only a modest number above basic. The percentage of students scoring below basic in reading/language arts has decreased by 27.1% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 314 students below basic in grades 3 - 8 but there would have been an additional 116 at 1999 performance rates.

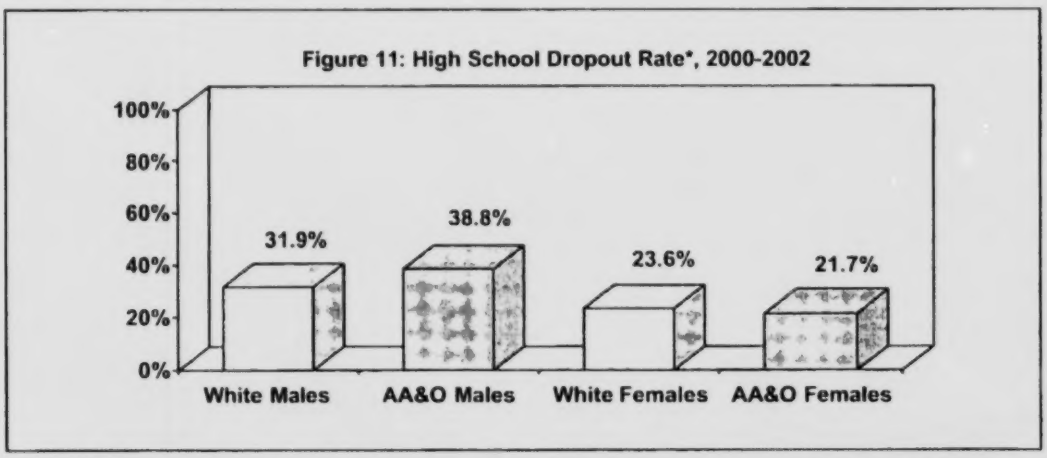
Figure 10: PACT Reading/Language Arts Below Basic in Grades 3 and 8



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
	Reading/Language Arts (%)					
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	19.6	13.7	6.5	40.7	19.6
	4	23.9	20.0	3.5	50.0	17.1
	5	30.7	18.5	12.3	60.6	40.0
	6	42.2	28.7	26.4	64.8	61.4
	7	32.3	19.2	14.8	60.0	45.1
	8	37.9	34.5	10.8	77.6	47.5
Basic	3	43.6	45.2	37.1	40.7	51.8
	4	52.3	49.2	57.9	44.4	58.6
	5	49.8	55.6	53.1	37.9	50.9
	6	34.1	43.7	33.3	29.6	24.6
	7	49.4	54.5	56.8	38.5	43.7
	8	41.4	51.7	45.8	20.4	37.7
Proficient	3	33.2	37.0	48.4	16.9	28.6
	4	22.3	29.2	33.3	5.6	24.3
	5	19.4	25.9	34.6	1.5	9.1
	6	19.3	18.4	34.7	5.6	14.0
	7	15.2	20.2	25.9	0.0	9.9
	8	17.9	13.8	37.3	0.0	11.5
Advanced	3	3.6	4.1	8.1	1.7	0.0
	4	1.5	1.5	5.3	0.0	0.0
	5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	6	4.4	9.2	5.6	0.0	0.0
	7	3.2	6.1	2.5	1.5	1.4
	8	2.9	0.0	6.0	2.0	3.3

Dropout Rate - 8th grade students no longer enrolled in grade 12
(average of students for the three years ending 2000-2002)

90 students drop out annually **29.0% students drop out?**



Dropouts: Distressing numbers of students drop out and fail to graduate. An average of 28.7% of 8th graders failed to graduate** from county schools five years later during the period 1980-84, 31.9% during 1985-89, and 27.0% during 1990-94, 23.4% during 1995-97 and 28.6% during 1998-2000***.

During 2001-02, 94.1% of all who did graduate received the State High School Diploma, while the remaining 5.9% received a State Certificate for meeting the required Carnegie units but not passing the Exit Exam.

* 12th grade enrollment compared to 8th grade enrollment four years earlier
** This is calculated by using 8th grade enrollment to graduation data.
*** 2001 data will be available soon and will be posted on the website.

Fortunately, many dropouts enroll in adult education programs and either earn a high school diploma or obtain a GED. During 2001-02, 12 Adult Education high school diplomas were awarded to school completers and in 2001 48 GEDs were awarded in the county. Over time, adult education high school diplomas and GEDs increase the effective school completion rate substantially. In the 2000 Census, 15.3% of county resident 25 - 34 year-olds said they had not completed either high school or a GED.

Achievement Summary: The numbers of students testing below basic on the PACT and dropping out range from 19.6% to 61.4%. Thus, far too many students fail to acquire the knowledge, skills, learning habits, and motivation necessary to compete in the economy or contribute to society in the 21st Century.

ADOLESCENT RISK BEHAVIORS

Academic achievement is greatly influenced by the prevailing youth culture which often promotes popularity with peers and partying rather than studying and doing well in school. The prevalence of adolescent risk-taking and under-achievement is illustrated by the poor grades of substance-abusing teens.

Substance Abuser Rates at Levels of Academic Performance

	Usual School Grades in Past Year					Total
	A Range	B Range	C Range	D Range	F Range	
Smoked Cigarettes (in past 30 days)	13.3%	22.4%	31.7%	42.8%	63.6%	25.3%
Drank 5 or More Drinks on One Occasion (in past 30 days)	12.4%	17.3%	22.6%	26.8%	43.5%	18.9%
Used Any Illicit Drug (in past 30 days)	11.5%	17.1%	25.1%	34.1%	53.0%	20.0%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

As influence from parents and other adults declines during adolescence, significant numbers of students engage in violence, crime, school offenses, depressive emotions and attempted suicide:

Risk Behaviors Participated in During Past 12 Months	White Male		White Female		African American Male		African American Female		Total		Total (Grade 7-12)
	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	
Carried a handgun or knife for self-defense?	22.5%	26.1%	5.3%	6.3%	14.6%	20.2%	5.0%	7.6%	12.2%	14.9%	13.7%
Carried a handgun or knife as a weapon?	6.8%	9.4%	1.3%	1.6%	9.0%	13.9%	3.0%	5.0%	4.8%	6.9%	5.9%
Been in a fight with someone?	40.1%	31.3%	18.5%	16.2%	41.4%	31.9%	29.4%	22.4%	31.7%	24.9%	28.0%
Hit your boyfriend or girlfriend?	2.0%	1.6%	6.9%	10.0%	5.7%	4.9%	17.7%	24.2%	7.4%	9.7%	8.7%
Been hit by your boyfriend or girlfriend?	7.1%	6.1%	6.1%	8.5%	11.5%	9.7%	9.5%	10.6%	8.1%	8.5%	8.3%
Rec'd detention or in-school suspension?	38.1%	37.3%	22.4%	25.0%	41.6%	37.6%	34.3%	30.7%	33.3%	32.1%	32.7%
Been suspended from school?	12.9%	13.9%	5.2%	7.2%	24.0%	22.6%	14.8%	15.4%	13.1%	13.8%	13.5%
Stolen anything worth > $5?	12.9%	17.6%	6.9%	10.7%	14.2%	15.6%	8.5%	8.4%	10.4%	13.1%	11.9%
Had an accident while driving?	NA	14.3%	NA	12.6%	NA	7.7%	NA	6.3%	NA	11.0%	NA
Been arrested and booked?	3.9%	6.1%	1.5%	2.7%	5.7%	8.1%	2.2%	2.9%	3.2%	4.7%	4.0%
Felt hopeless for two weeks or more?	14.8%	15.9%	21.8%	29.0%	14.0%	13.3%	22.0%	24.8%	18.2%	21.4%	19.9%
Seriously considered attempting suicide?	6.9%	8.4%	9.6%	14.3%	5.5%	5.4%	6.8%	8.7%	7.4%	9.7%	8.7%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

Adolescence is often a time of taking risks and asserting independence from adults. When asked whether they would tell an adult about a problem, the following percentages of state students said they would be "not likely" or "very unlikely" to tell if they:

-heard a student threaten to harm someone: 33.2% middle school, 47.0% high school;
-saw a student with a handgun at school: 22.7% middle school, 20.5% high school;
-saw a student with a knife at school: 24.7% middle school, 31.6% high school;
-saw a student with drugs at school: 33.7% middle school, 61.9% high school;

Alcohol Use:* In the state during 2001-02, 21.0% of 7th and 8th graders and 37.1% of high schoolers said they had used alcohol in the past month. Of White males in grades 7 - 12, 33.8% had used it in the past month, compared with 26.0% of African-American males; likewise, 34.5% of White females said they had used alcohol, compared with 26.4% of African-American females. Many youth first used alcohol at an early age: 14.2% had used alcohol by age 11 or younger, 33.0% by age 13, and 61.1% by age 15.

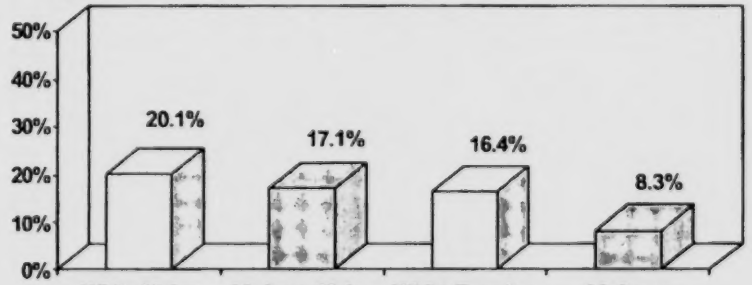
During the previous year, 21.0% of 7th and 8th graders and 30.4% of high schoolers said they had ridden with a drinking driver. Of seniors who drive, 19.4% said they had driven after drinking. Widespread use is encouraged by the ready availability and perceived low risk of alcohol use. Among students who expressed an opinion, 43.6% of eighth graders and 75.4% of seniors felt that beer was easy to get. Also, 71.6% of eighth graders and 70.7% of seniors felt there was not a great risk in drinking two drinks a day, and 47.3% of eighth graders and 53.1% of high schoolers felt there was not a great risk in drinking 5 drinks every weekend.

Heavy Drinking:* In 2001-02, 7.7% of 7th and 8th graders and 18.9% of high school students in the state repor drinking 5 or more drinks in a day during the past month. When asked how many drinks, if any, they usually consur 13.7% of all state students in grades 7 - 12 in 2001-02 responded 3 or more drinks at a time and 7.1% reported usually 5 more drinks. Among high school students, 18.6% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 10.0% 5 or mc Among seniors, 24.7% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 13.7% 5 or more; however 22.9% of seni said that they drank 5 or more drinks in a day once or more during the past month.

Drugs:* In 2001-02, 9.5% of 7th and 8th graders and 20.1% of high schoolers in the state reported using ille drugs during the previous month. Among students in grades 7 - 12, use was reported by 20.1% of White males, 16.4% Wh females, 17.1% of African-American males, and 8.3% of African-American females. Some young people initiated drug u at an early age: 5.3% had experienced their first use by age 11 or sooner; 16.3% had used a drug by age 13, and 34.7% by a 15.

In the past year, 10.3% of all high school students in the state who drive and 15.4% of seniors who drive said that they had driven after using drugs. Such use is encouraged by the ready availability of drugs: 22.3% of 8th graders who had an opinion said it is easy to get marijuana and 8.4% said it is easy to get cocaine or crack; 65.0% of seniors said it is easy to get marijuana and 29.5% said it was easy to get cocaine or crack.

Figure 12: Drug Use among Students Grades 7-12 during 2001-02*



* Schools in the county elected not to participate in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking. Therefore, data for all of South Carolina is presented here. The latest Abbeville County data, for 1992-93, is available on the Kids Count website at www.sckidscount.org.

Sexual Activity and Pregnancy: Many teenagers now engage in sexual activity. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) administered to a representative sample of high school students throughout South Carolina in 2001 showed that sexual activity begins at an early age: 7% of female and 21% of male students have engaged in intercourse before age 13; by age 15, 38% the females and 49% of males have engaged in sexual intercourse. Statewide, 48% of females and 50% of males in the 11th and 12th grades reported engaging in intercourse during the past three months. Furthermore, 27% of female and 33% of male 12th graders have had intercourse with four or more partners during their lifetimes.

Premature sexual activity often results in pregnancy. In the county, 34 girls between the ages of 14 and 17 became pregnant in 1999, 26 in 2000 and 21 in 2001. This represented 2.8% of all girls ages 14 – 17 in 2001; several times this percentage become pregnant at least once by age 18. The 2001 pregnancy rate for ages 14 - 17 was 1.9% for Whites and 4.3% for African-Americans and Others. Of all pregnancies of 14-17 year olds, 85.7% resulted in live births, with almost all other pregnancies ending in abortions.

Teen pregnancy rates increased substantially across the state during the 1980s; as a result, greater emphasis v devoted to preventing teen pregnancy. Since 1989, the teen pregnancy rate in Abbeville County has decreased by 40.9 Overall, it has decreased by 57.8% for Whites, and decreased by 14.0% for African Americans and Others.

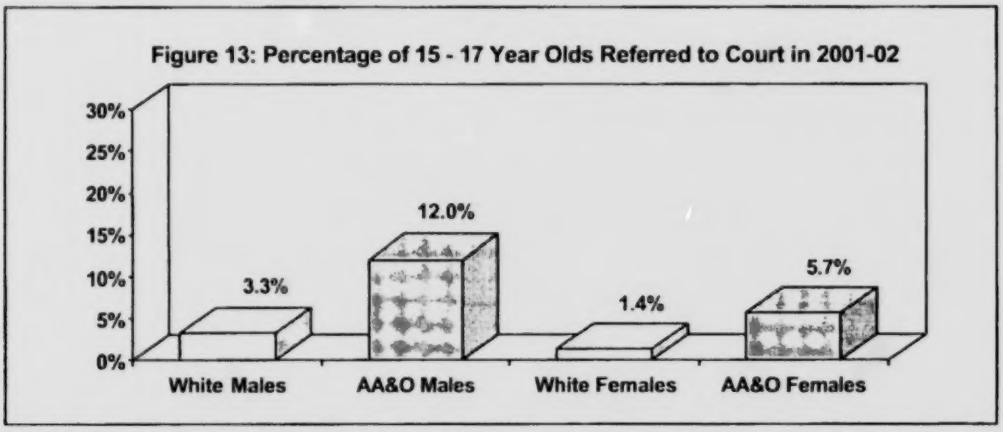
Juvenile Delinquency: In 2001-02, 90 individual juvenile offenders in the county were referred to the Solicitor for delinquency; of these, 21.1% were age 12 or younger, 18.9% were 13 or 14, and 60.0% were 15 or older.

Of the referrals to the family court, 4.9% of all referrals were for violent and serious crimes which include drug trafficking, acts against persons for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and serious property offenses for arson and burglary. Also, 20 juvenile cases constituting 16.3% of all referrals were for status offenses. Status offenses include truancy, running away, incorrigibility, and other offenses that would not be crimes for adults.

Delinquents are likely to live in families with low income: 5.8% lived in families with income under $10,000, 67.3% with $10,000-$19,999 and 26.9% with $20,000 or more. Furthermore, only 16.7% of delinquents lived with both natural parents, while 51.9% lived in a single parent household, 27.8% lived with other relatives, and 3.7% in other situations including parent plus step-parent. Delinquency or criminal activity occurs among many related family members: 48.1% had at least one family member who was delinquent or had some criminal record.

Youth referred to the family courts are likely to have been there before. In 2001-02, 56.7% had at least one prior referral and 20.0% had been referred to court 3 times or more. Many were referred at an early age. For delinquents 15 - 17 years old, 1.1% had been referred by the age of 10, 12.8% by the age of 12, and 28.7% by the age of 14.

During 2001-02, 54 youth ages 15 to 17 were referred to the family courts. In the county, 4.6% of all youth 15 to 17 were referred to court in one year and roughly double that percentage are referred at least once by age 18. Furthermore, the National Youth Survey indicates that typically across the United States the proportion of youth engaging in crime is two or three times the number ever apprehended. In 2001-02, there were 10 juveniles committed from the county to DJJ custody and placed in residential programs.



Not in School or Employed: During 2000, 118 teenagers ages 16-19 were idle, meaning they neither worked any hours nor were enrolled in school, even part-time. Idle teens comprised 7.5% of their age group: 5.8% for White and 11.1% African-American & Other teens. A much larger number, perhaps twice as many, were not engaged in either school full time or work full time. The data reflect a serious failure in both school completion and the critical transition from school to work, significantly affecting their development as future workers. For an in-depth description of the problems of young adults seeking to enter the labor force, visit our website at www.scyoungadults.org for our state and county reports on 18-29 year olds.

Deaths: During 1997-2001, 5 youth ages 15 to 19 died. Historically, automobile accidents have been the major cause, resulting in 2 deaths between 1996 and 2000; homicides killed 1 youth 15 to 19 years old during the five-year period, and 0 youth committed suicide. Alcohol use is often a significant factor in deaths among teenagers.

SUMMARY

Facing the Scope of Problems: The data on families, economic status, health, readiness, school achievement, and adolescent risk behaviors provide a troublesome picture of the condition of children in Abbeville County. The 31.4% of children in single-parent families, 17.8% in poverty, 28.6% not graduating from school, 37.1% of high school students using alcohol and 20.1% using drugs each month, and other data profiled in this report suggest that too many children are at risk of not growing up to become self-supporting adults, good family members, and responsible community citizens.

Emphasizing the Positive: South Carolina Kids Count reports have been developed to describe the problems of children in each of the counties. Fortunately, the majority of children and youth are doing well, and some very well. One simple description is the percentage of children who do not fall into the problem categories reported. For the county, 86.5% of children are born to non-teen mothers ages 20 or older, 59.0% are born to married parents, and 68.6% lived in two-parent families; 82.2% were not poor and 51.2% lived in families with incomes above twice the poverty level for a family of three, $30,040 in 2002; 88.9% of babies were born with normal birthweights; 92.8% were assessed as ready for the first grade, 57.5% scored basic or better on PACT for 8th grade math and 62.1% for 8th grade reading, 60.4% passed all parts of the Exit Exam in the 10th grade, and 71.4% graduated with their class. In a typical month, 62.9% of high school students do not drink alcohol, 79.9% do not use drugs, and 74.7% do not smoke. Unfortunately, the absence of a problem is not always an indicator of success. Some data is available for exemplary performance: for example, 36.8% of 3rd graders and 20.8% of 8th graders scored proficient or advanced on PACT in reading and 29.2% of 3rd graders and 14.6% of 8th graders in math. Unfortunately, data on success is not generally available.

Despite the limitations of success data, we must emphasize the positive in providing good support and appropriate influences for children and youth. Recent philosophy and publications such as those of the Search Institute (700 South Third Street, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN, 55415-1138, tel. 1-800-888-7828, www.search-institute.org), emphasize the critical importance of "developmental assets" to promote and support positive development. One short book from the Search Institute, (What Kids Need to Succeed, by Peter J. Benson, Judy Gailbraith, and Pamela Espeland, 1995) presents an excellent array of suggestions for promoting developmental assets through families, community, faith congregations, and schools. If each family, school, religious congregation and community organization assertively worked to build such assets, the problems described in this report would be reduced dramatically. Such positive family-school-community efforts could improve South Carolina's national Kids Count ranking from the bottom 10 to the average or even into the top 10 by prevention of unnecessary problems affecting children and youth, as shown on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

All data presented in this report is the most recent available at the date it goes to the printer. This version of the Kids Count report will be revised as more recent and additional data become available. Please send us your corrections and suggestions for improvement. We welcome your ideas for ways to make the state and county reports more useful and accurate. Please utilize local data sources whenever possible to supplement the profile provided through our report.

Data related inquiries should be directed to:

Anne Wilson, Data Manager (awilson@drss.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-4810

Calls for **copies of reports** for other counties and inquiries regarding more recent reports should be made to:

Kim Hazel-Lohr, Project Manager (khazel@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-1295

For **policy questions and general comments**, please contact:

Dr. A. Baron Holmes, Project Director (bholmes@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-2291

Comparable reports for all 46 counties and for the state can also be found on the World Wide Web at

www.sckidscount.org

Our website also provides: links to other websites for indicators in our report; high to low rankings for individual indicators; information on how to improve SC's national rank; and a glossary of definitions.

The national Kids Count Report can be found on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website at

www.aecf.org

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Abbeville County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Education (continued)

Indicators		Number					Percent				
	Most Recent Year	1980*	1990*	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres
Grade 8 Math below state standards**	2002	218	106	119	-45.4%	+12.3%	64.1	36.9	42.5	-33.7%	15.2%
White males	*2002*	*41*	*16*	*31*	*-24.4%*	*+93.8%*	*48.2*	*25.4*	*35.6*	*-26.1%*	*40.2%*
White females	*2002*	*48*	*21*	*22*	*-54.2%*	*+4.8%*	*49.0*	*21.9*	*26.5*	*-45.9%*	*21.0%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*61*	*36*	*36*	*-41.0%*	*+0.0%*	*85.9*	*48.0*	*73.5*	*-14.4%*	*53.1%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*65*	*33*	*30*	*-53.8%*	*-9.1%*	*78.3*	*62.3*	*49.2*	*-37.2%*	*-21.0%*
Grade 8 Reading below state standards**	2002	172	56	106	-38.4%	+89.3%	50.4	19.5	37.9	-24.8%	94.4%
White males	*2002*	*30*	*10*	*30*	*+0.0%*	*+200.0%*	*35.3*	*15.9*	*34.5*	*-2.3%*	*117.0%*
White females	*2002*	*22*	*12*	*9*	*-59.1%*	*-25.0%*	*22.5*	*12.5*	*10.8*	*-52.0%*	*-13.6%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*57*	*22*	*38*	*-33.3%*	*+72.7%*	*79.2*	*29.3*	*77.6*	*-2.0%*	*164.8%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*60*	*12*	*29*	*-51.7%*	*+141.7%*	*72.3*	*22.6*	*47.5*	*-34.3%*	*110.2%*
Grade 9 Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT	1998	NA	107	76	NA	-29.0%	NA	34.1	25.6	NA	-24.9%
White males	*1998*	*NA*	*18*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*24.3*	*20.5*	*NA*	*-15.6%*
White females	*1998*	*NA*	*8*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*9.2*	*11.7*	*NA*	*27.2%*
African American and Other males	*1998*	*NA*	*41*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*51.9*	*45.8*	*NA*	*-11.8%*
African American and Other females	*1998*	*NA*	*40*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*56.3*	*33.3*	*NA*	*-40.9%*
Exit Exam (not passing all parts on 1st attempt)	2002	159	70	86	-45.9%	+22.9%	51.1	28.8	39.6	-22.5%	37.5%
White males	*2002*	*31*	*15*	*17*	*-45.2%*	*+13.3%*	*34.4*	*23.4*	*25.4*	*-26.2%*	*8.5%*
White females	*2002*	*30*	*11*	*16*	*-46.7%*	*+45.5%*	*34.9*	*14.7*	*24.2*	*-30.7%*	*64.6%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*58*	*22*	*20*	*-65.5%*	*-9.1%*	*81.7*	*42.3*	*60.6*	*-25.8%*	*43.3%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*40*	*20*	*32*	*-20.0%*	*+60.0%*	*62.5*	*40.8*	*64.0*	*2.4%*	*56.9%*
Dropout Rate (8th graders no longer enrolled in 12th grade 4 years later)	2000-02	96	75	90	-6.6%	+19.6%	26.8	24.6	29.0	8.0%	17.8%
White males	*2000-02*	*26*	*22*	*28*	*+9.8%*	*+27.3%*	*25.4*	*23.5*	*31.9*	*25.9%*	*35.7%*
White females	*2000-02*	*17*	*20*	*20*	*+23.2%*	*+4.3%*	*18.4*	*25.5*	*23.6*	*27.8%*	*-7.6%*
African American and Other males	*2000-02*	*36*	*19*	*27*	*-23.9%*	*+45.9%*	*40.3*	*28.2*	*38.8*	*-3.9%*	*37.2%*
African American and Other females	*2000-02*	*19*	*15*	*14*	*-22.5%*	*-4.4%*	*23.1*	*21.6*	*21.7*	*-6.1%*	*0.6%*
Young Adults Not Completing High School (18-24)	2000	960	681	471	-50.9%	-30.8%	32.8	25.8	15.3	-53.4%	-40.7%
White males	*NA*	*335*	*200*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*33.3*	*21.6*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
White females	*NA*	*201*	*114*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*21.1*	*14.4*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other males	*NA*	*223*	*179*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*56.5*	*44.9*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other females	*NA*	*201*	*188*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*35.1*	*35.9*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
Economics											
Poverty Rate	2000	1,178	1,047	1,165	-1.1%	+11.3%	17.8	17.3	17.8	0.0%	2.9%
White children	*2000*	*295*	*282*	*483*	*+63.7%*	*+71.3%*	*7.9*	*7.7*	*11.9*	*50.6%*	*54.5%*
African American and Other children	*2000*	*883*	*765*	*682*	*-22.8%*	*-10.8%*	*30.5*	*32.3*	*27.7*	*-9.3%*	*-14.4%*
Income of Families w/children (1999 $)	2000	$ 39,834	$ 41,874	$ 42,889	+7.7%	+2.4%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
White families	*2000*	*$ 45,105*	*$ 47,334*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other families	*2000*	*$ 29,809*	*$ 31,288*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
Adolescent Risk Factors											
Teenage Pregnancy (ages 14-17)	2001	38	25	21	-44.7%	-16.0%	4.4	3.4	2.8	-36.7%	-17.6%
White	*2001*	*23*	*11*	*9*	*-60.9%*	*-18.2%*	*4.5*	*2.4*	*1.9*	*-57.9%*	*-20.8%*
African American and Other	*2001*	*15*	*14*	*12*	*-20.0%*	*-14.3%*	*4.3*	*4.8*	*4.3*	*0.2%*	*-10.4%*
Delinquency	2002	21	48	54	+157.1%	+12.5%	1.6	4.0	4.6	188.5%	15.4%
White males	*2002*	*8*	*21*	*13*	*+62.5%*	*-38.1%*	*2.0*	*5.3*	*3.3*	*62.5%*	*-38.7%*
White females	*2002*	*3*	*8*	*5*	*+66.7%*	*-37.5%*	*0.8*	*2.4*	*1.4*	*68.9%*	*-43.7%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*7*	*12*	*24*	*+242.9%*	*+100.0%*	*2.9*	*5.1*	*12.0*	*313.8%*	*135.3%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*3*	*7*	*12*	*+300.0%*	*+71.4%*	*1.1*	*2.8*	*5.7*	*419.5%*	*104.1%*

*Closest available data to this year was used in many cases.
**BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Abbeville County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Indicators	Most Recent Year	Number					Percent					R	
		1980*	1990*	Most Recent Data	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980 Rank	199
Health													
Low Birth Weight	2001	17	29	41	+141.2%	+41.4%	5.3	8.4	11.1	107.6%	31.7%	1	
White babies	*2001*	*8*	*11*	*27*	*+237.5%*	*+145.5%*	*4.3*	*5.3*	*11.0*	*155.8%*	*108.0%*	*7*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*9*	*18*	*14*	*+55.6%*	*-22.2%*	*6.8*	*13.2*	*11.1*	*64.2%*	*-16.0%*	*1*	
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	2001	109	135	74	+32.1%	-45.2%	34.3	39.2	19.9	-42.0%	-49.3%	13	
White babies	*2001*	*46*	*65*	*41*	*-10.9%*	*-36.9%*	*24.9*	*31.3*	*16.7*	*-32.9%*	*-46.6%*	*18*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*63*	*70*	*33*	*-47.6%*	*-52.9%*	*47.4*	*51.5*	*26.2*	*-44.7%*	*-49.1%*	*11*	
Infant Mortality	2001	16	7	13	-18.8%	+85.7%	1.6	0.7	1.2	-21.3%	82.5%	21	
White babies	*2001*	*2*	*3*	*4*	*+100.0%*	*+33.3%*	*0.3*	*0.5*	*0.6*	*70.8%*	*17.2%*	*1*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*14*	*4*	*9*	*-35.7%*	*+125.0%*	*3.3*	*0.9*	*2.5*	*-23.8%*	*185.5%*	*43*	
Family													
Births to mothers under 18	2001	23	21	18	-21.7%	-14.3%	7.2	6.1	4.9	-32.3%	-19.7%	9	
White babies	*2001*	*13*	*9*	*9*	*-30.8%*	*+0.0%*	*7.0*	*4.3*	*3.7*	*-47.3%*	*-14.5%*	*35*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*10*	*12*	*9*	*-10.0%*	*-25.0%*	*7.5*	*8.8*	*7.1*	*-5.0%*	*-19.0%*	*1*	
Births to mothers under 20	2001	63	60	50	-20.6%	-16.7%	19.8	17.4	13.5	-31.9%	-22.6%	14	
White babies	*2001*	*37*	*26*	*26*	*-29.7%*	*+0.0%*	*20.0*	*12.5*	*10.6*	*-47.0%*	*-15.2%*	*40*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*26*	*34*	*24*	*-7.7%*	*+29.4%*	*19.5*	*25.0*	*19.0*	*-2.6%*	*-23.8%*	*2*	
Births to mothers with less than a high school education	2001	101	88	66	-34.7%	-25.0%	31.8	25.6	17.8	-44.0%	-30.4%	15	
White babies	*2001*	*52*	*49*	*40*	*-23.1%*	*-18.4%*	*28.1*	*23.6*	*16.3*	*-42.0%*	*-30.8%*	*22*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*49*	*39*	*26*	*-46.9%*	*-33.3%*	*36.8*	*28.7*	*20.6*	*-44.0%*	*-28.0%*	*3*	
Births to single mothers****	2001	76	115	152	+100.0%	+32.2%	23.9	33.4	41.0	71.6%	22.6%	19	
White babies	*2001*	*6*	*25*	*51*	*+750.0%*	*+104.0%*	*3.2*	*12.0*	*20.8*	*541.3%*	*73.1%*	*4*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*70*	*90*	*101*	*+44.3%*	*+12.2%*	*52.6*	*66.2*	*80.2*	*52.3%*	*21.1%*	*40*	
Children in single parent families	2000	1,087	1,347	1,777	+63.5%	+31.9%	18.1	25.3	31.4	73.4%	24.0%	20	
White	*2000*	*318*	*429*	*678*	*+113.2%*	*+58.0%*	*8.6*	*12.5*	*18.3*	*112.6%*	*46.3%*	*10*	
African American and Other	*2000*	*760*	*913*	*1,099*	*+44.6%*	*+20.4%*	*31.9*	*49.1*	*56.2*	*76.2%*	*14.5%*	*8*	
Education													
Not Ready for Grade 1	2001	145	84	20	-86.2%	-76.2%	46.3	21.4	7.2	-84.4%	-66.4%	36	
White males	*2001*	*23*	*13*	*3*	*-87.0%*	*-76.9%*	*31.5*	*12.9*	*3.5*	*-88.9%*	*-72.9%*	*25*	
White females	*2001*	*14*	*4*	*1*	*-92.9%*	*-75.0%*	*18.0*	*4.5*	*1.4*	*-92.2%*	*-68.9%*	*12*	
African American and Other males	*2001*	*53*	*38*	*10*	*-81.1%*	*-73.7%*	*63.1*	*36.9*	*16.1*	*-74.5%*	*-56.4%*	*37*	
African American and Other females	*2001*	*55*	*29*	*6*	*-89.1%*	*-79.3%*	*70.5*	*28.7*	*10.3*	*-85.4%*	*-64.1%*	*46*	
Repeating Grades 1-3	2000	58	93	61	+5.2%	-34.4%	18.5	26.9	20.2	9.2%	-24.9%	27	
White males	*2000*	*17*	*19*	*16*	*-5.9%*	*-15.8%*	*21.1*	*20.7*	*19.7*	*-6.6%*	*-4.8%*	*30*	
White females	*2000*	*6*	*10*	*4*	*-33.3%*	*-60.0%*	*7.7*	*11.1*	*5.5*	*-28.6%*	*-50.5%*	*12*	
African American and Other males	*2000*	*21*	*34*	*25*	*+19.0%*	*-26.5%*	*26.0*	*39.7*	*33.1*	*27.3%*	*-16.6%*	*22*	
African American and Other females	*2000*	*14*	*30*	*16*	*+14.3%*	*-46.7%*	*18.9*	*40.8*	*24.0*	*27.0%*	*-41.2%*	*25*	
Grade 3 Math below standards****	2002	73	28	57	-21.9%	+103.6%	25.6	9.2	22.8	-10.9%	147.8%	1	
White males	*2002*	*13*	*9*	*9*	*-30.8%*	*+0.0%*	*16.3*	*9.4*	*12.3*	*-24.5%*	*30.9%*	*1*	
White females	*2002*	*8*	*4*	*8*	*+0.0%*	*+100.0%*	*11.6*	*4.6*	*12.9*	*11.2%*	*180.4%*	*1*	
African American and Other males	*2002*	*29*	*7*	*20*	*-31.0%*	*+185.7%*	*40.3*	*10.8*	*33.9*	*-15.9%*	*213.9%*	*1*	
African American and Other females	*2002*	*21*	*8*	*20*	*-4.8%*	*+150.0%*	*33.9*	*13.8*	*35.7*	*5.3%*	*158.7%*	*1*	
Grade 3 Reading below standards****	2002	83	22	49	-41.0%	+122.7%	29.1	7.2	19.6	-32.6%	172.2%	12	
White males	*2002*	*14*	*5*	*10*	*-28.6%*	*+100.0%*	*17.5*	*5.3*	*13.7*	*-21.7%*	*158.5%*	*1*	
White females	*2002*	*10*	*5*	*4*	*-60.0%*	*-20.0%*	*14.5*	*5.7*	*6.5*	*-55.2%*	*14.0%*	*14*	
African American and Other males	*2002*	*35*	*4*	*24*	*-31.4%*	*+500.0%*	*48.6*	*6.2*	*40.7*	*-16.3%*	*556.5%*	*9*	
African American and Other females	*2002*	*22*	*8*	*11*	*-50.0%*	*+37.5%*	*35.5*	*13.8*	*19.6*	*-44.8%*	*42.0%*	*10*	
Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT Grade 4	1998	52	61	52	+0.0%	-14.8%	18.2	22.1	18.9	3.8%	-14.5%	3	
White males	*1998*	*14*	*13*	*9*	*-35.7%*	*-30.8%*	*18.7*	*18.1*	*12.0*	*-35.8%*	*-33.7%*	*9*	
White females	*1998*	*5*	*13*	*8*	*+60.0%*	*-38.5%*	*6.8*	*15.5*	*8.9*	*30.9%*	*-42.6%*	*3*	
African American and Other males	*1998*	*22*	*22*	*16*	*-27.3%*	*-27.3%*	*31.9*	*33.8*	*38.1*	*19.4%*	*12.7%*	*2*	
African American and Other females	*1998*	*10*	*13*	*19*	*+90.0%*	*+46.2%*	*14.9*	*23.6*	*28.8*	*93.3%*	*22.0%*	*1*	

*Year of data is approximate in many cases.
**1 is best, 46 is worst.
*** Data include paternity acknowledgements.
**** BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Kids Count 2003 Aiken County

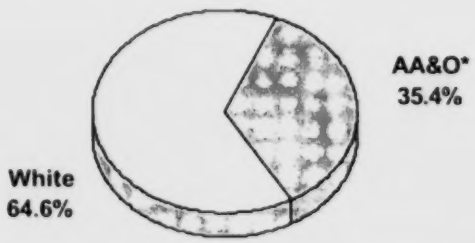
DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2000 there were an estimated 37,348 children under age 18 in the county. Of these, 24,145 were White, 11,637 were African-American, and 1,566 were other races. There were 33,019 children under age 18 in 1990, 32,361 in 1980, 34,790 in 1970, and 34,525 in 1960.

Children represent a shrinking portion of the county's population. Those under 18 constituted 26.2% of the population in 2000, down from 42.6% in 1960, 38.2% in 1970, and 30.6% in 1980.

In 2000 the 11,468 pre-schoolers under age 6 were 8.0% of the overall population: 7.1% of Whites and 10.0% of African Americans.

Figure 1: Population Ages 0-17 in 2000



* In all charts African-American is combined with other races, and often abbreviated as AA&O. Other races comprise 4.2% of children in the county, with "two or more races" at 2.1% and "some other race alone" at 1.1% as the largest Other groups.

FAMILY

Families have always been the most important influence in a child's life. Children depend on their families for material needs, stimulation and guidance. Family life is different in numerous ways from previous generations, and many families now face exceptional challenges.

Families with children now make up a smaller share of all households. Only 33.1% of all households in 2000, as compared with 51.0% of households in 1960, had children below the age of 18.

Births to Teen Mothers: In 2001, 105 babies were born to mothers younger than age 18. They were 5.6% of all babies born in the county; 3.8% of all White and 9.3% of all African-American and Other babies were born to teen mothers under the age of 18. Of the babies born to these teens in 2001, 94.3% were born to single mothers, including babies whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers.

In 2001, 288 babies were born to mothers younger than age 20. These babies were 15.2% of all born in the county; 12.6% of all White and 21.0% of all African-American and Other babies were born to mothers under the age of 20. Of the babies born to these mothers in 2001, 81.9% were born to single mothers, including paternity acknowledeged babies.

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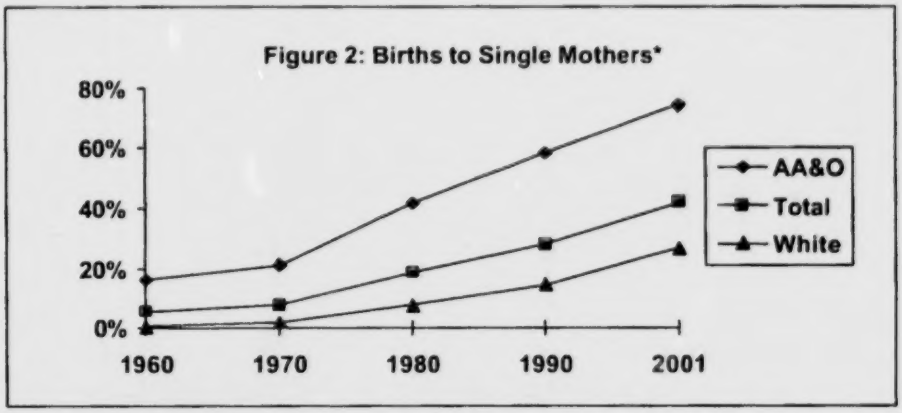
Education of Mothers Giving Birth: Children's success is strongly influenced by the education of their parents. In 2001, 418 babies, 22.2% of all babies, were born to mothers of all ages who had not completed the 12th grade. In 2001, 21.6% of White and 23.5% of African-American and Other babies were born to mothers who had completed less than the 12th grade. This is a substantial improvement from 46.7% in 1970. In addition, during 2001, 32.8% had completed 12 grades (29.5% of Whites and 39.7% of African Americans and Others) and 45.0% had more than a high school degree (48.8% of Whites and 36.8% of African American and Others).

Births to Single Mothers: Births to single mothers have increased steadily over four decades. In 2001, 620 babies, 32.8% of all babies, were recorded as born to single mothers. A decade earlier in 1990, the percentage was 25.5% and in 1960 it was 5.4%. In 2001, 20.4% of White children and 59.2% of African-American and Other children were born to single mothers. These numbers, however, do not include paternity acknowlegement births.

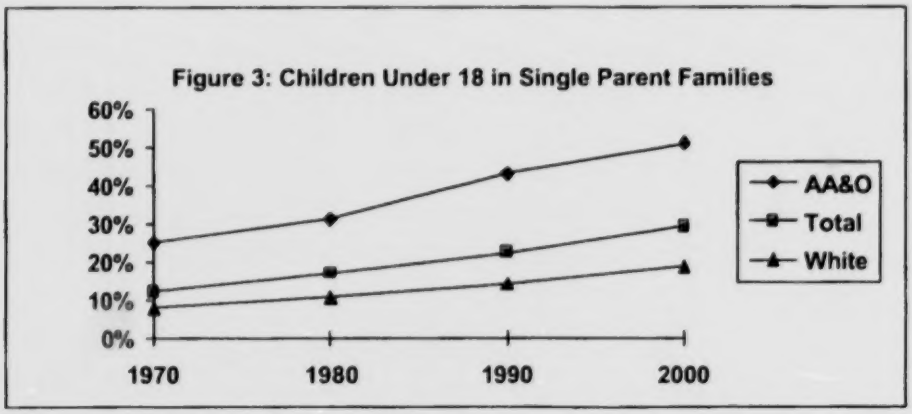
Thus, to these numbers should be added an additional group of 173 babies, 9.2% of all born in 2001, whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers. When the paternity-acknowledged babies are added, the total number born to single mothers in 2001 was 793, constituting 42.0% of all babies, 26.8% of White babies, and 74.4% of African-American and Others.



*Includes paternity acknowleged babies in 1980, 1990 and 2001. Prior to 1979, paternity acknowleged cases were not a statistical category, and thus were included in births to single mothers.

Divorce Rate: In 2001, 2,567 marriage licenses were issued, while 577 divorce decrees involving 538 children were filed. In 1970, only 166 children were in families involved in divorce.

Single-Parent Family: Increasing numbers of children live in single-parent families. In 2000, 9,723 children lived with only one parent. This was 29.4% of all children, up from 22.5% in 1990, 17.2% in 1980, and 12.4% in 1970. In 2000, 19.0% of White and 51.0% of African-American and Other children lived in single-parent families. Also in 2000, 2,962 or 29.5% of children under age 6 lived in single parent families: 16.9% of White and 54.2% of African American and Other pre-schoolers.



Parents Working and Child Care: Increasingly, parents must divide their time between children and employers. In order to meet family financial needs, most parents must work and thus have less time for family life. Ir 2000, 63.8% of mothers with children under 6 and 72.2% with children 6 - 17 were in the labor force. This has increased substantially from 1960 when 30.2% of mothers with children under 6 were in the labor force. Most fathers also work: 61.1% of children under 6 are in families where the single parent or both parents work. Caring for children is a problem for parents unable to obtain quality, affordable daycare while they are at work.

Overall, there are 4,388 spaces in state-regulated childcare facilities* in the county, 94.7% of these are in licensed programs and 5.3% are in registered programs. Of the spaces, 90.4% are in licensed childcare centers serving more than 12 children, 4.2% are in registered or licensed family childcare homes serving six or fewer children, 1.6% are in licensed group childcare homes serving 7-12 children, and 3.8% are in registered or licensed church programs.

The homes and centers are severely constrained by the limited ability of parents to pay. In the county, the average weekly charge is $ 79.02 for centers and $ 62.27 for homes. Consequently, center wages are low: 29.2% of centers with pre-school staff and 50% of centers with assistant pre-school staff report paying these staff under $6 per hour. Paying $6-$8 per hour are 58.3% of centers with pre-school staff and 42.9% of centers with assistants. Low wages attract workers with limited education. In 54.2% of centers, most pre-school staff and in 50% of centers most assistants have only a high school degree. In 37.5% of centers few to none of the pre-school staff have early childhood credentials. In childcare homes, 50% of lead providers have no more education than a high school degree or GED; 10% have less than a high school degree.

Family Violence: In 2000, 1,238 domestic assaults were recorded by law enforcement officials. These domestic assaults comprised 45.2% of all assaults, which include aggravated assaults, simple assaults, and intimidation. Overall, 60.6% of all domestic assaults involve spouse abuse which constitutes 27.4% of all assaults. Since most family violence is not reported, the true incidence of family disruption is much more widespread than even the large number of reported cases would indicate.

Separation from Parents: Some children do not live with their natural parents. In 2000, 6.8% of all children did not live with their natural parents. Approximately 1,793 or 4.8% of all children lived with relatives, 617 or 1.7% lived with non-relatives, 45 or 0.1% were householders or spouses, and 77 or 0.2% were in institutional facilities.

Abuse and Neglect: In 2000-01, there were 833 investigations into reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children. Through its investigations, the Department of Social Services (DSS) determined that 301 of the investigations were indicated for abuse or neglect: 14.5% for physical abuse, 8.3% for sexual abuse, 0.0% for mental injury, 22.8% for physical neglect, 5.2% for educational neglect, 1.0% for medical neglect, 45.7% for threat of harm for physical/sexual abuse, and 2.4% for other types of abuse.

In the indicated cases of abuse and neglect, DSS determined there were 530 children who were victims of abuse or neglect. Of these, 51.0% were male, 49.0% were female; 58.5% were White, 41.5% were African-American and Other. By age, 37.8% were ages 0 - 5, 38.9% were ages 6 - 12, and 23.3% were ages 13 - 17. In the indicated cases, 32.3% of the children lived in two-parent families, 40.2% in single parent families, 21.9% with unmarried couples, and 5.7% in other circumstances.

Out of Home Placements: As of June 2001, 177 children lived in foster care. The median age at first placement in the county is 6.2 years. The ages of children in foster care were 17.0% 0-2, 11.3% 3-5, 18.1% 6-10, 22.6% 11-13, and 31.1% 14 and above. The foster care population is 42.4% males and 57.6% females. Regarding their future, 35.6% were under a plan for placement in adoptive homes, 33.3% for return to a parent or guardian, 4.5% for placement with a relative, 13.0% for independent living, 13.6% for permanent foster care, and 0.0% for other circumstances.

Adult/Child Ratio: A measure of potential adult attention for children from family and community is the ratio of adults to children and youth. In 2000 there were 2.82 adults for every person below age 18. This was up substantially from 1960, when there were only 1.35 adults for every person under the age 18. This indicates that today there are more adults potentially available to provide attention and care for each child than in the past.

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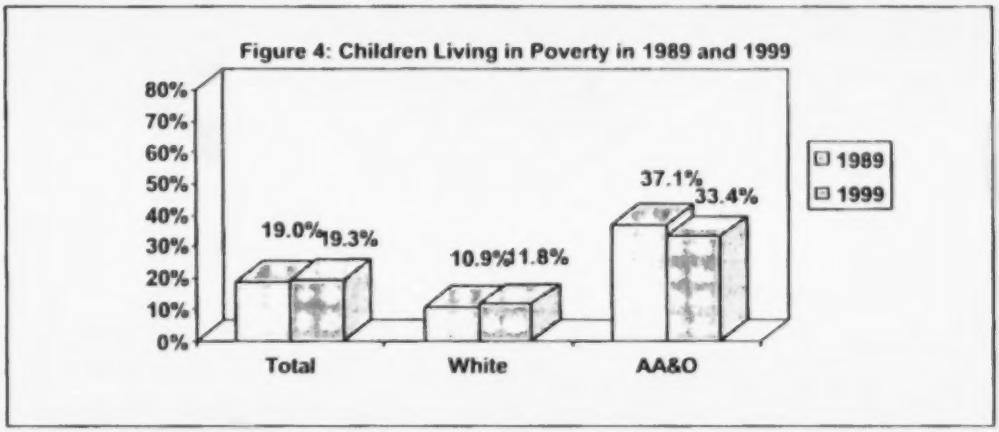
* This data is the best currently available; however, an effort is being made to check the coverage and improve the accuracy. As soon as more recent and complete data becomes available, it will be posted on the website.

ECONOMIC STATUS

Low income makes it difficult for many families to provide the material and environmental enrichment necessary for healthy child development.

Poverty: In 1999, 7,114 children and youth under the age of 18 lved in 3,320 families with incomes below poverty, comprising 19.3% of all children and youth: 11.8% of Whites and 33.4% of African-Americans and Others. A rough estimate of child poverty in 2001 calculated by the Census Bureau was 23.0%.



Poverty has always been a serious problem. While the rate among children under age 18 in 1989 was 19.0%, it was 16.1% in 1979 and 20.8% in 1969.

Children and the elderly are the age groups most seriously affected by poverty. In 1999, 21.8% of children 0 - 5 (12.2% White, 38.1% African-American and Other), and 17.7% of children 6 - 17 (10.9% White, 31.1% African-American and Other), lived in poverty; 12.5% of persons 65 years and older lived in poverty. Historically, the poverty rate among the elderly was much higher. During the last three decades, federal policy actions have substantially improved the economic status of older persons but have not done so for children.

Single-parent families are most likely to be poor. In 1999, 41.9% of children in single-parent families lived in poverty, but only 7.6% of children in married-couple families were poor. Children in single-parent families made up 65.0% of all the county's children living in poverty.

In 2002, the poverty level was $15,020 for a family of three and $18,100 for a family of four. The poverty threshold is often criticized as an arbitrary number. People can still be poor but may be just above the poverty level. Federal programs utilize varying thresholds. For example, in 1999 there were 15,299 children ages 0-17 who were less than 200 percent of poverty; thus an additional 8,185 children were above the poverty level but could still be considered poor or near-poor with incomes below $30,040 and $36,200 respectively for 3 and 4 person families.

Children Under 18 in Poverty in 1999

Percent of Poverty	Total		White		African American & Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 50%	2,890	7.8%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 100%	7,114	19.3%	2,823	11.8%	4,291	33.4%
Under 125%	8,936	24.3%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 150%	11,068	30.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 175%	13,350	36.2%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 185%	14,114	38.3%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 200%	15,299	41.5%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total Children	37,348		24,145		13,203	

Note: Missing data will be released by the Census Bureau later in 2003, and will be posted on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

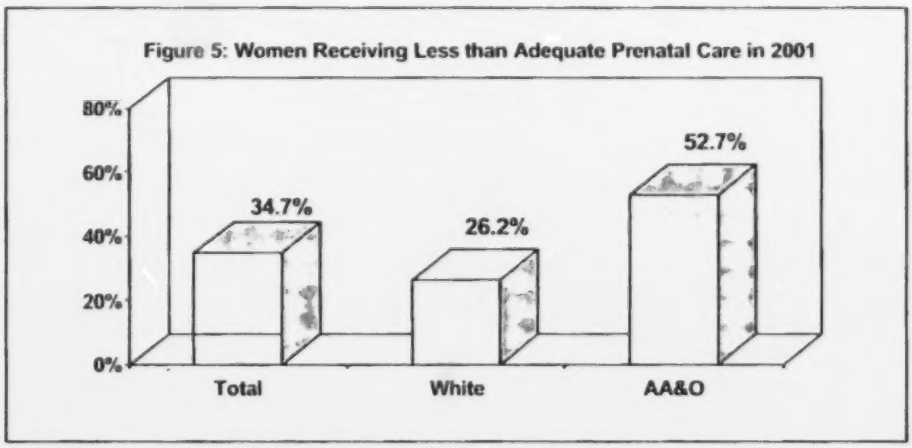
Income: The mean income of families with children in 1999 was $52,294. In 1989 it was $51,072, and 1979, it was $43,869, adjusted for inflation (i.e., in 1999 dollars). The mean income of single-parent families with children was $23,775 for single parents in 1999, as compared with $64,868 in married-couple families with children. From 1999 to 2000, Aiken County real dollar per capita income (eliminating inflation) increased by 1.6%.

Child Support Payments: There were 682[7] families receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families in fiscal year 2002, but only 23.3 % had child support court orders. Their average monthly payment of child support was $ 224, including child support receipts and tax refund intercepts. In addition, during fiscal year 2002, an estimated 1,846 parents in non-TANF families were obligated to pay a monthly average of $ 225. Information is not available regarding the amount actually paid.

HEALTH

Good health during a child's formative years helps children to reach their maximum potential. Good health requires healthy lifestyles and effective primary care, starting during the prenatal period and continuing through adolescence into adulthood. Children's health reflects the well-being of the community, as well as how adequately they are protected.

Prenatal Care: Early and continuous prenatal care can make a significant difference in assuring births of healthy babies. Delayed or insufficient prenatal care is associated with low birthweight and other health risks for infants. In 2001, 458, or 24.2% of pregnant women received no prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy. In 2001, 656, or 34.7% of pregnant women received less than adequate prenatal care: 336 or 26.2% of Whites and 319 or 52.7% of African-Americans and Others. In that same year, 26 women received no prenatal care at all.



Low Birthweight: Low birthweight of less than 5.5 pounds and very low birthweight of less than 3.3 pounds are associated with health risks and growth and development problems. In 2001, 168 or 8.9% of all babies in the county were born with low birthweight: 14.5% of African-American and Other babies and 6.2% of White babies. During 1999-2001, approximately 81 or 1.5% of all babies were born with very low birthweight and had the most serious complications: 1.0% of White babies and 2.3% of African-American and Other babies. The cost of hospitalization for each newborn low birthweight baby in the county in 1999 - 2001 was $4,783 and $62,931 for each very low birthweight baby, compared with $1,338 for a baby of normal birthweight. The result was excess cost in the county of $263,009 for all low birthweight babies, of which $164,248 was for very low birthweight babies.

Infant Mortality: During the decade since 1989-91, the overall infant mortality rate decreased by 8.1% from 10.5 to 9.7 per 1000 live births. For Whites, the rate decreased 7.8% from 8.4 to 7.7 per 1000 live births, while for African-Americans and Others the rate decreased 8.9% from 15.3 to 13.9 per 1000 live births. Over the three-year period 1999-2001, 29 White and 25 African-American and Other infants died before age one. By comparison, 35 White and 29 African-American and Other infants died during 1989-91.

[7] Number is an unduplicated count for the entire fiscal year.

Child Injuries and Deaths: Childhood deaths and injuries reflect whether communities are safe for children. In 2001, children in the Aiken County went to the emergency room 3,033 times because of injuries. Boys are injured more often than girls. Children visit the emergency room at comparable rates for each age from 0 to 17.

In South Carolina, the major causes of death among young children are unintentional injuries, cancer, homicide, and congenital anomalies. Over the three year period 1999-2001, 17 White and 14 African-American and Other children ages 1-14 died in the county. During 1989-91, 17 White and 8 African-American and Other children died.

Immunization: Immunization rates are an important indication of whether young children are receiving adequate preventive health care. During FY 1989-90, 43.4% of children less than two years old seen in public health clinics were not fully immunized against such preventable diseases as Polio, Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Haemophilus Influenza B and Whooping Cough. After a concerted statewide campaign to increase immunizations, the percentage of children seen in public health clinics who were not fully immunized in January 2001 had declined in the county to 12.9%. The DHEC statewide birth registry survey of all two year old children found that 88.1% were fully immunized in 2001. This success demonstrates the potential to improve the status of children when the leadership of the state and its communities act decisively together.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Children and youth are infected with sexually transmitted diseases through sexual abuse or irresponsible sexual activity. National prevalence rates indicate: a 1 in 8 chance that sexually active 15 year-old girls will develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), the most rapidly increasing cause of infertility; 10% of sexually active adolescent girls and boys are infected with chlamydia, the most common cause of PID; and as many as 15% of teen girls are infected with human papilloma virus, often with strains linked to cervical cancer. Furthermore, research evidence indicates that susceptibility to HIV/AIDS increases by 3 to 8 times through prior infection with various STDs.

According to national studies, approximately 1 in 4 sexually experienced youth aged 13-19 acquires a STD eve year; since two-thirds of all high school students have had sexual intercourse and half engage in intercourse over a thr month period, this would suggest that 10-15% of teens are infected with STDs annually. For 2000, this would indicate th an estimated 1,454 to 2,181 youth ages 13-19 in the county were infected with a STD. Many infections are either n identified for treatment or not reported. In the county, there were 4 reported cases of children under age 15 and 61 you ages 15 - 19 infected with gonorrhea; 5 youth under 15 and 121 ages 15 - 19 were reported infected with chlamyd Youth with undiagnosed and untreated STDs often spread their infections.

Healthy Lifestyles: Although no county data is available, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2001 found that mar high school students are not following good health habits. The YRBS revealed that 26% felt that they were overweight; 42 were trying to lose weight: 27% of boys and 57% of girls. Although during a week 79% of high school students ate fru 59% ate salad, and over 83% ate vegetables, only 17% ate the recommended five or more servings of fruit and vegetabl per day. During a week, 49% did stretching or muscle strengthening exercises, and 59% exercised three or more times f 20 minutes in sports that made them sweat or breathe hard. However, 11% of students engaged in no vigorous or modera activity at all during a week: 8% of boys and 13% of girls.

Tobacco Use:* Cigarette smoking starts at a young age and often becomes habitual. In the state during 2002 among all students 15 and older, 16.7% first smoked by age 11, 36.3% by age 13, and 51.4% by age 15. In a typical month, 17.1% of 7th and 8th graders and 25.3% of high school students smoked cigarettes. White youths were much more likely than African-Americans to smoke: 26.4% of White male and 27.2% of White female 7th to 12th graders used cigarettes, as compared with 18.9% of African-American males and 12.2% of African American females. A smaller but significant group of high school students (5.4%) used smokeless tobacco monthly; it was used primarily by White males (15.9% compared with 1.1% of all other race and sex groups).

* Schools in the county elected not to participate in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking. Therefore, data for all of South Carolina is presented here.

Disabilities: No data are collected on the true prevalence of disabilities within the county. According to national reported estimates, over 10% of children and youth have developmental disabilities at any point in time, and more than 17 are affected at some time before age 18 by deafness, blindness, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, speech defects, development delays, learning disabilities, and emotional or behavioral problems. For 2000 this suggests that at least 3,735 children ar youth under age 18 in the county are currently affected by disabilities.

Approximately 5% of children and youth nationally have serious disabilities which have lifelong implications fi work, social life and community living. Typically among children and youth, there are 1 - 2% who are mentally retarded, - 3% with serious emotional disturbances, over 1% with orthopedic or multiple disabilities, including cerebral palsy an many hereditary conditions, and under 1% with visual or hearing impairments.

Other chronic health problems also affect the lives of many children. Over 3% of children have one or more these limitations. Such serious chronic conditions affect 1 - 2% who have respiratory problems (asthma and chron bronchitis), 0.5 - 1.0% with neurological problems (epilepsy and seizures), and less than 1% with circulatory problen (congenital heart defects and acquired diseases).

Other disabilities are identified primarily in school performance. These would include 1,221 students in grades 12 with learning disabilities and 916 students in grades 1-12 with speech/language deficits.

Disabilities are caused by genetics, disease, poor prenatal conditions, injuries, and environmental factors. For example, lead exposure, primarily from paint dust, was detected in over 1% of all children screened, including 7 in Aiken County.

Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: While over 20% of 9-17 year olds meet diagnostic criteria for some form of mental disorder, the number with serious emotional disturbance and impaired functioning in family, school, or community activities is: 9-13% for substantial functional impairment and 5-9% for extreme functional impairment. The rates among poor children are at the higher end of these ranges. Based on a federal formula for estimating prevalence, in the county there are 12% or 2,340 seriously emotionally disturbed 9-17 year olds with substantial functional impairment and 8% or 1,560 with extreme functional impairment during the course of a year. Conduct disorders, attention deficit, depression, and anxiety disorders are the most prevalent, each affecting 3% or more of school-aged children. These disorders may occur simultaneously in a child. The prevalence rates are highest among males, adolescents, and disadvantaged persons in communities under stress and lacking social cohesion; depression, however, is more prevalent among females. On the YRBS, 20% of boys and 33% of girls in high school reported that during the past year they felt so sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that they stopped doing some usual activities. Another indicator of emotional problems is the 8% of high school students in South Carolina who reported that they had "attempted suicide" in the past year: 5% of boys and 10% of girls. Suicide attempts resulted in 4% of high school students reporting that they required treatment by a doctor or nurse for injury, poisoning, or overdose.

Inadequate Healthcare: No county level data is routinely collected regarding the number of children and youth with inadequate healthcare. According to estimates for 2000-02 by the Bureau of the Census through the annual Current Population Survey, the statewide average rate of uninsured children and youth under age 18 in families with incomes under 200% of poverty in South Carolina was 16.6%, and 9.9% above 200% of poverty. If these rates are applied to the county, there are 2,543 children in the county below 200% of poverty with no health insurance, and 2,188 children above 200% of poverty with no health insurance, for a total of 4,731 uninsured children in Aiken County. The number lacking basic accessible primary care is at least double the number lacking insurance. Those lacking primary care are often dependent on health services at school. The ratio of students to nurses recommended nationally is 750:1. In the county, this would suggest the need for 32 nurses, compared with 11 currently working in the schools.

Medicaid: For several years, the State of South Carolina has emphasized enrolling eligible children into Medicaid. In late 1997, South Carolina implemented its version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, Partners for Healthy Children (PHC), and aggressively pursued outreach enrollment for PHC and Medicaid. As a result, enrollment of children ages 0 through 18 in Aiken County has increased by 77.9% from June 1997 to June 2001; thus Medicaid and PHC were serving 39.9% of all children in that age range. The total Medicaid expenditures in South Carolina for services provided to children ages 0 through 18 for state fiscal year 2002 were $991 million, at an average statewide expenditure of $2,343 per child enrolled, approximate Medicaid expenditure for children in the county would be $34.9 million.

In June 2001, the total number of Aiken County children, birth through 18, enrolled in Medicaid was 14,914. The total can be broken down into the following age and race groupings:

	White	African American	Hispanic	Other	Total
Children under 1	584	568	40	32	1,224
Children 1 - 5	2,113	2,218	99	150	4,580
Children 6 - 14	2,873	3,600	91	255	6,819
Children 15 - 18	970	1,226	23	72	2,291
Total	6,540	7,612	253	509	14,914

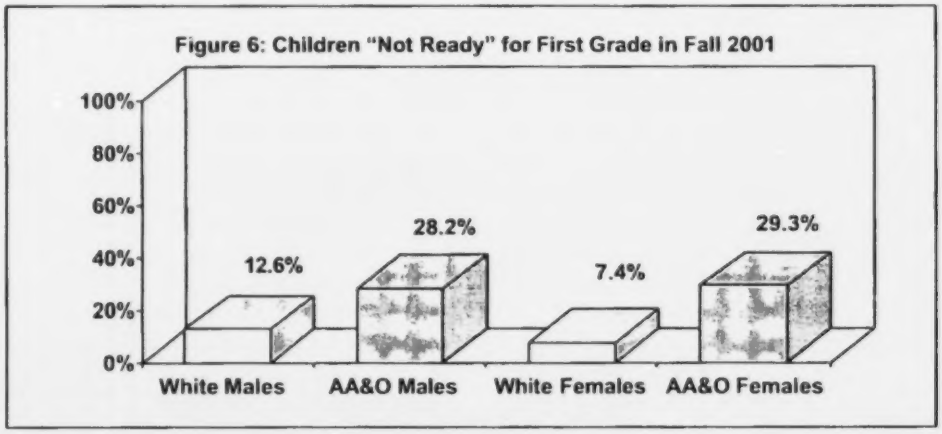
Ambulatory Care: When children lack adequate primary care, whether through lack of insurance, through limite access, or through failing to utilize available care, preventable and treatable conditions become serious and requi hospitalization. A useful indicator of inadequate primary care is the percentage of all hospitalizations that could typicall have been avoided through ambulatory care, especially for pneumonia, asthma, diarrhea and vomiting, dehydration, a severe ear, nose, and throat infections. The share of hospitalizations for these types of conditions could normally be ke below 20%; for children in the county under the age of 18 during 2001, the share was 16.6% for Whites and 15.3% f African-Americans and Others.

READINESS AND EARLY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Too many children reach school without the readiness skills needed for success in learning, such as language, soci skills, visual and auditory discrimination, memory recall, and knowledge of colors, letters, numbers, names of objects, et Likewise, some schools are not ready to respond appropriately to the varying developmental levels of children in the ear grades. As a result, too many students do not experience the success needed to create the motivation and engagement th sustain learning.

1st Grade "Readiness" on 2001-02 Cognitive Skills Assessme nt Battery (CSAB):

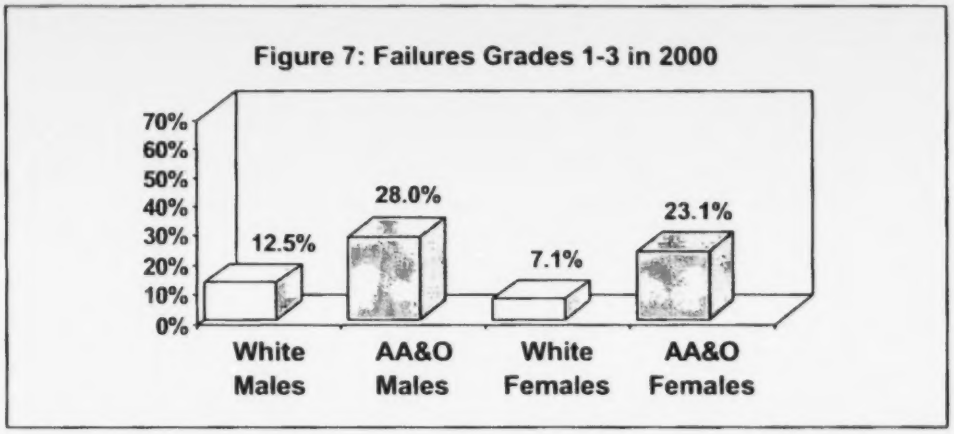
313 children not ready 17.9% children not ready



1st Grade Failures in 2002:

158 children failing 8.6% children failing

Failures Grades 1-3 in 2002 (approximate cumulative percentage of grades one, two and three):	
298 children failing	15.9% children failing



Over-age for Grade 3 in 2001	
339 children over-age	18.1% children over-age

Special Education: Large numbers of children are placed in special education classes. In elementary school, 575 six and seven year olds and 574 eight and nine year-olds were enrolled in special education classes during 2001-02, approximately 16.4% and 15.0% of their age groups respectively: 14.9% of White 8 – 9 year olds were in special education and 15.3% of African American and Others.

Readiness Summary: A serious problem exists in terms of student readiness and school success in the early grades. With 17.9% assessed not ready for the 1st grade, 18.1% over age in grade 3, and 15.0% of eight and nine year-olds placed in special education, unacceptably large numbers of students still begin school without good prospects of success in future school achievement and graduation; however, great improvement has occurred since the mid 1990s.

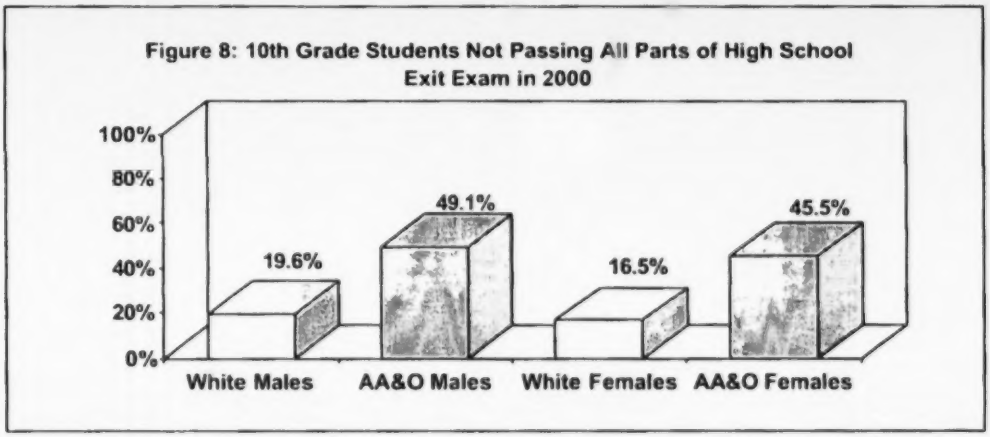
SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

By the end of elementary school, significant numbers of students perform below minimum standards. The following standardized test measures, comparing student performance to state minimum standards, should be used in combination with routine classroom assessments more reflective of real-world performance skills.

Special Education: Special education placements reflect both the significant number of children with serious handicapping conditions and a large number of students with mild learning and behavioral problems that have not been accommodated successfully by the regular educational program. The result is a large system of self-contained, resource, and itinerant services to meet the needs of 916 speech and language impaired, 1,221 learning disabled, 92 emotionally disabled, 578 mentally impaired, and 321 physically handicapped, deaf, blind, and other handicapped students. Special education classes served approximately 13.1% of all students in grades 1 - 12 during 2001-2002.

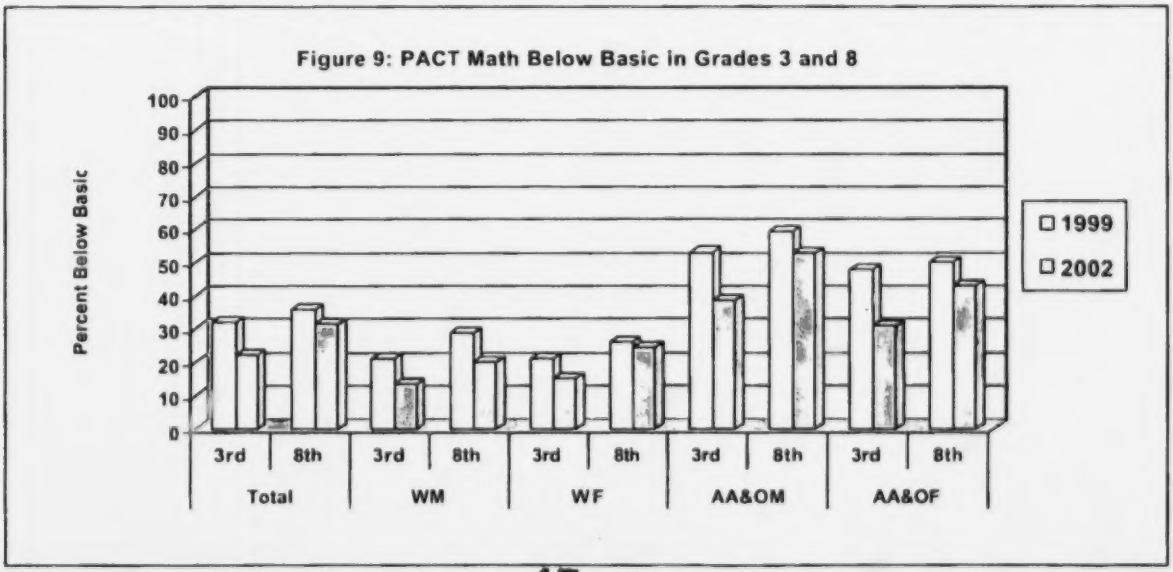
Exit Exam - not passing all parts of Exit Exam on first attempt in the 10th grade in 2002

432 students did not pass all parts	27.6% of students did not pass all parts



Achievement Trends: How has performance on standardized achievement tests changed over the past 20 years? During the 1980s, student performance on the BSAP tests improved dramatically. Between 1981 and 1990, the percentage of 8th grade students in Aiken County who did not meet standards declined from 54.5% to 23.7% in math and from 48.5% to 15.6% in reading. During the 1990's the BSAP trend changed, with 19.3% not meeting 8th grade math standards in 1998 and 20.9% in reading. On standardized tests, the first year when South Carolina students take the exam is comparable to the challenge encountered by the national norm group which took the test only once. Looking at first year data, the percentage of 4th grade students at or below the 25th percentile of national norms was 30.1% in 1983 on the CTBS, 33.7% in 1990 on the Stanford, and 26.1% in 1995 on the Metropolitan; for 9th graders, the percentage in the bottom quarter was 32.1% in 1990 and 26.5% in 1995. Although not comparable, the percent below basic on the 4th grade PACT in 1999, the first year of administration, was 31.9%, but in 2002 22.8% of 4th graders were below basic in reading and math; the percentage of 8th graders below basic in reading and math averaged 33.9% in 1999 and 30.7% in 2002.

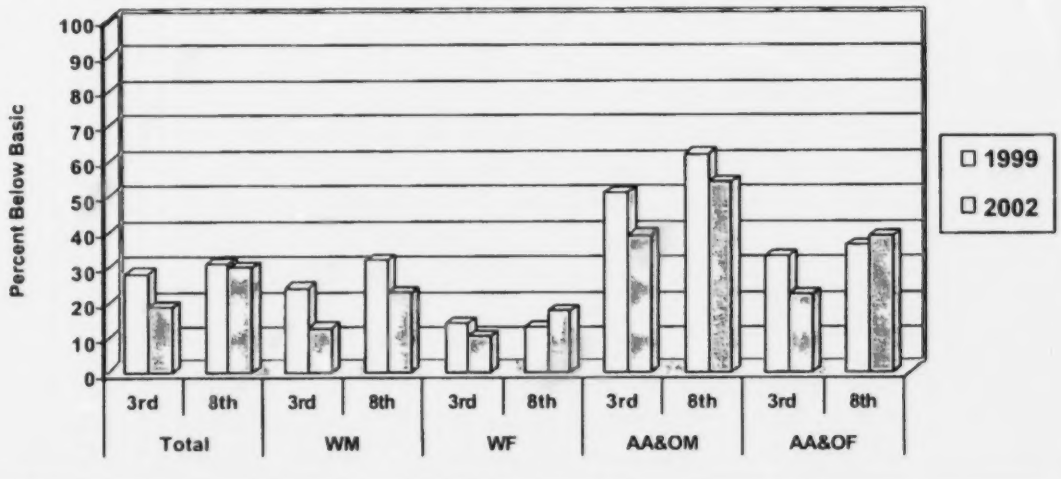
PACT: The Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) was first administered in 1999 for grades 3 - 8 in math and reading/language arts. Math assesses skills in numbers, numerical and algebraic concepts, patterns and functions, geometry, measurement, probability and statistics. The percentage of students scoring below basic in math has decreased by 14.6% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 2,003 students below basic in grades 3-8 but there would have been an additional 344 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
		Math (%)				
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	22.2	13.6	15.2	38.3	31.1
	4	24.1	13.4	16.4	39.4	38.4
	5	28.6	16.9	19.0	43.2	49.2
	6	27.6	18.2	16.1	45.9	41.1
	7	36.1	27.5	24.2	58.9	50.4
	8	31.7	20.1	24.5	52.8	43.0
Basic	3	42.0	37.0	39.0	47.5	48.7
	4	37.1	38.5	31.9	39.1	40.8
	5	38.4	40.9	37.9	39.3	33.6
	6	40.6	37.8	43.7	38.2	43.2
	7	28.9	26.4	31.5	28.5	29.6
	8	43.8	44.5	44.6	35.9	47.9
Proficient	3	21.8	28.9	25.9	9.7	16.2
	4	22.4	25.9	29.5	12.8	15.3
	5	20.8	23.8	27.1	13.3	12.8
	6	19.8	24.7	26.8	11.0	10.9
	7	16.7	17.8	21.5	9.4	12.8
	8	14.1	19.5	17.3	7.6	6.3
Advanced	3	13.9	20.5	20.0	4.4	3.9
	4	16.4	22.3	22.2	8.8	5.5
	5	12.3	18.4	16.0	4.2	4.4
	6	12.0	19.3	13.4	4.8	4.8
	7	18.4	28.3	22.8	3.2	7.2
	8	10.4	15.8	13.6	3.7	2.7

Reading/Language Arts assesses reading, listening, speaking, writing, research, and communication with technology. The first PACT assessment found a high percentage of elementary and middle grades students performing below standards and only a modest number above basic. The percentage of students scoring below basic in reading/language arts has decreased by 18.5% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 1,627 students below basic in grades 3 - 8 but there would have been an additional 368 at 1999 performance rates.

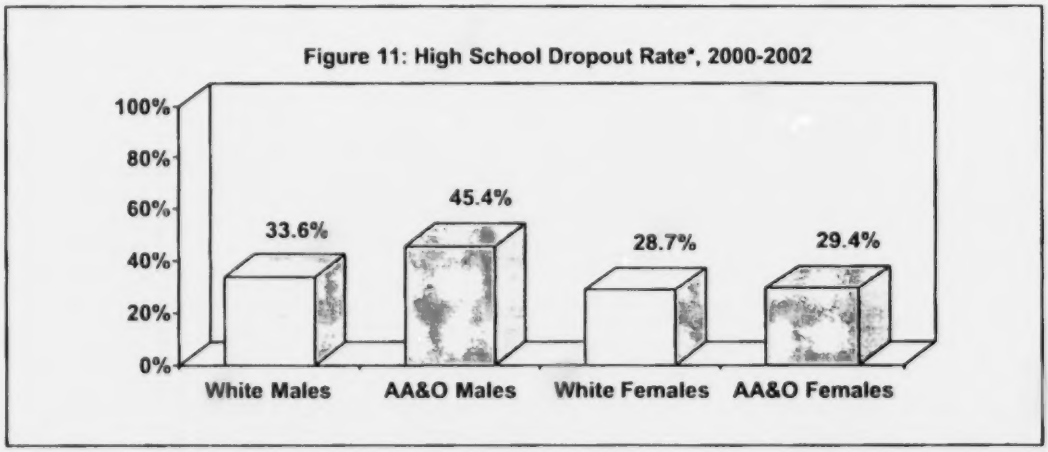
Figure 10: PACT Reading/Language Arts Below Basic in Grades 3 and 8



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
		Reading/Language Arts (%)				
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	18.7	12.6	10.2	38.8	21.9
	4	21.5	17.4	10.9	40.7	24.9
	5	26.8	20.1	14.0	46.7	38.9
	6	30.8	27.9	13.6	56.8	33.1
	7	25.7	23.2	11.9	49.7	31.7
	8	29.7	22.7	17.5	54.0	38.5
Basic	3	36.4	31.6	31.2	40.9	47.2
	4	43.6	45.2	37.4	43.6	50.4
	5	45.8	49.0	44.9	44.2	43.9
	6	38.4	38.5	38.1	29.8	47.6
	7	44.0	41.2	43.5	40.3	53.6
	8	42.0	45.2	39.1	36.7	45.4
Proficient	3	41.0	52.5	49.6	20.3	30.1
	4	33.0	35.4	48.1	15.2	23.8
	5	25.5	29.7	36.9	9.2	16.5
	6	25.2	27.2	37.7	12.5	17.5
	7	26.3	31.0	37.6	9.4	14.1
	8	22.2	26.2	31.8	7.7	13.9
Advanced	3	3.9	3.4	9.0	0.0	0.8
	4	1.9	2.0	3.5	0.5	0.8
	5	1.8	1.3	4.3	0.0	0.6
	6	5.6	6.4	10.7	0.9	1.8
	7	3.9	4.6	7.0	0.6	0.6
	8	6.1	5.8	11.5	1.7	2.2

Dropout Rate - 8th grade students no longer enrolled in grade 12
(average of students for the three years ending 2000-2002)

679 students drop out annually **33.4% students drop out?**



Dropouts: Distressing numbers of students drop out and fail to graduate. An average of 26.7% of 8th graders failed to graduate** from county schools five years later during the period 1980-84, 20.8% during 1985-89, and 28.9% during 1990-94, 30.6% during 1995-97 and 34.9% during 1998-2000***.

During 2001-02, 97.6% of all who did graduate received the State High School Diploma, while the remaining 2.4% received a State Certificate for meeting the required Carnegie units but not passing the Exit Exam.

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*12th grade enrollment compared to 8th grade enrollment four years earlier

** This is calculated by using 8th grade enrollment to graduation data.

*** 2001 data will be available soon and will be posted on the website.

Fortunately, many dropouts enroll in adult education programs and either earn a high school diploma or obtain a GED. During 2001-02, 32 Adult Education high school diplomas were awarded to school completers and in 2001 180 GEDs were awarded in the county. Over time, adult education high school diplomas and GEDs increase the effective school completion rate substantially. In the 2000 Census, 16.7% of county resident 25 - 34 year-olds said they had not completed either high school or a GED.

Achievement Summary: The numbers of students testing below basic on the PACT and dropping out range from 18.7% to 41.1%. Thus, far too many students fail to acquire the knowledge, skills, learning habits, and motivation necessary to compete in the economy or contribute to society in the 21st Century.

ADOLESCENT RISK BEHAVIORS

Academic achievement is greatly influenced by the prevailing youth culture which often promotes popularity with peers and partying rather than studying and doing well in school. The prevalence of adolescent risk-taking and under-achievement is illustrated by the poor grades of substance-abusing teens.

Substance Abuser Rates at Levels of Academic Performance

	Usual School Grades in Past Year					Total
	A Range	B Range	C Range	D Range	F Range	
Smoked Cigarettes (in past 30 days)	13.3%	22.4%	31.7%	42.8%	63.6%	25.3%
Drank 5 or More Drinks on One Occasion (in past 30 days)	12.4%	17.3%	22.6%	26.8%	43.5%	18.9%
Used Any Illicit Drug (in past 30 days)	11.5%	17.1%	25.1%	34.1%	53.0%	20.0%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

As influence from parents and other adults declines during adolescence, significant numbers of students engage in violence, crime, school offenses, depressive emotions and attempted suicide:

Risk Behaviors Participated in During Past 12 Months	White Male		White Female		African American Male		African American Female		Total		Total (Grade 7-12)
	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	
Carried a handgun or knife for self-defense?	22.5%	26.1%	5.3%	6.3%	14.6%	20.2%	5.0%	7.6%	12.2%	14.9%	13.7%
Carried a handgun or knife as a weapon?	6.8%	9.4%	1.3%	1.6%	9.0%	13.9%	3.0%	5.0%	4.8%	6.9%	5.9%
Been in a fight with someone?	40.1%	31.3%	18.5%	16.2%	41.4%	31.9%	29.4%	22.4%	31.7%	24.9%	28.0%
Hit your boyfriend or girlfriend?	2.0%	1.6%	6.9%	10.0%	5.7%	4.9%	17.7%	24.2%	7.4%	9.7%	8.7%
Been hit by your boyfriend or girlfriend?	7.1%	6.1%	6.1%	8.5%	11.5%	9.7%	9.5%	10.6%	8.1%	8.5%	8.3%
Rec'd detention or in-school suspension?	38.1%	37.3%	22.4%	25.0%	41.6%	37.6%	34.3%	30.7%	33.3%	32.1%	32.7%
Been suspended from school?	12.9%	13.9%	5.2%	7.2%	24.0%	22.6%	14.8%	15.4%	13.1%	13.8%	13.5%
Stolen anything worth > $5?	12.9%	17.6%	6.9%	10.7%	14.2%	15.6%	8.5%	8.4%	10.4%	13.1%	11.9%
Had an accident while driving?	NA	14.3%	NA	12.6%	NA	7.7%	NA	6.3%	NA	11.0%	NA
Been arrested and booked?	3.9%	6.1%	1.5%	2.7%	5.7%	8.1%	2.2%	2.9%	3.2%	4.7%	4.0%
Felt hopeless for two weeks or more?	14.8%	15.9%	21.8%	29.0%	14.0%	13.3%	22.0%	24.8%	18.2%	21.4%	19.9%
Seriously considered attempting suicide?	6.9%	8.4%	9.6%	14.3%	5.5%	5.4%	6.8%	8.7%	7.4%	9.7%	8.7%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

Adolescence is often a time of taking risks and asserting independence from adults. When asked whether they would tell an adult about a problem, the following percentages of state students said they would be "not likely" or "very unlikely" to tell if they:

-heard a student threaten to harm someone: 33.2% middle school, 47.0% high school;
-saw a student with a handgun at school: 22.7% middle school, 20.5% high school;
-saw a student with a knife at school: 24.7% middle school, 31.6% high school;
-saw a student with drugs at school: 33.7% middle school, 61.9% high school;

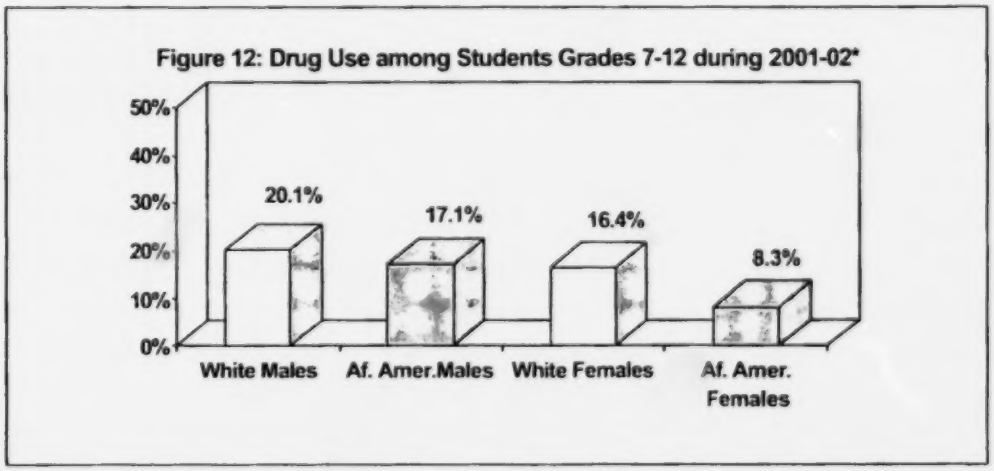
Alcohol Use:* In the state during 2001-02, 21.0% of 7th and 8th graders and 37.1% of high schoolers said they had used alcohol in the past month. Of White males in grades 7 - 12, 33.8% had used it in the past month, compared with 26.0% of African-American males; likewise, 34.5% of White females said they had used alcohol, compared with 26.4% of African-American females. Many youth first used alcohol at an early age: 14.2% had used alcohol by age 11 or younger, 33.0% by age 13, and 61.1% by age 15.

During the previous year, 21.0% of 7th and 8th graders and 30.4% of high schoolers said they had ridden with a drinking driver. Of seniors who drive, 19.4% said they had driven after drinking. Widespread use is encouraged by the ready availability and perceived low risk of alcohol use. Among students who expressed an opinion, 43.6% of eighth graders and 75.4% of seniors felt that beer was easy to get. Also, 71.6% of eighth graders and 70.7% of seniors felt there was not a great risk in drinking two drinks a day, and 47.3% of eighth graders and 53.1% of high schoolers felt there was not a great risk in drinking 5 drinks every weekend.

Heavy Drinking:* In 2001-02, 7.7% of 7th and 8th graders and 18.9% of high school students in the state repor drinking 5 or more drinks in a day during the past month. When asked how many drinks, if any, they usually consur 13.7% of all state students in grades 7 - 12 in 2001-02 responded 3 or more drinks at a time and 7.1% reported usually 5 more drinks. Among high school students, 18.6% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 10.0% 5 or mc Among seniors, 24.7% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 13.7% 5 or more; however 22.9% of seni said that they drank 5 or more drinks in a day once or more during the past month.

Drugs:* In 2001-02, 9.5% of 7th and 8th graders and 20.1% of high schoolers in the state reported using ille drugs during the previous month. Among students in grades 7 - 12, use was reported by 20.1% of White males, 16.4% Wl females, 17.1% of African-American males, and 8.3% of African-American females. Some young people initiated drug u at an early age: 5.3% had experienced their first use by age 11 or sooner; 16.3% had used a drug by age 13, and 34.7% by a 15.

In the past year, 10.3% of all high school students in the state who drive and 15.4% of seniors who drive said that they had driven after using drugs. Such use is encouraged by the ready availability of drugs: 22.3% of 8th graders who had an opinion said it is easy to get marijuana and 8.4% said it is easy to get cocaine or crack; 65.0% of seniors said it is easy to get marijuana and 29.5% said it was easy to get cocaine or crack.



* Schools in the county elected not to participate in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking. Therefore, data for all of South Carolina is presented here. The latest Aiken County data, for 1992-93, is available on the Kids Count website at www.sckidscount.org.

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Sexual Activity and Pregnancy: Many teenagers now engage in sexual activity. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) administered to a representative sample of high school students throughout South Carolina in 2001 showed that sexual activity begins at an early age: 7% of female and 21% of male students have engaged in intercourse before age 13; by age 15, 38% the females and 49% of males have engaged in sexual intercourse. Statewide, 48% of females and 50% of males in the 11th and 12th grades reported engaging in intercourse during the past three months. Furthermore, 27% of female and 33% of male 12th graders have had intercourse with four or more partners during their lifetimes.

Premature sexual activity often results in pregnancy. In the county, 136 girls between the ages of 14 and 17 became pregnant in 1999, 136 in 2000 and 126 in 2001. This represented 3.0% of all girls ages 14 – 17 in 2001; several times this percentage become pregnant at least once by age 18. The 2001 pregnancy rate for ages 14 - 17 was 2.1% for Whites and 4.6% for African-Americans and Others. Of all pregnancies of 14-17 year olds, 82.5% resulted in live births, with almost all other pregnancies ending in abortions.

Teen pregnancy rates increased substantially across the state during the 1980s; as a result, greater emphasis v devoted to preventing teen pregnancy. Since 1989, the teen pregnancy rate in Aiken County has decreased by 28.4 Overall, it has decreased by 41.7% for Whites, and decreased by 14.8% for African Americans and Others.

Juvenile Delinquency: In 2001-02, 654 individual juvenile offenders in the county were referred to the Solicitor for delinquency; of these, 11.3% were age 12 or younger, 26.6% were 13 or 14, and 62.1% were 15 or older.

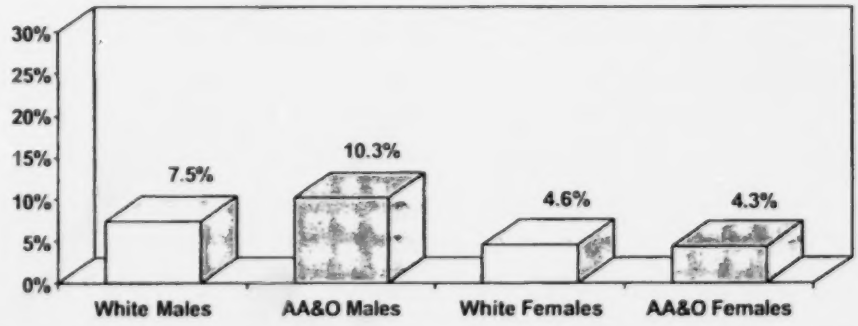
Of the referrals to the family court, 4.1% of all referrals were for violent and serious crimes which include drug trafficking, acts against persons for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and serious property offenses for arson and burglary. Also, 99 juvenile cases constituting 10.2% of all referrals were for status offenses. Status offenses include truancy, running away, incorrigibility, and other offenses that would not be crimes for adults.

Delinquents are likely to live in families with low income: 13.3% lived in families with income under $10,000, 34.6% with $10,000-$19,999 and 52.1% with $20,000 or more. Furthermore, only 17.7% of delinquents lived with both natural parents, while 49.0% lived in a single parent household, 30.9% lived with other relatives, and 2.4% in other situations including parent plus step-parent. Delinquency or criminal activity occurs among many related family members: 44.4% had at least one family member who was delinquent or had some criminal record.

Youth referred to the family courts are likely to have been there before. In 2001-02, 60.6% had at least one prior referral and 21.9% had been referred to court 3 times or more. Many were referred at an early age. For delinquents 15 - 17 years old, 4.0% had been referred by the age of 10, 9.4% by the age of 12, and 26.1% by the age of 14.

During 2001-02, 406 youth ages 15 to 17 were referred to the family courts. In the county, 6.4% of all youth 15 to 17 were referred to court in one year and roughly double that percentage are referred at least once by age 18. Furthermore, the National Youth Survey indicates that typically across the United States the proportion of youth engaging in crime is two or three times the number ever apprehended. In 2001-02, there were 68 juveniles committed from the county to DJJ custody and placed in residential programs.

Figure 13: Percentage of 15 - 17 Year Olds Referred to Court in 2001-02



Not in School or Employed: During 2000, 766 teenagers ages 16-19 were idle, meaning they neither worked any hours nor were enrolled in school, even part-time. Idle teens comprised 9.5% of their age group: 7.5% for White and 13.2% African-American & Other teens. A much larger number, perhaps twice as many, were not engaged in either school full time or work full time. The data reflect a serious failure in both school completion and the critical transition from school to work, significantly affecting their development as future workers. For an in-depth description of the problems of young adults seeking to enter the labor force, visit our website at www.scyoungadults.org for our state and county reports on 18-29 year olds.

Deaths: During 1997-2001, 44 youth ages 15 to 19 died. Historically, automobile accidents have been the major cause, resulting in 17 deaths between 1996 and 2000; homicides killed 7 youth 15 to 19 years old during the five-year period, and 4 youth committed suicide. Alcohol use is often a significant factor in deaths among teenagers.

SUMMARY

Facing the Scope of Problems: The data on families, economic status, health, readiness, school achievement, and adolescent risk behaviors provide a troublesome picture of the condition of children in Aiken County. The 29.4% of children in single-parent families, 19.3% in poverty, 34.9% not graduating from school, 37.1% of high school students using alcohol and 20.1% using drugs each month, and other data profiled in this report suggest that too many children are at risk of not growing up to become self-supporting adults, good family members, and responsible community citizens.

Emphasizing the Positive: South Carolina Kids Count reports have been developed to describe the problems of children in each of the counties. Fortunately, the majority of children and youth are doing well, and some very well. One simple description is the percentage of children who do not fall into the problem categories reported. For the county, 84.8% of children are born to non-teen mothers ages 20 or older, 58.0% are born to married parents, and 70.6% lived in two-parent families; 80.7% were not poor and 58.5% lived in families with incomes above twice the poverty level for a family of three, $30,040 in 2002; 91.1% of babies were born with normal birthweights; 82.1% were assessed as ready for the first grade, 68.3% scored basic or better on PACT for 8th grade math and 70.3% for 8th grade reading, 72.4% passed all parts of the Exit Exam in the 10th grade, and 65.1% graduated with their class. In a typical month, 62.9% of high school students do not drink alcohol, 79.9% do not use drugs, and 74.7% do not smoke. Unfortunately, the absence of a problem is not always an indicator of success. Some data is available for exemplary performance: for example, 44.9% of 3rd graders and 28.3% of 8th graders scored proficient or advanced on PACT in reading and 35.7% of 3rd graders and 24.5% of 8th graders in math. Unfortunately, data on success is not generally available.

Despite the limitations of success data, we must emphasize the positive in providing good support and appropriate influences for children and youth. Recent philosophy and publications such as those of the Search Institute (700 South Third Street, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN, 55415-1138, tel. 1-800-888-7828, www.search-institute.org), emphasize the critical importance of "developmental assets" to promote and support positive development. One short book from the Search Institute, (What Kids Need to Succeed, by Peter J. Benson, Judy Gailbraith, and Pamela Espeland, 1995) presents an excellent array of suggestions for promoting developmental assets through families, community, faith congregations, and schools. If each family, school, religious congregation and community organization assertively worked to build such assets, the problems described in this report would be reduced dramatically. Such positive family-school-community efforts could improve South Carolina's national Kids Count ranking from the bottom 10 to the average or even into the top 10 by prevention of unnecessary problems affecting children and youth, as shown on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

All data presented in this report is the most recent available at the date it goes to the printer. This version of the Kids Count report will be revised as more recent and additional data become available. Please send us your corrections and suggestions for improvement. We welcome your ideas for ways to make the state and county reports more useful and accurate. Please utilize local data sources whenever possible to supplement the profile provided through our report.

Data related inquiries should be directed to:

Anne Wilson, Data Manager (awilson@drss.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-4810

Calls for **copies of reports** for other counties and inquiries regarding more recent reports should be made to:

Kim Hazel-Lohr, Project Manager (khazel@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-1295

For **policy questions and general comments**, please contact:

Dr. A. Baron Holmes, Project Director (bholmes@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-2291

Comparable reports for all 46 counties and for the state can also be found on the World Wide Web at

www.sckidscount.org

Our website also provides: links to other websites for indicators in our report; high to low rankings for individual indicators; information on how to improve SC's national rank; and a glossary of definitions.

The national Kids Count Report can be found on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website at

www.aecf.org

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Aiken County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Indicators	Most Recent Year	Number					Percent					R
		1980*	1990*	Most Recent Data	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1988 Rank	199
Health													
Low Birth Weight	2001	132	184	168	+27.3%	-8.7%	7.8	9.1	8.9	13.9%	-1.8%	13	
White babies	*2001*	*57*	*96*	*80*	*+40.4%*	*-16.7%*	*5.2*	*6.8*	*6.2*	*19.2%*	*-8.7%*	*12*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*75*	*88*	*88*	*+17.3%*	*+0.0%*	*12.6*	*14.3*	*14.5*	*15.4%*	*1.7%*	*27*	
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	2001	724	630	656	+9.4%	+4.1%	42.9	31.0	34.7	-19.1%	11.8%	25	
White babies	*2001*	*374*	*325*	*336*	*-10.2%*	*+3.4%*	*34.2*	*23.0*	*26.2*	*-23.4%*	*14.0%*	*39*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*350*	*304*	*319*	*-8.9%*	*+4.9%*	*58.8*	*49.4*	*52.1*	*-10.3%*	*6.7%*	*30*	
Infant Mortality	2001	75	64	54	-28.0%	-15.6%	1.4	1.1	1.0	-31.6%	-8.1%	9	
White babies	*2001*	*38*	*35*	*29*	*-23.7%*	*-17.1%*	*1.1*	*0.8*	*0.8*	*-28.6%*	*-7.8%*	*21*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*37*	*29*	*25*	*-32.4%*	*-13.8%*	*2.1*	*1.5*	*1.4*	*-32.7%*	*-8.9%*	*15*	
Family													
Births to mothers under 18	2001	127	111	105	-17.3%	-5.4%	7.5	5.5	5.6	-25.5%	2.4%	10	
White babies	*2001*	*59*	*62*	*49*	*-16.9%*	*-21.0%*	*5.4*	*4.4*	*3.8*	*-29.5%*	*-13.3%*	*21*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*68*	*49*	*56*	*-17.6%*	*+14.3%*	*11.4*	*8.0*	*9.3*	*-19.0%*	*16.2%*	*14*	
Births to mothers under 20	2001	329	323	288	-12.5%	-10.8%	19.5	15.9	15.2	-22.0%	-4.5%	13	
White babies	*2001*	*178*	*190*	*161*	*-9.6%*	*+15.3%*	*16.3*	*13.4*	*12.6*	*-22.6%*	*-6.2%*	*23*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*151*	*133*	*127*	*-15.9%*	*+4.5%*	*25.4*	*21.6*	*21.0*	*-17.3%*	*-2.9%*	*18*	
Births to mothers with less than a high school education	2001	529	447	418	-21.0%	-6.5%	31.3	22.0	22.1	-29.4%	0.4%	14	
White babies	*2001*	*289*	*290*	*276*	*-4.5%*	*-4.8%*	*26.4*	*20.5*	*21.5*	*-18.6%*	*4.8%*	*17*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*240*	*157*	*142*	*-40.8%*	*-9.6%*	*40.3*	*25.5*	*23.5*	*-41.8%*	*-8.1%*	*37*	
Births to single mothers****	2001	333	567	793	+138.1%	+39.9%	19.7	27.9	42.0	113.0%	50.4%	9	
White babies	*2001*	*84*	*206*	*343*	*+308.3%*	*+66.5%*	*7.7*	*14.6*	*26.8*	*249.0%*	*84.0%*	*38*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*249*	*360*	*450*	*+80.7%*	*+25.0%*	*41.8*	*58.5*	*74.4*	*77.7%*	*27.1%*	*9*	
Children in single parent families	2000	5,146	6,674	9,723	+88.9%	+45.7%	17.2	22.5	29.4	71.0%	30.7%	16	
White	*2000*	*2,423*	*3,030*	*4,224*	*+74.3%*	*+39.4%*	*10.9*	*14.3*	*19.0*	*74.0%*	*32.6%*	*35*	
African American and Other	*2000*	*2,687*	*3,604*	*5,499*	*+104.7%*	*+52.6%*	*31.3*	*43.1*	*51.0*	*62.8%*	*18.2%*	*38*	
Education													
Not Ready for Grade 1	2001	693	732	313	-54.8%	-57.2%	40.9	34.0	17.9	-56.2%	-47.4%	29	
White males	*2001*	*178*	*177*	*66*	*-62.5%*	*-62.7%*	*34.2*	*26.3*	*12.6*	*-63.2%*	*-52.1%*	*30*	
White females	*2001*	*115*	*125*	*34*	*-70.4%*	*-72.8%*	*23.5*	*19.5*	*7.4*	*-68.5%*	*-62.1%*	*31*	
African American and Other males	*2001*	*209*	*232*	*110*	*-47.4%*	*-52.6%*	*59.5*	*52.2*	*28.2*	*-52.6%*	*-46.0%*	*33*	
African American and Other females	*2001*	*193*	*197*	*103*	*-46.6%*	*-47.7%*	*56.8*	*49.9*	*29.3*	*-48.4%*	*-41.3%*	*40*	
Repeating Grades 1-3	2000	294	459	315	+7.1%	-31.4%	17.9	22.5	15.7	-12.3%	-30.2%	24	
White males	*2000*	*82*	*131*	*79*	*-3.7%*	*-39.7%*	*15.8*	*20.3*	*12.5*	*-20.9%*	*-38.4%*	*21*	
White females	*2000*	*54*	*88*	*43*	*-20.4%*	*-51.1%*	*11.2*	*13.9*	*7.1*	*-36.6%*	*-48.9%*	*29*	
African American and Other males	*2000*	*86*	*145*	*108*	*+25.6%*	*-25.5%*	*26.9*	*36.3*	*28.0*	*4.1%*	*-22.9%*	*25*	
African American and Other females	*2000*	*71*	*95*	*85*	*+19.7%*	*-10.5%*	*22.0*	*25.0*	*23.1*	*5.0%*	*-7.6%*	*32*	
Grade 3 Math below standards*****	2002	627	268	397	-36.7%	+48.1%	39.7	14.4	22.2	-44.1%	54.2%	19	
White males	*2002*	*155*	*39*	*77*	*-50.3%*	*+97.4%*	*29.8*	*6.8*	*13.6*	*-54.4%*	*100.0%*	*22*	
White females	*2002*	*135*	*61*	*79*	*-41.5%*	*+29.5%*	*28.7*	*10.0*	*15.2*	*-47.0%*	*52.0%*	*27*	
African American and Other males	*2002*	*166*	*85*	*130*	*-22.6%*	*+52.9%*	*57.9*	*25.2*	*38.3*	*-33.9%*	*52.0%*	*18*	
African American and Other females	*2002*	*168*	*83*	*111*	*-33.9%*	*+33.7%*	*57.5*	*25.0*	*31.1*	*-45.9%*	*24.4%*	*37*	
Grade 3 Reading below standards*****	2002	516	208	332	-35.7%	+59.6%	32.7	11.2	18.7	-42.8%	67.0%	15	
White males	*2002*	*154*	*49*	*71*	*-53.9%*	*+44.9%*	*29.6*	*8.6*	*12.6*	*-57.4%*	*46.5%*	*23*	
White females	*2002*	*78*	*33*	*53*	*-32.1%*	*+60.6%*	*16.6*	*5.4*	*10.2*	*-38.6%*	*88.9%*	*19*	
African American and Other males	*2002*	*153*	*77*	*130*	*-15.0%*	*+68.8%*	*52.8*	*22.7*	*38.8*	*-26.5%*	*70.9%*	*13*	
African American and Other females	*2002*	*130*	*49*	*78*	*-40.0%*	*+59.2%*	*44.5*	*14.8*	*21.9*	*-50.8%*	*48.0%*	*29*	
Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT Grade 4	1998	471	588	311	-34.0%	-47.1%	30.1	33.7	17.9	-40.5%	-46.9%	19	
White males	*1998*	*149*	*193*	*69*	*-53.7%*	*-64.2%*	*27.8*	*31.9*	*12.2*	*-56.1%*	*-61.8%*	*31*	
White females	*1998*	*80*	*129*	*55*	*-31.3%*	*-57.4%*	*17.4*	*22.5*	*9.7*	*-44.3%*	*56.9%*	*33*	
African American and Other males	*1998*	*145*	*147*	*96*	*-33.8%*	*-34.7%*	*52.0*	*54.8*	*35.6*	*-31.5%*	*-35.0%*	*21*	
African American and Other females	*1998*	*96*	*118*	*88*	*-8.3%*	*-25.4%*	*34.2*	*39.5*	*28.1*	*-17.8%*	*-28.9%*	*18*	

*Year of data is approximate in many cases.
**1 is best, 46 is worst.
*** Data include paternity acknowledgements.
**** BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Aiken County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Education (continued)

Indicators		Number					Percent				
	Most Recent Year	1980*	1990*	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres
Grade 8 Math below state standards**	2002	896	398	562	-37.3%	+41.2%	54.5	23.7	31.7	-41.8%	33.8%
White males	2002	240	85	114	-52.5%	+34.1%	44.0	15.4	20.1	-54.3%	30.5%
White females	2002	215	119	132	-38.6%	+10.9%	40.6	21.0	24.5	-39.7%	16.7%
African American and Other males	2002	207	99	159	-23.2%	+60.6%	74.5	37.4	52.8	-29.1%	41.2%
African American and Other females	2002	230	94	157	-31.7%	+67.0%	80.7	32.0	43.0	-46.7%	34.4%
Grade 8 Reading below state standards**	2002	802	262	526	-34.4%	+100.8%	48.5	15.6	29.7	-38.8%	90.4%
White males	2002	235	63	129	-45.1%	+104.8%	42.7	11.3	22.7	-46.8%	100.9%
White females	2002	148	62	94	-36.5%	+51.6%	27.8	10.9	17.5	-37.1%	60.6%
African American and Other males	2002	223	69	162	-27.4%	+134.8%	79.6	26.0	54.0	-32.2%	107.7%
African American and Other females	2002	194	67	141	-27.3%	+110.4%	67.6	23.0	38.5	-43.0%	67.4%
Grade 9 Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT	1998	NA	578	478	NA	-17.3%	NA	32.1	24.3	NA	-24.3%
White males	1998	NA	176	NA	NA	NA	NA	28	17.7	NA	-36.8%
White females	1998	NA	84	NA	NA	NA	NA	15.4	11.9	NA	-22.7%
African American and Other males	1998	NA	177	NA	NA	NA	NA	61	45.0	NA	-26.2%
African American and Other females	1998	NA	136	NA	NA	NA	NA	42	37.3	NA	-11.2%
Exit Exam (not passing all parts on 1st attempt)	2002	724	512	432	-40.3%	-15.6%	43.3	31.1	27.6	-36.3%	-11.3%
White males	2002	207	126	109	-47.3%	-13.5%	35.1	23.5	19.6	-44.2%	-16.6%
White females	2002	147	108	82	-44.2%	-24.1%	27.2	19.2	16.5	-39.3%	-14.1%
African American and Other males	2002	195	146	107	-45.1%	-26.7%	71.7	53.7	49.1	-31.5%	-8.6%
African American and Other females	2002	174	132	132	-24.1%	+0.0%	64.4	47.8	45.5	-29.3%	-4.8%
Dropout Rate (8th graders no longer enrolled in 12th grade 4 years later)	2000-02	410	450	679	+65.5%	+51.0%	22.5	24.6	33.4	48.3%	35.5%
White males	2000-02	145	180	226	+55.6%	+25.7%	22.9	28.1	33.6	47.1%	19.7%
White females	2000-02	109	103	186	+71.7%	+81.8%	19.2	17.9	28.7	49.2%	59.9%
African American and Other males	2000-02	73	98	162	+121.5%	+65.8%	23.9	31.4	45.4	90.4%	44.9%
African American and Other females	2000-02	84	70	105	+25.7%	+50.0%	26.0	23.0	29.4	13.0%	27.6%
Young Adults Not Completing High School (18-24)	2000	3,878	2,663	3,017	-22.2%	+13.3%	30.4	23.2	16.7	-44.9%	-27.8%
White males	NA	1,265	916	NA	NA	NA	28.1	22.4	NA	NA	NA
White females	NA	1,147	702	NA	NA	NA	25.4	17.4	NA	NA	NA
African American and Other males	NA	877	648	NA	NA	NA	47.4	38.2	NA	NA	NA
African American and Other females	NA	589	397	NA	NA	NA	31.0	23.7	NA	NA	NA

Economics

Poverty Rate	2000	5,136	6,225	7,114	+38.5%	+14.3%	16.1	19.0	19.3	19.9%	1.6%
White children	2000	2,260	2,475	2,823	+24.9%	+14.1%	10.2	10.9	11.8	15.7%	8.3%
African American and Other children	2000	2,850	3,750	4,291	+50.6%	+14.4%	29.1	37.1	33.4	14.8%	-9.9%
Income of Families w/children (1999 $)	2000	$ 43,869	$ 51,072	$ 52,294	+19.2%	+2.4%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
White families	2000	$ 47,098	$ 57,064	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
African American and Other families	2000	$ 32,838	$ 34,129	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Adolescent Risk Factors

Teenage Pregnancy (ages 14-17)	2001	156	166	126	-19.2%	-24.1%	4.1	4.7	3.0	-27.4%	-36.2%
White	2001	81	103	59	-27.2%	-42.7%	3.0	4.3	2.1	-30.2%	-51.2%
African American and Other	2001	75	63	67	-10.7%	+6.3%	6.8	5.6	4.6	-32.6%	-17.9%
Delinquency	2002	216	303	406	+88.0%	+34.0%	3.7	5.3	6.4	73.9%	21.4%
White males	2002	113	140	155	+37.2%	+10.7%	5.4	6.6	7.5	38.0%	12.9%
White females	2002	52	63	93	+78.8%	+47.6%	2.6	3.5	4.6	77.1%	31.5%
African American and Other males	2002	40	73	108	+170.0%	+47.9%	4.4	8.0	10.3	133.8%	28.6%
African American and Other females	2002	11	27	50	+354.5%	+85.2%	1.4	3.0	4.3	207.9%	43.7%

*Closest available data to this year was used in many cases.
**BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Kids Count 2003

Allendale County

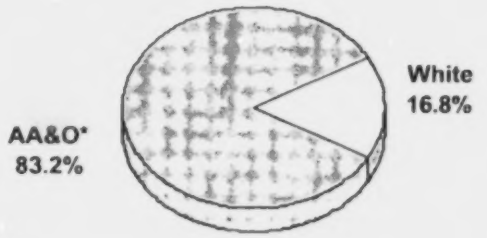
DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2000 there were an estimated 2,979 children under age 18 in the county. Of these, 500 were White, 2,419 were African-American, and 60 were other races. There were 3,459 children under age 18 in 1990, 3,620 in 1980, 3,706 in 1970, and 5,119 in 1960.

Children represent a shrinking portion of the county's population. Those under 18 constituted 26.6% of the population in 2000, down from 45.1% in 1960, 38.2% in 1970, and 33.8% in 1980.

In 2000 the 939 pre-schoolers under age 6 were 8.4% of the overall population: 5.2% of Whites and 9.5% of African Americans.

Figure 1: Population Ages 0-17 in 2000



* In all charts African-American is combined with other races, and often abbreviated as AA&O. Other races comprise 2.0% of children in the county, with "some other race alone" at 1.1% and 'two or more races" at 0.6% as the largest Other groups.

FAMILY

Families have always been the most important influence in a child's life. Children depend on their families for material needs, stimulation and guidance. Family life is different in numerous ways from previous generations, and many families now face exceptional challenges.

Families with children now make up a smaller share of all households. Only 30.3% of all households in 2000, as compared with 42.0% of households in 1960, had children below the age of 18.

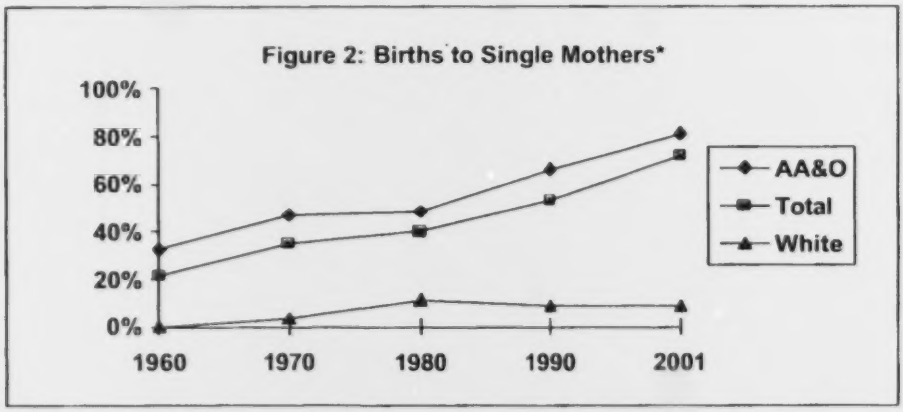
Births to Teen Mothers: In 2001, 14 babies were born to mothers younger than age 18. They were 7.7% of all babies born in the county; 0.0% of all White and 8.9% of all African-American and Other babies were born to teen mothers under the age of 18. Of the babies born to these teens in 2001, 100.0% were born to single mothers, including babies whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers.

In 2001, 39 babies were born to mothers younger than age 20. These babies were 21.5% of all born in the county; 13.0% of all White and 22.8% of all African-American and Other babies were born to mothers under the age of 20. Of the babies born to these mothers in 2001, 89.7% were born to single mothers, including paternity acknowledeged babies.

Education of Mothers Giving Birth: Children's success is strongly influenced by the education of their parents. In 2001, 57 babies, 31.7% of all babies, were born to mothers of all ages who had not completed the 12th grade. In 2001, 18.2% of White and 33.5% of African-American and Other babies were born to mothers who had completed less than the 12th grade. This is a substantial improvement from 52.5% in 1970. In addition, during 2001, 43.9% had completed 12 grades (22.7% of Whites and 46.8% of African Americans and Others) and 24.4% had more than a high school degree (59.1% of Whites and 19.6% of African American and Others).

Births to Single Mothers: Births to single mothers have increased steadily over four decades. In 2001, 100 babies, 55.2% of all babies, were recorded as born to single mothers. A decade earlier in 1990, the percentage was 49.0% and in 1960 it was 21.4%. In 2001, 4.3% of White children and 62.7% of African-American and Other children were born to single mothers. These numbers, however, do not include paternity acknowlegement births.

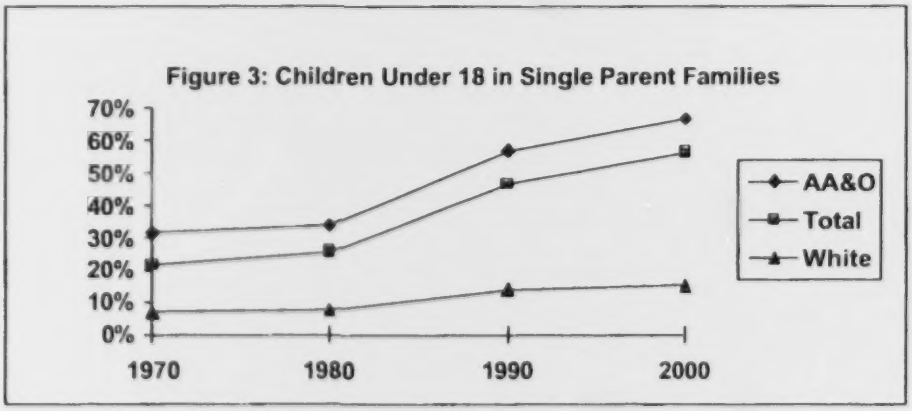
Thus, to these numbers should be added an additional group of 30 babies, 16.6% of all born in 2001, whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers. When the paternity-acknowledged babies are added, the total number born to single mothers in 2001 was 130, constituting 71.8% of all babies, 8.7% of White babies, and 81.0% of African-American and Others.



*Includes paternity acknowleged babies in 1980, 1990 and 2001. Prior to 1979, paternity acknowleged cases were not a statistical category, and thus were included in births to single mothers.

Divorce Rate: In 2001, 97 marriage licenses were issued, while 19 divorce decrees involving 9 children were filed. In 1970, only 6 children were in families involved in divorce.

Single-Parent Family: Increasing numbers of children live in single-parent families. In 2000, 1,293 children lived with only one parent. This was 56.5% of all children, up from 46.8% in 1990, 25.8% in 1980, and 21.6% in 1970. In 2000, 15.3% of White and 66.7% of African-American and Other children lived in single-parent families. Also in 2000, 431 or 60.2% of children under age 6 lived in single parent families: 15.8% of White and 72.8% of African American and Other pre-schoolers.



Parents Working and Child Care: Increasingly, parents must divide their time between children and employers. In order to meet family financial needs, most parents must work and thus have less time for family life. In 2000, 63.6% of mothers with children under 6 and 67.5% with children 6 - 17 were in the labor force. This has increased substantially from 1960 when 46.8% of mothers with children under 6 were in the labor force. Most fathers also work: 53.2% of children under 6 are in families where the single parent or both parents work. Caring for children is a problem for parents unable to obtain quality, affordable daycare while they are at work.

Overall, there are 342 spaces in state-regulated childcare facilities* in the county, 96.5% of these are in licensed programs and 3.5% are in registered programs. Of the spaces, 96.5% are in licensed childcare centers serving more than 12 children, 3.5% are in registered or licensed family childcare homes serving six or fewer children, 0.0% are in licensed group childcare homes serving 7-12 children, and 0.0% are in registered or licensed church programs.

The homes and centers are severely constrained by the limited ability of parents to pay. In the county, the average weekly charge is $ 77.50 for centers and $ 60.00 for homes. Consequently, center wages are low: 100% of centers with pre-school staff and 100% of centers with assistant pre-school staff report paying these staff under $6 per hour. Paying $6-$8 per hour are 0% of centers with pre-school staff and 0% of centers with assistants. Low wages attract workers with limited education. In 100% of centers, most pre-school staff and in 100% of centers most assistants have only a high school degree. In 100% of centers few to none of the pre-school staff have early childhood credentials. In childcare homes, 100% of lead providers have no more education than a high school degree or GED; 50% have less than a high school degree.

Family Violence: In 2000, 73 domestic assaults were recorded by law enforcement officials. These domestic assaults comprised 19.8% of all assaults, which include aggravated assaults, simple assaults, and intimidation. Overall, 37.0% of all domestic assaults involve spouse abuse which constitutes 7.3% of all assaults. Since most family violence is not reported, the true incidence of family disruption is much more widespread than even the large number of reported cases would indicate.

Separation from Parents: Some children do not live with their natural parents. In 2000, 12.0% of all children did not live with their natural parents. Approximately 322 or 10.8% of all children lived with relatives, 26 or 0.9% lived with non-relatives, 4 or 0.1% were householders or spouses, and 5 or 0.2% were in institutional facilities.

Abuse and Neglect: In 2000-01, there were 48 investigations into reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children. Through its investigations, the Department of Social Services (DSS) determined that 25 of the investigations were indicated for abuse or neglect: 25.0% for physical abuse, 0.0% for sexual abuse, 0.0% for mental injury, 16.7% for physical neglect, 5.6% for educational neglect, 11.1% for medical neglect, 38.9% for threat of harm for physical/sexual abuse, and 2.8% for other types of abuse.

In the indicated cases of abuse and neglect, DSS determined there were 60 children who were victims of abuse or neglect. Of these, 48.3% were male, 51.7% were female; 0.0% were White, 100.0% were African-American and Other. By age, 36.2% were ages 0 - 5, 39.7% were ages 6 - 12, and 24.1% were ages 13 - 17. In the indicated cases, 15.0% of the children lived in two-parent families, 80.0% in single parent families, 5.0% with unmarried couples, and 0.0% in other circumstances.

Out of Home Placements: As of June 2001, 20 children lived in foster care. The median age at first placement in the county is 8.7 years. The ages of children in foster care were 5.0% 0-2, 15.0% 3-5, 25.0% 6-10, 15.0% 11-13, and 40.0% 14 and above. The foster care population is 25.0% males and 75.0% females. Regarding their future, 25.0% were under a plan for placement in adoptive homes, 25.0% for return to a parent or guardian, 15.0% for placement with a relative, 10.0% for independent living, 25.0% for permanent foster care, and 0.0% for other circumstances.

Adult/Child Ratio: A measure of potential adult attention for children from family and community is the ratio of adults to children and youth. In 2000 there were 2.76 adults for every person below age 18. This was up substantially from 1960, when there were only 1.22 adults for every person under the age 18. This indicates that today there are more adults potentially available to provide attention and care for each child than in the past.

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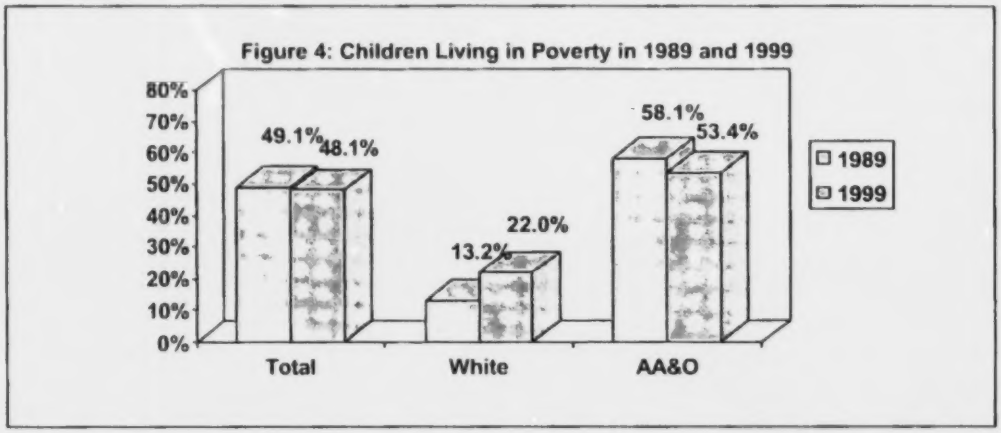
* This data is the best currently available; however, an effort is being made to check the coverage and improve the accuracy. As soon as more recent and complete data becomes available, it will be posted on the website.

ECONOMIC STATUS

Low income makes it difficult for many families to provide the material and environmental enrichment necessary for healthy child development.

Poverty: In 1999, 1,417 children and youth under the age of 18 lved in 576 families with incomes below poverty, comprising 48.1% of all children and youth: 22.0% of Whites and 53.4% of African-Americans and Others. A rough estimate of child poverty in 2001 calculated by the Census Bureau was 23.0%.



Poverty has always been a serious problem. While the rate among children under age 18 in 1989 was 49.1%, it was 38.5% in 1979 and 43.2% in 1969.

Children and the elderly are the age groups most seriously affected by poverty. In 1999, 46.8% of children 0 - 5 (8.1% White, 55.2% African-American and Other), and 47.7% of children 6 - 17 (24.1% White, 52.6% African-American and Other), lived in poverty; 26.0% of persons 65 years and older lived in poverty. Historically, the poverty rate among the elderly was much higher. During the last three decades, federal policy actions have substantially improved the economic status of older persons but have not done so for children.

Single-parent families are most likely to be poor. In 1999, 59.1% of children in single-parent families lived in poverty, but only 34.9% of children in married-couple families were poor. Children in single-parent families made up 67.1% of all the county's children living in poverty.

In 2002, the poverty level was $15,020 for a family of three and $18,100 for a family of four. The poverty threshold is often criticized as an arbitrary number. People can still be poor but may be just above the poverty level. Federal programs utilize varying thresholds. For example, in 1999 there were 2,166 children ages 0-17 who were less than 200 percent of poverty; thus an additional 749 children were above the poverty level but could still be considered poor or near-poor with incomes below $30,040 and $36,200 respectively for 3 and 4 person families.

Children Under 18 in Poverty in 1999

Percent of Poverty	Total		White		African American & Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 50%	792	26.9%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 100%	1,417	48.1%	110	22.0%	1,307	53.4%
Under 125%	1,649	55.9%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 150%	1,860	63.1%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 175%	2,056	69.7%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 185%	2,124	72.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 200%	2,166	73.4%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total Children	2,979		500		2,479	

Note: Missing data will be released by the Census Bureau later in 2003, and will be posted on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

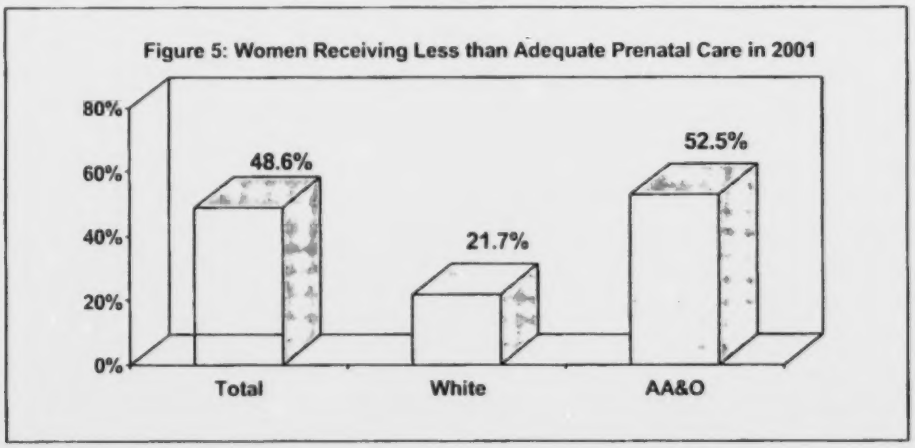
Income: The mean income of families with children in 1999 was $28,688. In 1989 it was $32,445, and 1979, it was $35,771, adjusted for inflation (i.e., in 1999 dollars). The mean income of single-parent families with children was $15,184 for single parents in 1999, as compared with $43,828 in married-couple families with children. From 1999 to 2000, Allendale County real dollar per capita income (eliminating inflation) increased by 2.0%.

Child Support Payments: There were 178[7] families receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families in fiscal year 2002, but only 34.3 % had child support court orders. Their average monthly payment of child support was $ 239, including child support receipts and tax refund intercepts. In addition, during fiscal year 2002, an estimated 376 parents in non-TANF families were obligated to pay a monthly average of $ 213. Information is not available regarding the amount actually paid.

HEALTH

Good health during a child's formative years helps children to reach their maximum potential. Good health requires healthy lifestyles and effective primary care, starting during the prenatal period and continuing through adolescence into adulthood. Children's health reflects the well-being of the community, as well as how adequately they are protected.

Prenatal Care: Early and continuous prenatal care can make a significant difference in assuring births of healthy babies. Delayed or insufficient prenatal care is associated with low birthweight and other health risks for infants. In 2001, 69, or 38.1% of pregnant women received no prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy. In 2001, 88, or 48.6% of pregnant women received less than adequate prenatal care: 5 or 21.7% of Whites and 83 or 52.5% of African-Americans and Others. In that same year, 1 women received no prenatal care at all.



Low Birthweight: Low birthweight of less than 5.5 pounds and very low birthweight of less than 3.3 pounds are associated with health risks and growth and development problems. In 2001, 23 or 12.7% of all babies in the county were born with low birthweight: 13.9% of African-American and Other babies and 4.3% of White babies. During 1999-2001, approximately 11 or 2.1% of all babies were born with very low birthweight and had the most serious complications: 2.5% of White babies and 2.0% of African-American and Other babies. The cost of hospitalization for each newborn low birthweight baby in the county in 1999 - 2001 was $7,331 and $72,582 for each very low birthweight baby, compared with $1,141 for a baby of normal birthweight. The result was excess cost in the county of $183,036 for all low birthweight babies, of which $119,069 was for very low birthweight babies.

Infant Mortality: During the decade since 1989-91, the overall infant mortality rate increased by 51.4% from 10.1 to 15.3 per 1000 live births. For Whites, the rate increased 46.3% from 17.1 to 25.0 per 1000 live births, while for African-Americans and Others the rate increased 61.5% from 8.4 to 13.5 per 1000 live births. Over the three-year period 1999-2001, 2 White and 6 African-American and Other infants died before age one. By comparison, 2 White and 4 African-American and Other infants died during 1989-91.

[7] Number is an unduplicated count for the entire fiscal year.

Child Injuries and Deaths: Childhood deaths and injuries reflect whether communities are safe for children. In 2001, children in the Allendale County went to the emergency room 482 times because of injuries. Boys are injured more often than girls. Children visit the emergency room at comparable rates for each age from 0 to 17.

In South Carolina, the major causes of death among young children are unintentional injuries, cancer, homicide, and congenital anomalies. Over the three year period 1999-2001, White and 2 African-American and Other children ages 1-14 died in the county. During 1989-91, White and 1 African-American and Other children died.

Immunization: Immunization rates are an important indication of whether young children are receiving adequate preventive health care. During FY 1989-90, 29.6% of children less than two years old seen in public health clinics were not fully immunized against such preventable diseases as Polio, Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Haemophilus Influenza B and Whooping Cough. After a concerted statewide campaign to increase immunizations, the percentage of children seen in public health clinics who were not fully immunized in January 2001 had declined in the county to 8.4%. The DHEC statewide birth registry survey of all two year old children found that 88.1% were fully immunized in 2001. This success demonstrates the potential to improve the status of children when the leadership of the state and its communities act decisively together.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Children and youth are infected with sexually transmitted diseases through sexual abuse or irresponsible sexual activity. National prevalence rates indicate: a 1 in 8 chance that sexually active 15 year-old girls will develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), the most rapidly increasing cause of infertility; 10% of sexually active adolescent girls and boys are infected with chlamydia, the most common cause of PID; and as many as 15% of teen girls are infected with human papilloma virus, often with strains linked to cervical cancer. Furthermore, research evidence indicates that susceptibility to HIV/AIDS increases by 3 to 8 times through prior infection with various STDs.

According to national studies, approximately 1 in 4 sexually experienced youth aged 13-19 acquires a STD eve year; since two-thirds of all high school students have had sexual intercourse and half engage in intercourse over a thr month period, this would suggest that 10-15% of teens are infected with STDs annually. For 2000, this would indicate th an estimated 119 to 178 youth ages 13-19 in the county were infected with a STD. Many infections are either not identifi for treatment or not reported. In the county, there were 4 reported cases of children under age 15 and 30 youth ages 1 19 infected with gonorrhea; 2 youth under 15 and 49 ages 15 - 19 were reported infected with chlamydia. Youth wi undiagnosed and untreated STDs often spread their infections.

Healthy Lifestyles: Although no county data is available, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2001 found that ma high school students are not following good health habits. The YRBS revealed that 26% felt that they were overweight; 42 were trying to lose weight: 27% of boys and 57% of girls. Although during a week 79% of high school students ate fru 59% ate salad, and over 83% ate vegetables, only 17% ate the recommended five or more servings of fruit and vegetabl per day. During a week, 49% did stretching or muscle strengthening exercises, and 59% exercised three or more times f 20 minutes in sports that made them sweat or breathe hard. However, 11% of students engaged in no vigorous or modera activity at all during a week: 8% of boys and 13% of girls.

Tobacco Use:* Cigarette smoking starts at a young age and often becomes habitual. In the state during 2002 among all students 15 and older, 16.7% first smoked by age 11, 36.3% by age 13, and 51.4% by age 15. In a typical month, 17.1% of 7th and 8th graders and 25.3% of high school students smoked cigarettes. White youths were much more likely than African-Americans to smoke: 26.4% of White male and 27.2% of White female 7th to 12th graders used cigarettes, as compared with 18.9% of African-American males and 12.2% of African American females. A smaller but significant group of high school students (5.4%) used smokeless tobacco monthly; it was used primarily by White males (15.9% compared with 1.1% of all other race and sex groups).

* Schools in the county elected not to participate in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking. Therefore, data for all of South Carolina is presented here.

Disabilities: No data are collected on the true prevalence of disabilities within the county. According to national reported estimates, over 10% of children and youth have developmental disabilities at any point in time, and more than 17 are affected at some time before age 18 by deafness, blindness, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, speech defects, development delays, learning disabilities, and emotional or behavioral problems. For 2000 this suggests that at least 298 children ar youth under age 18 in the county are currently affected by disabilities.

Approximately 5% of children and youth nationally have serious disabilities which have lifelong implications f work, social life and community living. Typically among children and youth, there are 1 - 2% who are mentally retarded, - 3% with serious emotional disturbances, over 1% with orthopedic or multiple disabilities, including cerebral palsy an many hereditary conditions, and under 1% with visual or hearing impairments.

Other chronic health problems also affect the lives of many children. Over 3% of children have one or more these limitations. Such serious chronic conditions affect 1 - 2% who have respiratory problems (asthma and chron bronchitis), 0.5 - 1.0% with neurological problems (epilepsy and seizures), and less than 1% with circulatory problen (congenital heart defects and acquired diseases).

Other disabilities are identified primarily in school performance. These would include 97 students in grades 1- with learning disabilities and 127 students in grades 1-12 with speech/language deficits.

Disabilities are caused by genetics, disease, poor prenatal conditions, injuries, and environmental factors. For example, lead exposure, primarily from paint dust, was detected in over 1% of all children screened, including 1 in Allendale County.

Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: While over 20% of 9-17 year olds meet diagnostic criteria for some form of mental disorder, the number with serious emotional disturbance and impaired functioning in family, school, or community activities is: 9-13% for substantial functional impairment and 5-9% for extreme functional impairment. The rates among poor children are at the higher end of these ranges. Based on a federal formula for estimating prevalence, in the county there are 12% or 184 seriously emotionally disturbed 9-17 year olds with substantial functional impairment and 8% or 123 with extreme functional impairment during the course of a year. Conduct disorders, attention deficit, depression, and anxiety disorders are the most prevalent, each affecting 3% or more of school-aged children. These disorders may occur simultaneously in a child. The prevalence rates are highest among males, adolescents, and disadvantaged persons in communities under stress and lacking social cohesion; depression, however, is more prevalent among females. On the YRBS, 20% of boys and 33% of girls in high school reported that during the past year they felt so sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that they stopped doing some usual activities. Another indicator of emotional problems is the 8% of high school students in South Carolina who reported that they had "attempted suicide" in the past year: 5% of boys and 10% of girls. Suicide attempts resulted in 4% of high school students reporting that they required treatment by a doctor or nurse for injury, poisoning, or overdose.

Inadequate Healthcare: No county level data is routinely collected regarding the number of children and youth with inadequate healthcare. According to estimates for 2000-02 by the Bureau of the Census through the annual Current Population Survey, the statewide average rate of uninsured children and youth under age 18 in families with incomes under 200% of poverty in South Carolina was 16.6%, and 9.9% above 200% of poverty. If these rates are applied to the county, there are 360 children in the county below 200% of poverty with no health insurance, and 81 children above 200% of poverty with no health insurance, for a total of 441 uninsured children in Allendale County. The number lacking basic accessible primary care is at least double the number lacking insurance. Those lacking primary care are often dependent on health services at school. The ratio of students to nurses recommended nationally is 750:1. In the county, this would suggest the need for 2 nurses, compared with 1 currently working in the schools.

Medicaid: For several years, the State of South Carolina has emphasized enrolling eligible children into Medicaid. In late 1997, South Carolina implemented its version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, Partners for Healthy Children (PHC), and aggressively pursued outreach enrollment for PHC and Medicaid. As a result, enrollment of children ages 0 through 18 in Allendale County has increased by 37.7% from June 1997 to June 2001; thus Medicaid and PHC were serving 75.1% of all children in that age range. The total Medicaid expenditures in South Carolina for services provided to children ages 0 through 18 for state fiscal year 2002 were $991 million, at an average statewide expenditure of $2,343 per child enrolled, approximate Medicaid expenditure for children in the county would be $5.2 million.

In June 2001, the total number of Allendale County children, birth through 18, enrolled in Medicaid was 2,237. The total can be broken down into the following age and race groupings:

	White	African American	Hispanic	Other	Total
Children under 1	9	145	1	1	156
Children 1 - 5	42	564	6	26	638
Children 6 - 14	62	896	4	56	1,018
Children 15 - 18	31	384	1	9	425
Total	144	1,989	12	92	2,237

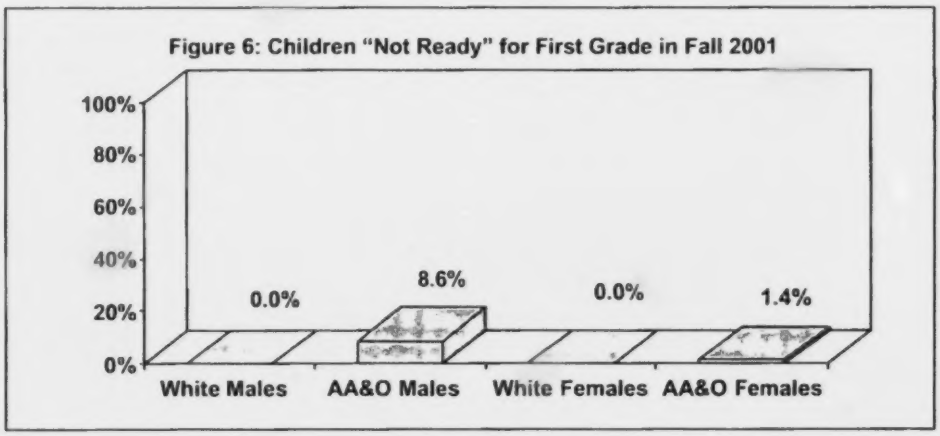
Ambulatory Care: When children lack adequate primary care, whether through lack of insurance, through limite access, or through failing to utilize available care, preventable and treatable conditions become serious and requi hospitalization. A useful indicator of inadequate primary care is the percentage of all hospitalizations that could typicall have been avoided through ambulatory care, especially for pneumonia, asthma, diarrhea and vomiting, dehydration, a severe ear, nose, and throat infections. The share of hospitalizations for these types of conditions could normally be ke below 20%; for children in the county under the age of 18 during 2001, the share was 33.3% for Whites and 31.3% f African-Americans and Others.

READINESS AND EARLY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Too many children reach school without the readiness skills needed for success in learning, such as language, soci skills, visual and auditory discrimination, memory recall, and knowledge of colors, letters, numbers, names of objects, et Likewise, some schools are not ready to respond appropriately to the varying developmental levels of children in the ea grades. As a result, too many students do not experience the success needed to create the motivation and engagement th sustain learning.

1st Grade "Readiness" on 2001-02 Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB):

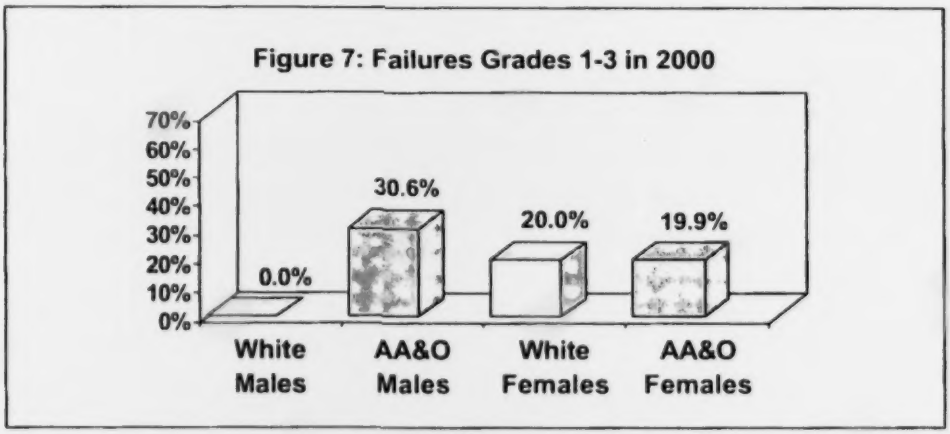
7 children not ready 4.8% children not ready



1st Grade Failures in 2002:

18 children failing 11.3% children failing

Failures Grades 1-3 in 2002 (approximate cumulative percentage of grades one, two and three):	
35 children failing	22.4% children failing



Over-age for Grade 3 in 2001	
40 children over-age	30.5% children over-age

Special Education: Large numbers of children are placed in special education classes. In elementary school, 52 six and seven year olds and 75 eight and nine year-olds were enrolled in special education classes during 2001-02, approximately 17.4% and 24.8% of their age groups respectively: 28.6% of White 8 – 9 year olds were in special education and 24.7% of African American and Others.

Readiness Summary: A serious problem exists in terms of student readiness and school success in the early grades. With 4.8% assessed not ready for the 1st grade, 30.5% over age in grade 3, and 24.8% of eight and nine year-olds placed in special education, unacceptably large numbers of students still begin school without good prospects of success in future school achievement and graduation; however, great improvement has occurred since the mid 1990s.

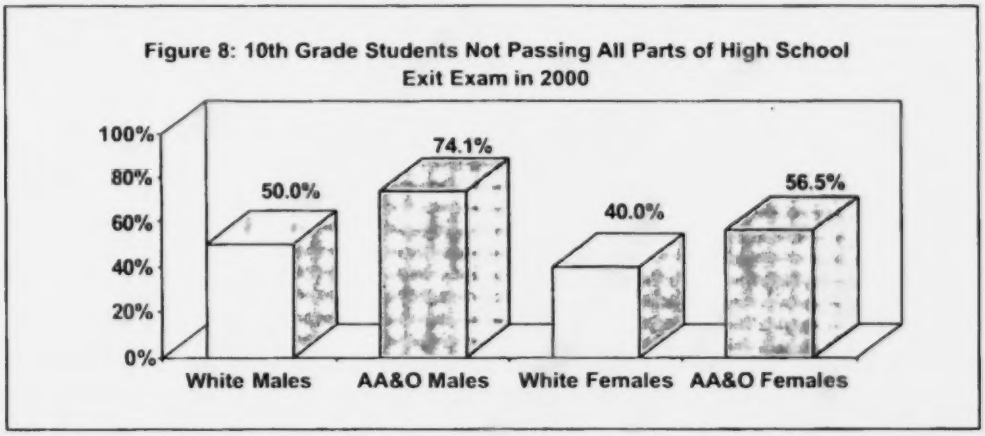
SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

By the end of elementary school, significant numbers of students perform below minimum standards. The following standardized test measures, comparing student performance to state minimum standards, should be used in combination with routine classroom assessments more reflective of real-world performance skills.

Special Education: Special education placements reflect both the significant number of children with serious handicapping conditions and a large number of students with mild learning and behavioral problems that have not been accommodated successfully by the regular educational program. The result is a large system of self-contained, resource, and itinerant services to meet the needs of 127 speech and language impaired, 97 learning disabled, 1 emotionally disabled, 119 mentally impaired, and 4 physically handicapped, deaf, blind, and other handicapped students. Special education classes served approximately 19.1% of all students in grades 1 - 12 during 2001-2002.

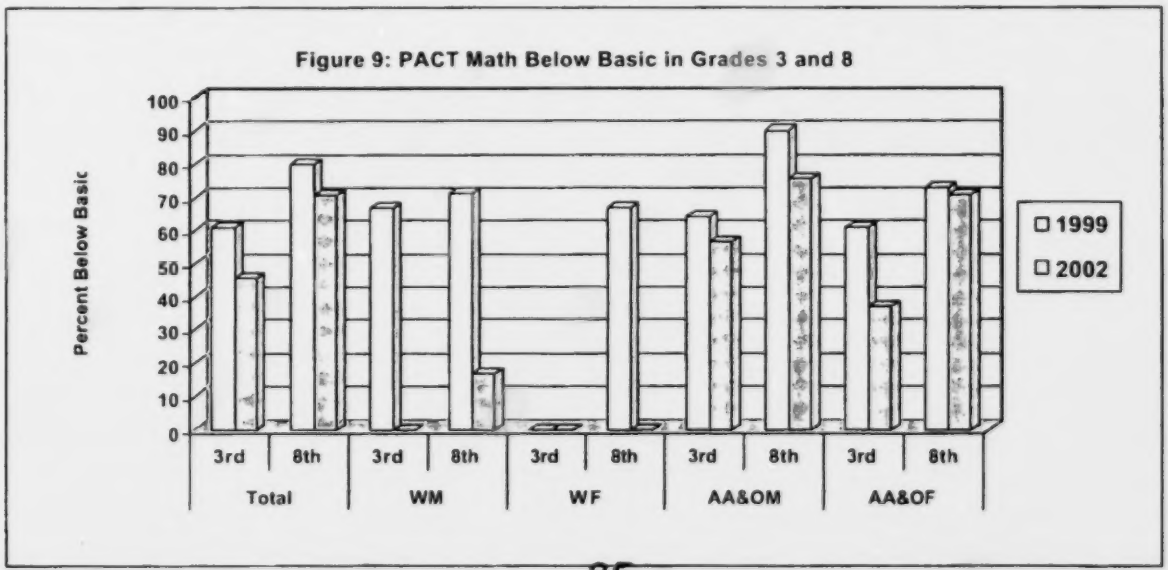
Exit Exam - not passing all parts of Exit Exam on first attempt in the 10th grade in 2002

85 students did not pass all parts — 63.4% of students did not pass all parts



Achievement Trends: How has performance on standardized achievement tests changed over the past 20 years? During the 1980s, student performance on the BSAP tests improved dramatically. Between 1981 and 1990, the percentage of 8th grade students in Allendale County who did not meet standards declined from 60.4% to 20.8% in math and from 58.4% to 36.1% in reading. During the 1990's the BSAP trend changed, with 36.4% not meeting 8th grade math standards in 1998 and 46.9% in reading. On standardized tests, the first year when South Carolina students take the exam is comparable to the challenge encountered by the national norm group which took the test only once. Looking at first year data, the percentage of 4th grade students at or below the 25th percentile of national norms was 42.5% in 1983 on the CTBS, 58.6% in 1990 on the Stanford, and 55.8% in 1995 on the Metropolitan; for 9th graders, the percentage in the bottom quarter was 41.7% in 1990 and 52.9% in 1995. Although not comparable, the percent below basic on the 4th grade PACT in 1999, the first year of administration, was 77.7%, but in 2002 57.0% of 4th graders were below basic in reading and math; the percentage of 8th graders below basic in reading and math averaged 82.3% in 1999 and 66.0% in 2002.

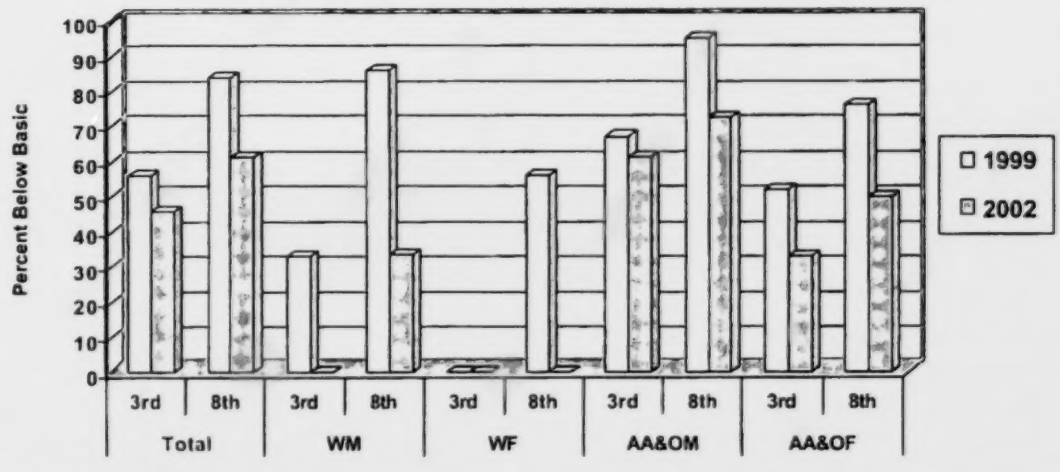
PACT: The Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) was first administered in 1999 for grades 3 - 8 in math and reading/language arts. Math assesses skills in numbers, numerical and algebraic concepts, patterns and functions, geometry, measurement, probability and statistics. The percentage of students scoring below basic in math has decreased by 24.6% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 348 students below basic in grades 3-8 but there would have been an additional 114 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
	Math (%)					
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	45.8	0.0	0.0	56.7	37.0
	4	58.5	0.0	0.0	69.9	47.6
	5	70.3	0.0	0.0	80.6	63.8
	6	54.2	0.0	50.0	63.5	49.2
	7	60.0	0.0	0.0	76.5	47.0
	8	70.9	16.7	0.0	75.6	70.7
Basic	3	42.3	0.0	0.0	35.8	49.3
	4	30.3	0.0	0.0	23.3	38.1
	5	24.7	0.0	0.0	16.7	30.0
	6	33.3	0.0	16.7	26.9	40.7
	7	35.8	0.0	0.0	19.6	48.5
	8	25.0	66.7	0.0	23.2	24.1
Proficient	3	12.0	0.0	0.0	7.5	13.7
	4	7.7	0.0	0.0	5.5	9.5
	5	4.4	0.0	0.0	2.8	6.3
	6	9.2	0.0	33.3	5.8	8.5
	7	4.2	0.0	0.0	3.9	4.5
	8	3.4	16.7	0.0	0.0	5.2
Advanced	3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	4	3.5	0.0	0.0	1.4	4.8
	5	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	6	3.3	0.0	0.0	3.8	1.7
	7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	8	0.7	0.0	0.0	1.2	0.0

Reading/Language Arts assesses reading, listening, speaking, writing, research, and communication with technology. The first PACT assessment found a high percentage of elementary and middle grades students performing below standards and only a modest number above basic. The percentage of students scoring below basic in reading/language arts has decreased by 22.7% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 318 students below basic in grades 3 - 8 but there would have been an additional 93 at 1999 performance rates.

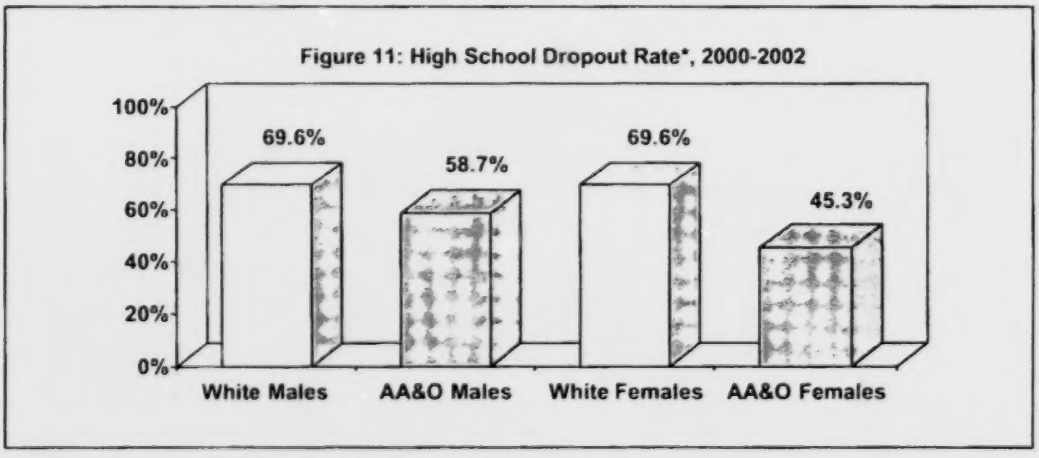
Figure 10: PACT Reading/Language Arts Below Basic in Grades 3 and 8



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
	Reading/Language Arts (%)					
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	45.8	0.0	0.0	61.2	32.9
	4	55.6	0.0	0.0	67.1	44.4
	5	61.4	0.0	0.0	73.6	51.3
	6	54.2	0.0	16.7	69.2	47.5
	7	59.2	0.0	0.0	70.6	51.5
	8	61.0	33.3	0.0	72.5	50.0
Basic	3	39.4	0.0	0.0	26.9	50.7
	4	37.3	0.0	0.0	31.5	44.4
	5	34.2	0.0	0.0	23.6	42.5
	6	34.2	0.0	50.0	25.0	39.0
	7	35.8	0.0	0.0	27.5	40.9
	8	33.6	66.7	0.0	23.8	41.4
Proficient	3	14.8	0.0	0.0	11.9	16.4
	4	5.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.5
	5	4.4	0.0	0.0	2.8	6.3
	6	10.8	0.0	33.3	5.8	11.9
	7	5.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	7.6
	8	4.8	0.0	0.0	3.8	6.9
Advanced	3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	4	1.4	0.0	0.0	1.4	1.6
	5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	6	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.7
	7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	8	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.7

Dropout Rate - 8th grade students no longer enrolled in grade 12
(average of students for the three years ending 2000-2002)

98 students drop out annually **53.6% students drop out?**



Dropouts: Distressing numbers of students drop out and fail to graduate. An average of 23.6% of 8th graders failed to graduate** from county schools five years later during the period 1980-84, 24.0% during 1985-89, and 39.8% during 1990-94, 36.1% during 1995-97 and 51.8% during 1998-2000***.

During 2001-02, 87.1% of all who did graduate received the State High School Diploma, while the remaining 12.9% received a State Certificate for meeting the required Carnegie units but not passing the Exit Exam.

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* 12th grade enrollment compared to 8th grade enrollment four years earlier

** This is calculated by using 8th grade enrollment to graduation data.

*** 2001 data will be available soon and will be posted on the website.

Fortunately, many dropouts enroll in adult education programs and either earn a high school diploma or obtain a GED. During 2001-02, 12 Adult Education high school diplomas were awarded to school completers and in 2001 11 GEDs were awarded in the county. Over time, adult education high school diplomas and GEDs increase the effective school completion rate substantially. In the 2000 Census, 32.4% of county resident 25 - 34 year-olds said they had not completed either high school or a GED.

Achievement Summary: The numbers of students testing below basic on the PACT and dropping out range from 45.8% to 70.9%. Thus, far too many students fail to acquire the knowledge, skills, learning habits, and motivation necessary to compete in the economy or contribute to society in the 21st Century.

ADOLESCENT RISK BEHAVIORS

Academic achievement is greatly influenced by the prevailing youth culture which often promotes popularity with peers and partying rather than studying and doing well in school. The prevalence of adolescent risk-taking and under-achievement is illustrated by the poor grades of substance-abusing teens.

Substance Abuser Rates at Levels of Academic Performance

	Usual School Grades in Past Year					
	A Range	B Range	C Range	D Range	F Range	Total
Smoked Cigarettes (in past 30 days)	13.3%	22.4%	31.7%	42.8%	63.6%	25.3%
Drank 5 or More Drinks on One Occasion (in past 30 days)	12.4%	17.3%	22.6%	26.8%	43.5%	18.9%
Used Any Illicit Drug (in past 30 days)	11.5%	17.1%	25.1%	34.1%	53.0%	20.0%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

As influence from parents and other adults declines during adolescence, significant numbers of students engage in violence, crime, school offenses, depressive emotions and attempted suicide:

Risk Behaviors Participated in During Past 12 Months	White Male		White Female		African American Male		African American Female		Total		Total (Grade 7-12)
	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	
Carried a handgun or knife for self-defense?	22.5%	26.1%	5.3%	6.3%	14.6%	20.2%	5.0%	7.6%	12.2%	14.9%	13.7%
Carried a handgun or knife as a weapon?	6.8%	9.4%	1.3%	1.6%	9.0%	13.9%	3.0%	5.0%	4.8%	6.9%	5.9%
Been in a fight with someone?	40.1%	31.3%	18.5%	16.2%	41.4%	31.9%	29.4%	22.4%	31.7%	24.9%	28.0%
Hit your boyfriend or girlfriend?	2.0%	1.6%	6.9%	10.0%	5.7%	4.9%	17.7%	24.2%	7.4%	9.7%	8.7%
Been hit by your boyfriend or girlfriend?	7.1%	6.1%	6.1%	8.5%	11.5%	9.7%	9.5%	10.6%	8.1%	8.5%	8.3%
Rec'd detention or in-school suspension?	38.1%	37.3%	22.4%	25.0%	41.6%	37.6%	34.3%	30.7%	33.3%	32.1%	32.7%
Been suspended from school?	12.9%	13.9%	5.2%	7.2%	24.0%	22.6%	14.8%	15.4%	13.1%	13.8%	13.5%
Stolen anything worth > $5?	12.9%	17.6%	6.9%	10.7%	14.2%	15.6%	8.5%	8.4%	10.4%	13.1%	11.9%
Had an accident while driving?	NA	14.3%	NA	12.6%	NA	7.7%	NA	6.3%	NA	11.0%	NA
Been arrested and booked?	3.9%	6.1%	1.5%	2.7%	5.7%	8.1%	2.2%	2.9%	3.2%	4.7%	4.0%
Felt hopeless for two weeks or more?	14.8%	15.9%	21.8%	29.0%	14.0%	13.3%	22.0%	24.8%	18.2%	21.4%	19.9%
Seriously considered attempting suicide?	6.9%	8.4%	9.6%	14.3%	5.5%	5.4%	6.8%	8.7%	7.4%	9.7%	8.7%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

Adolescence is often a time of taking risks and asserting independence from adults. When asked whether they would tell an adult about a problem, the following percentages of state students said they would be "not likely" or "very unlikely" to tell if they:

-heard a student threaten to harm someone: 33.2% middle school, 47.0% high school;
-saw a student with a handgun at school: 22.7% middle school, 20.5% high school;
-saw a student with a knife at school: 24.7% middle school, 31.6% high school;
-saw a student with drugs at school: 33.7% middle school, 61.9% high school;

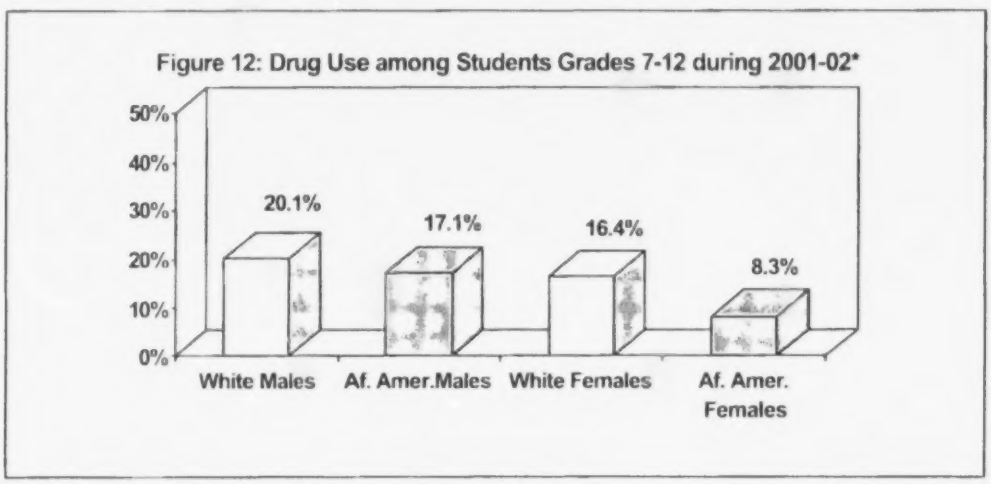
Alcohol Use:* In the state during 2001-02, 21.0% of 7th and 8th graders and 37.1% of high schoolers said they had used alcohol in the past month. Of White males in grades 7 - 12, 33.8% had used it in the past month, compared with 26.0% of African-American males; likewise, 34.5% of White females said they had used alcohol, compared with 26.4% of African-American females. Many youth first used alcohol at an early age: 14.2% had used alcohol by age 11 or younger, 33.0% by age 13, and 61.1% by age 15.

During the previous year, 21.0% of 7th and 8th graders and 30.4% of high schoolers said they had ridden with a drinking driver. Of seniors who drive, 19.4% said they had driven after drinking. Widespread use is encouraged by the ready availability and perceived low risk of alcohol use. Among students who expressed an opinion, 43.6% of eighth graders and 75.4% of seniors felt that beer was easy to get. Also, 71.6% of eighth graders and 70.7% of seniors felt there was not a great risk in drinking two drinks a day, and 47.3% of eighth graders and 53.1% of high schoolers felt there was not a great risk in drinking 5 drinks every weekend.

Heavy Drinking:* In 2001-02, 7.7% of 7th and 8th graders and 18.9% of high school students in the state repor drinking 5 or more drinks in a day during the past month. When asked how many drinks, if any, they usually consur 13.7% of all state students in grades 7 - 12 in 2001-02 responded 3 or more drinks at a time and 7.1% reported usually 5 more drinks. Among high school students, 18.6% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 10.0% 5 or mc Among seniors, 24.7% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 13.7% 5 or more; however 22.9% of seni said that they drank 5 or more drinks in a day once or more during the past month.

Drugs:* In 2001-02, 9.5% of 7th and 8th graders and 20.1% of high schoolers in the state reported using ille drugs during the previous month. Among students in grades 7 - 12, use was reported by 20.1% of White males, 16.4% Wl females, 17.1% of African-American males, and 8.3% of African-American females. Some young people initiated drug u at an early age: 5.3% had experienced their first use by age 11 or sooner; 16.3% had used a drug by age 13, and 34.7% by a 15.

In the past year, 10.3% of all high school students in the state who drive and 15.4% of seniors who drive said that they had driven after using drugs. Such use is encouraged by the ready availability of drugs: 22.3% of 8th graders who had an opinion said it is easy to get marijuana and 8.4% said it is easy to get cocaine or crack; 65.0% of seniors said it is easy to get marijuana and 29.5% said it was easy to get cocaine or crack.



* Schools in the county elected not to participate in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking. Therefore, data for all of South Carolina is presented here. The latest Allendale County data, for 1992-93, is available on the Kids Count website at www.sckidscount.org.

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Sexual Activity and Pregnancy: Many teenagers now engage in sexual activity. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) administered to a representative sample of high school students throughout South Carolina in 2001 showed that sexual activity begins at an early age: 7% of female and 21% of male students have engaged in intercourse before age 13; by age 15, 38% the females and 49% of males have engaged in sexual intercourse. Statewide, 48% of females and 50% of males in the 11th and 12th grades reported engaging in intercourse during the past three months. Furthermore, 27% of female and 33% of male 12th graders have had intercourse with four or more partners during their lifetimes.

Premature sexual activity often results in pregnancy. In the county, 29 girls between the ages of 14 and 17 became pregnant in 1999, 22 in 2000 and 17 in 2001. This represented 5.3% of all girls ages 14 – 17 in 2001; several times this percentage become pregnant at least once by age 18. The 2001 pregnancy rate for ages 14 - 17 was 0.0% for Whites and 6.3% for African-Americans and Others. Of all pregnancies of 14-17 year olds, 82.4% resulted in live births, with almost all other pregnancies ending in abortions.

Teen pregnancy rates increased substantially across the state during the 1980s; as a result, greater emphasis v devoted to preventing teen pregnancy. Since 1989, the teen pregnancy rate in Allendale County has decreased by 47.(Overall, it has decreased by 100.0% for Whites, and decreased by 52.6% for African Americans and Others.

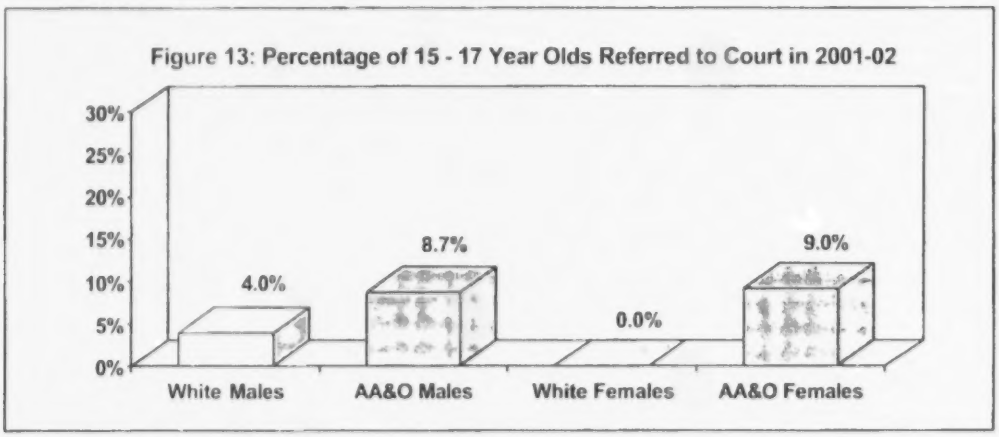
Juvenile Delinquency: In 2001-02, 95 individual juvenile offenders in the county were referred to the Solicitor for delinquency; of these, 18.9% were age 12 or younger, 37.9% were 13 or 14, and 43.2% were 15 or older.

Of the referrals to the family court, 21.4% of all referrals were for violent and serious crimes which include drug trafficking, acts against persons for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and serious property offenses for arson and burglary. Also, 23 juvenile cases constituting 15.9% of all referrals were for status offenses. Status offenses include truancy, running away, incorrigibility, and other offenses that would not be crimes for adults.

Delinquents are likely to live in families with low income: 26.7% lived in families with income under $10,000, 55.8% with $10,000-$19,999 and 17.4% with $20,000 or more. Furthermore, only 14.0% of delinquents lived with both natural parents, while 61.6% lived in a single parent household, 24.4% lived with other relatives, and 0.0% in other situations including parent plus step-parent. Delinquency or criminal activity occurs among many related family members: 57.0% had at least one family member who was delinquent or had some criminal record.

Youth referred to the family courts are likely to have been there before. In 2001-02, 66.3% had at least one prior referral and 20.0% had been referred to court 3 times or more. Many were referred at an early age. For delinquents 15 - 17 years old, 2.5% had been referred by the age of 10, 12.7% by the age of 12, and 32.9% by the age of 14.

During 2001-02, 41 youth ages 15 to 17 were referred to the family courts. In the county, 7.9% of all youth 15 to 17 were referred to court in one year and roughly double that percentage are referred at least once by age 18. Furthermore, the National Youth Survey indicates that typically across the United States the proportion of youth engaging in crime is two or three times the number ever apprehended. In 2001-02, there were 17 juveniles committed from the county to DJJ custody and placed in residential programs.



Not in School or Employed: During 2000, 126 teenagers ages 16-19 were idle, meaning they neither worked any hours nor were enrolled in school, even part-time. Idle teens comprised 18.0% of their age group: 11.0% for White and 18.8% African-American & Other teens. A much larger number, perhaps twice as many, were not engaged in either school full time or work full time. The data reflect a serious failure in both school completion and the critical transition from school to work, significantly affecting their development as future workers. For an in-depth description of the problems of young adults seeking to enter the labor force, visit our website at www.scyoungadults.org for our state and county reports on 18-29 year olds.

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Deaths: During 1997-2001, 3 youth ages 15 to 19 died. Historically, automobile accidents have been the major cause, resulting in 1 deaths between 1996 and 2000; homicides killed 1 youth 15 to 19 years old during the five-year period, and 0 youth committed suicide. Alcohol use is often a significant factor in deaths among teenagers.

SUMMARY

Facing the Scope of Problems: The data on families, economic status, health, readiness, school achievement, and adolescent risk behaviors provide a troublesome picture of the condition of children in Allendale County. The 56.5% of children in single-parent families, 48.1% in poverty, 51.8% not graduating from school, 37.1% of high school students using alcohol and 20.1% using drugs each month, and other data profiled in this report suggest that too many children are at risk of not growing up to become self-supporting adults, good family members, and responsible community citizens.

Emphasizing the Positive: South Carolina Kids Count reports have been developed to describe the problems of children in each of the counties. Fortunately, the majority of children and youth are doing well, and some very well. One simple description is the percentage of children who do not fall into the problem categories reported. For the county, 78.5% of children are born to non-teen mothers ages 20 or older, 28.2% are born to married parents, and 43.5% lived in two-parent families; 51.9% were not poor and 26.6% lived in families with incomes above twice the poverty level for a family of three, $30,040 in 2002; 87.3% of babies were born with normal birthweights; 95.2% were assessed as ready for the first grade, 29.1% scored basic or better on PACT for 8th grade math and 39.0% for 8th grade reading, 36.6% passed all parts of the Exit Exam in the 10th grade, and 48.2% graduated with their class. In a typical month, 62.9% of high school students do not drink alcohol, 79.9% do not use drugs, and 74.7% do not smoke. Unfortunately, the absence of a problem is not always an indicator of success. Some data is available for exemplary performance: for example, 14.8% of 3rd graders and 5.5% of 8th graders scored proficient or advanced on PACT in reading and 12.0% of 3rd graders and 4.1% of 8th graders in math. Unfortunately, data on success is not generally available.

Despite the limitations of success data, we must emphasize the positive in providing good support and appropriate influences for children and youth. Recent philosophy and publications such as those of the Search Institute (700 South Third Street, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN, 55415-1138, tel. 1-800-888-7828, www.search-institute.org), emphasize the critical importance of "developmental assets" to promote and support positive development. One short book from the Search Institute, (What Kids Need to Succeed, by Peter J. Benson, Judy Gailbraith, and Pamela Espeland, 1995) presents an excellent array of suggestions for promoting developmental assets through families, community, faith congregations, and schools. If each family, school, religious congregation and community organization assertively worked to build such assets, the problems described in this report would be reduced dramatically. Such positive family-school-community efforts could improve South Carolina's national Kids Count ranking from the bottom 10 to the average or even into the top 10 by prevention of unnecessary problems affecting children and youth, as shown on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

All data presented in this report is the most recent available at the date it goes to the printer. This version of the Kids Count report will be revised as more recent and additional data become available. Please send us your corrections and suggestions for improvement. We welcome your ideas for ways to make the state and county reports more useful and accurate. Please utilize local data sources whenever possible to supplement the profile provided through our report.

Data related inquiries should be directed to:

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Comparable reports for all 46 counties and for the state can also be found on the World Wide Web at

www.sckidscount.org

Our website also provides: links to other websites for indicators in our report; high to low rankings for individual indicators; information on how to improve SC's national rank; and a glossary of definitions.

The national Kids Count Report can be found on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website at

www.aecf.org

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Allendale County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Indicators	Most Recent Year	Number					Percent						R
		1980*	1990*	Most Recent Data	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980 Rank	199
Health													
Low Birth Weight	2001	21	23	23	+9.5%	+0.0%	9.3	11.6	12.7	36.7%	9.3%	30	
White babies	2001	3	1	1	-66.7%	+0.0%	6.8	2.2	4.3	-36.8%	93.5%	31	
African American and Other babies	2001	18	22	22	+22.2%	+0.0%	9.9	14.4	13.9	40.8%	-3.2%	11	
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	2001	108	125	88	+18.5%	-29.6%	47.8	63.1	48.6	1.7%	-23.0%	38	
White babies	2001	8	18	5	-37.5%	-72.2%	18.2	40.0	21.7	19.2%	-45.8%	6	
African American and Other babies	2001	100	107	83	-17.0%	-22.4%	55.0	69.9	52.5	-4.5%	-24.9%	23	
Infant Mortality	2001	20	6	8	-60.0%	+33.3%	3.0	1.0	1.5	-48.7%	51.4%	46	
White babies	2001	5	2	2	-60.0%	+0.0%	3.5	1.7	2.5	-29.5%	46.3%	46	
African American and Other babies	2001	15	4	6	-60.0%	+50.0%	2.8	0.8	1.4	-52.2%	61.5%	38	
Family													
Births to mothers under 18	2001	31	16	14	-54.8%	-12.5%	13.7	8.1	7.7	-43.9%	-4.7%	45	
White babies	2001	2	1	-	-100.0%	-100.0%	4.5	2.2	0.0	-100.0%	-100.0%	15	
African American and Other babies	2001	29	15	14	-51.7%	-6.7%	15.9	9.8	8.9	-44.4%	-9.6%	45	
Births to mothers under 20	2001	59	48	39	-33.9%	-18.8%	26.1	24.2	21.5	-17.6%	-11.3%	43	
White babies	2001	4	5	3	-25.0%	+40.0%	9.1	11.1	13.0	43.0%	17.0%	2	
African American and Other babies	2001	55	43	36	-34.5%	+16.3%	30.2	28.1	22.8	-24.6%	-18.9%	38	
Births to mothers with less than a high school education	2001	128	57	57	-55.5%	+0.0%	56.6	28.8	31.5	-44.4%	9.4%	46	
White babies	2001	16	10	4	-75.0%	-60.0%	36.4	22.2	17.4	-52.2%	-21.7%	38	
African American and Other babies	2001	112	47	53	-52.7%	+12.8%	61.5	30.7	33.5	-45.5%	9.2%	18	
Births to single mothers****	2001	93	105	130	+39.8%	+23.8%	41.2	53.0	71.8	74.5%	35.4%	46	
White babies	2001	5	4	2	-60.0%	-50.0%	11.4	8.9	8.7	-23.4%	-2.1%	45	
African American and Other babies	2001	88	101	128	+45.5%	+26.7%	48.4	66.0	81.0	67.5%	22.7%	29	
Children in single parent families	2000	806	1,253	1,293	+60.4%	+3.2%	25.8	46.8	56.5	119.0%	20.8%	45	
White	2000	76	89	69	-9.2%	-22.5%	7.5	14.0	15.3	103.5%	9.0%	5	
African American and Other	2000	724	1,160	1,224	+69.1%	+5.5%	33.8	57.0	66.7	97.2%	17.0%	7	
Education													
Not Ready for Grade 1	2001	70	66	7	-90.0%	-89.4%	37.6	33.3	4.8	-87.2%	-85.6%	24	
White males	2001	5	1	-	-100.0%	-100.0%	21.7	9.1	0.0	-100.0%	-100.0%	4	
White females	2001	3	4	-	-100.0%	-100.0%	15.0	23.5	0.0	-100.0%	-100.0%	7	
African American and Other males	2001	37	38	6	-83.8%	-84.2%	53.6	39.2	8.6	-84.0%	-78.1%	24	
African American and Other females	2001	25	23	1	-96.0%	-95.7%	33.8	31.9	1.4	-95.9%	-95.6%	4	
Repeating Grades 1-3	2000	33	31	40	+21.2%	+29.0%	16.3	15.2	24.0	47.2%	57.9%	20	
White males	2000	5	2	-	-100.0%	-100.0%	21.5	14.5	0.0	-100.0%	-100.0%	31	
White females	2000	3	1	1	-66.7%	+0.0%	16.2	6.7	20.0	23.5%	198.5%	41	
African American and Other males	2000	15	18	24	+60.0%	+33.3%	18.9	19.0	30.6	62.8%	61.1%	9	
African American and Other females	2000	10	10	15	+50.0%	+50.0%	12.2	12.8	19.9	63.1%	55.5%	13	
Grade 3 Math below standards****	2002	100	35	65	-35.0%	+85.7%	59.5	18.3	45.8	-23.0%	150.3%	45	
White males	2002	8	3	-	-100.0%	-100.0%	61.5	27.3	-	-100.0%	-100.0%	46	
White females	2002	6	2	-	-100.0%	-100.0%	30.0	12.5	-	-100.0%	-100.0%	32	
African American and Other males	2002	45	17	38	-15.6%	+123.5%	63.4	21.0	56.7	-10.6%	170.0%	34	
African American and Other females	2002	41	13	27	-34.1%	+107.7%	64.1	15.7	37.0	-42.3%	135.7%	43	
Grade 3 Reading below standards****	2002	63	46	65	+3.2%	+41.3%	37.5	24.2	45.8	22.1%	89.3%	23	
White males	2002	3	3	-	-100.0%	-100.0%	23.1	30.0	0.0	-100.0%	-100.0%	10	
White females	2002	2	2	-	-100.0%	-100.0%	10.0	12.5	-	-100.0%	-100.0%	3	
African American and Other males	2002	33	24	41	+24.2%	+70.8%	46.5	29.6	61.2	31.6%	106.8%	8	
African American and Other females	2002	25	17	24	-4.0%	+41.2%	39.1	20.5	32.9	-15.9%	60.5%	20	
Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT Grade 4	1998	68	109	80	+17.6%	-26.6%	42.5	58.6	52.6	23.8%	-10.2%	38	
White males	1998	2	3	3	+50.0%	+0.0%	13.3	18.8	60.0	351.1%	219.1%	2	
White females	1998	5	2	-	-100.0%	-100.0%	27.8	33.3	0.0	-100.0%	-100.0%	40	
African American and Other males	1998	33	54	47	+42.4%	-13.0%	53.2	61.4	55.3	3.9%	-9.9%	26	
African American and Other females	1998	28	49	29	+3.6%	-40.8%	43.1	65.3	50.0	16.0%	-23.4%	33	

*Year of data is approximate in many cases.
**1 is best, 46 is worst.
*** Data include paternity acknowledgements.
**** BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Allendale County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Education (continued)

Indicators	Most Recent Year	Number					Percent				
		1980*	1990*	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres
Grade 8 Math below state standards**	2002	119	38	105	-11.8%	+176.3%	60.4	20.8	70.9	17.4%	240.9%
White males	*2002*	*15*	*5*	*1*	*-93.3%*	*-80.0%*	*53.6*	*21.7*	*16.7*	*-68.8%*	*-23.0%*
White females	*2002*	*7*	*1*	*1*	*-85.7%*	*+0.0%*	*33.3*	*8.3*	*-*	*-100.0%*	*-100.0%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*53*	*21*	*62*	*+17.0%*	*+195.2%*	*60.9*	*25.6*	*75.6*	*24.1%*	*195.3%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*43*	*11*	*41*	*-4.7%*	*+272.7%*	*71.7*	*16.7*	*70.7*	*-1.4%*	*323.4%*
Grade 8 Reading below state standards**	2002	115	66	89	-22.6%	+34.8%	58.4	36.1	61.0	4.5%	69.0%
White males	*2002*	*10*	*4*	*2*	*-80.0%*	*-50.0%*	*35.7*	*17.4*	*33.3*	*-6.7%*	*91.4%*
White females	*2002*	*5*	*5*	*-*	*-100.0%*	*-100.0%*	*23.8*	*41.7*	*-*	*-100.0%*	*-100.0%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*56*	*33*	*58*	*+3.6%*	*+75.8%*	*64.4*	*40.2*	*72.5*	*12.6%*	*80.3%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*43*	*24*	*29*	*-32.6%*	*+20.8%*	*71.7*	*36.4*	*50.0*	*-30.3%*	*37.4%*
Grade 9 Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT	1998	NA	63	107	NA	+69.8%	NA	41.7	60.1	NA	44.1%
White males	*1998*	*NA*	*3*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*25*	*-*	*NA*	*-100.0%*
White females	*1998*	*NA*	*2*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*10.5*	*57.1*	*NA*	*443.8%*
African American and Other males	*1998*	*NA*	*30*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*53.6*	*64.8*	*NA*	*20.9%*
African American and Other females	*1998*	*NA*	*28*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*43.7*	*56.8*	*NA*	*30.0%*
Exit Exam (not passing all parts on 1st attempt)	2002	108	107	85	-21.3%	-20.6%	68.8	54.0	63.4	-7.8%	17.4%
White males	*2002*	*6*	*6*	*1*	*-83.3%*	*-83.3%*	*37.5*	*33.3*	*50.0*	*33.3%*	*50.2%*
White females	*2002*	*7*	*10*	*2*	*-71.4%*	*-80.0%*	*53.8*	*37.0*	*40.0*	*-25.7%*	*8.1%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*45*	*42*	*43*	*-4.4%*	*+2.4%*	*73.8*	*62.7*	*74.1*	*0.4%*	*18.2%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*50*	*49*	*39*	*-22.0%*	*-20.4%*	*74.6*	*57.0*	*56.5*	*-24.3%*	*-0.9%*
Dropout Rate (8th graders no longer enrolled in 12th grade 4 years later)	2000-02	67	35	98	+46.9%	+183.1%	32.1	19.1	53.6	66.9%	180.2%
White males	*2000-02*	*6*	*2*	*5*	*-3.0%*	*+255.6%*	*31.4*	*10.3*	*69.6*	*121.3%*	*572.5%*
White females	*2000-02*	*6*	*3*	*5*	*-3.0%*	*+77.8%*	*34.4*	*16.2*	*69.6*	*102.4%*	*329.0%*
African American and Other males	*2000-02*	*30*	*23*	*50*	*+68.4%*	*+115.9%*	*35.8*	*28.6*	*58.7*	*64.1%*	*105.3%*
African American and Other females	*2000-02*	*26*	*7*	*37*	*+43.6%*	*+433.3%*	*28.6*	*10.4*	*45.3*	*58.7%*	*334.0%*
Young Adults Not Completing High School (18-24)	2000	413	521	484	+17.2%	-7.1%	35.5	38.9	32.4	-8.6%	-16.6%
White males	*NA*	*49*	*118*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*21.9*	*40.8*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
White females	*NA*	*44*	*28*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*22.4*	*33.7*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other males	*NA*	*139*	*279*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*42.0*	*50.4*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other females	*NA*	*181*	*96*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*44.0*	*23.2*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
Economics											
Poverty Rate	2000	1,394	1,701	1,417	+1.6%	-16.7%	38.5	49.1	48.1	24.9%	-2.0%
White children	*2000*	*96*	*92*	*110*	*+14.6%*	*+19.6%*	*9.3*	*13.2*	*22.0*	*136.6%*	*66.7%*
African American and Other children	*2000*	*1,298*	*1,609*	*1,307*	*+0.7%*	*-18.8%*	*50.2*	*58.1*	*53.4*	*6.4%*	*-8.1%*
Income of Families w/children (1999 $)	2000	$ 35,771	$ 32,445	$ 28,688	-19.8%	-11.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
White families	*2000*	*$ 52,720*	*$ 48,269*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other families	*2000*	*$ 26,440*	*$ 24,960*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
Adolescent Risk Factors											
Teenage Pregnancy (ages 14-17)	2001	39	19	17	-56.4%	-10.5%	10.0	5.1	5.3	-47.0%	3.9%
White	*2001*	*4*	*4*	*-*	*-100.0%*	*-100.0%*	*3.6*	*4.4*	*0.0*	*-100.0%*	*-100.0%*
African American and Other	*2001*	*35*	*15*	*17*	*-51.4%*	*+13.3%*	*12.5*	*5.2*	*6.3*	*-49.6%*	*21.2%*
Delinquency	2002	39	67	41	+5.1%	-38.8%	6.5	13.1	7.9	21.3%	-39.8%
White males	*2002*	*4*	*8*	*2*	*-50.0%*	*-75.0%*	*4.4*	*9.0*	*4.0*	*-9.1%*	*-55.6%*
White females	*2002*	*2*	*3*	*-*	*-100.0%*	*-100.0%*	*2.5*	*4.7*	*0.0*	*-100.0%*	*-100.0%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*19*	*36*	*20*	*+5.3%*	*-44.4%*	*8.5*	*20.3*	*8.7*	*2.3%*	*-57.2%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*14*	*20*	*19*	*+35.7%*	*-5.0%*	*6.8*	*11.2*	*9.0*	*33.1%*	*-19.2%*

*Closest available data to this year was used in many cases.
**BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Kids Count 2003

Anderson County

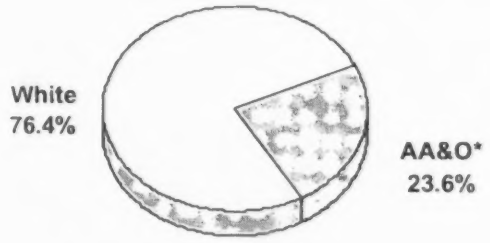
DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2000 there were an estimated 40,772 children under age 18 in the county. Of these, 31,130 were White, 8,444 were African-American, and 1,198 were other races. There were 36,080 children under age 18 in 1990, 38,678 in 1980, 35,713 in 1970, and 36,869 in 1960.

Children represent a shrinking portion of the county's population. Those under 18 constituted 24.6% of the population in 2000, down from 37.4% in 1960, 33.9% in 1970, and 29.0% in 1980.

In 2000 the 13,315 pre-schoolers under age 6 were 8.0% of the overall population: 7.4% of Whites and 10.1% of African Americans.

Figure 1: Population Ages 0-17 in 2000



* In all charts African-American is combined with other races, and often abbreviated as AA&O. Other races comprise 2.9% of children in the county, with "two or more races" at 1.6% and "some other race alone" at 0.6% as the largest Other groups.

FAMILY

Families have always been the most important influence in a child's life. Children depend on their families for material needs, stimulation and guidance. Family life is different in numerous ways from previous generations, and many families now face exceptional challenges.

Families with children now make up a smaller share of all households. Only 31.6% of all households in 2000, as compared with 44.0% of households in 1960, had children below the age of 18.

Births to Teen Mothers: In 2001, 125 babies were born to mothers younger than age 18. They were 5.6% of all babies born in the county; 4.5% of all White and 9.4% of all African-American and Other babies were born to teen mothers under the age of 18. Of the babies born to these teens in 2001, 91.2% were born to single mothers, including babies whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers.

In 2001, 324 babies were born to mothers younger than age 20. These babies were 14.4% of all born in the county; 12.2% of all White and 22.6% of all African-American and Other babies were born to mothers under the age of 20. Of the babies born to these mothers in 2001, 80.6% were born to single mothers, including paternity acknowledeged babies.

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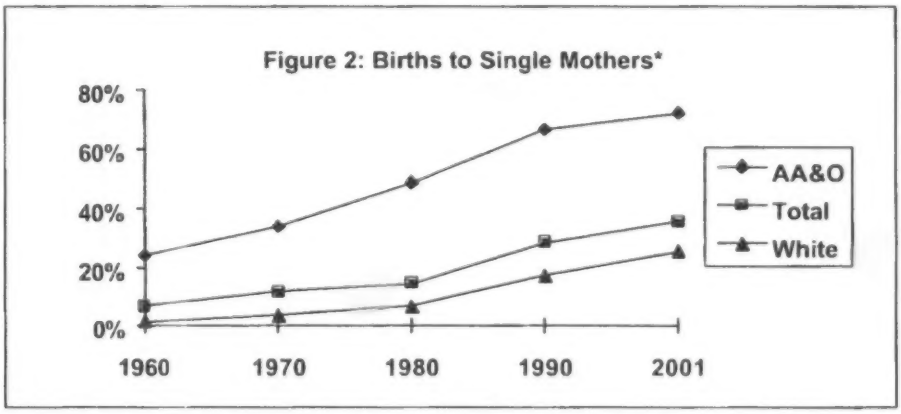
Education of Mothers Giving Birth: Children's success is strongly influenced by the education of their parents. In 2001, 544 babies, 24.2% of all babies, were born to mothers of all ages who had not completed the 12th grade. In 2001, 21.8% of White and 33.3% of African-American and Other babies were born to mothers who had completed less than the 12th grade. This is a substantial improvement from 44.8% in 1970. In addition, during 2001, 35.6% had completed 12 grades (33.9% of Whites and 41.9% of African Americans and Others) and 40.2% had more than a high school degree (44.4% of Whites and 24.7% of African American and Others).

Births to Single Mothers: Births to single mothers have increased steadily over four decades. In 2001, 357 babies, 15.9% of all babies, were recorded as born to single mothers. A decade earlier in 1990, the percentage was 20.1% and in 1960 it was 6.7%. In 2001, 8.9% of White children and 41.9% of African-American and Other children were born to single mothers. These numbers, however, do not include paternity acknowlegement births.

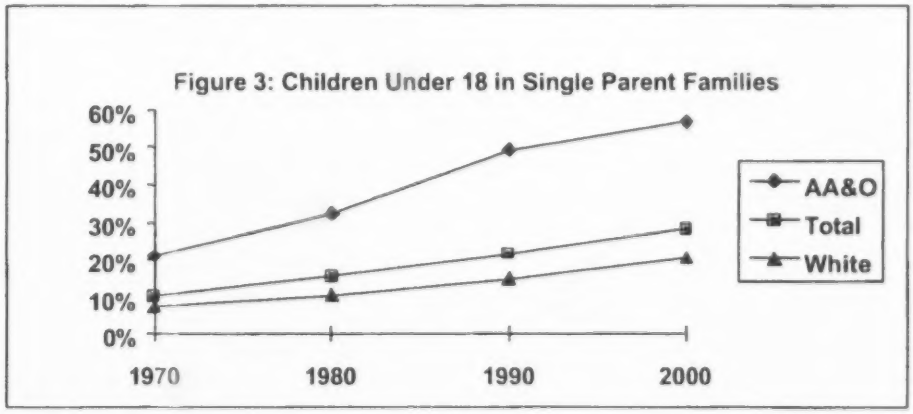
Thus, to these numbers should be added an additional group of 438 babies, 19.5% of all born in 2001, whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers. When the paternity-acknowledged babies are added, the total number born to single mothers in 2001 was 795, constituting 35.4% of all babies, 25.4% of White babies, and 72.3% of African-American and Others.



*Includes paternity acknowleged babies in 1980, 1990 and 2001. Prior to 1979, paternity acknowleged cases were not a statistical category, and thus were included in births to single mothers.

Divorce Rate: In 2001, 1,124 marriage licenses were issued, while 690 divorce decrees involving 570 children were filed. In 1970, only 410 children were in families involved in divorce.

Single-Parent Family: Increasing numbers of children live in single-parent families. In 2000, 10,161 children lived with only one parent. This was 28.2% of all children, up from 21.6% in 1990, 15.5% in 1980, and 10.2% in 1970. In 2000, 20.5% of White and 56.9% of African-American and Other children lived in single-parent families. Also in 2000, 2,957 or 26.8% of children under age 6 lived in single parent families: 17.9% of White and 58.5% of African American and Other pre-schoolers.



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Parents Working and Child Care: Increasingly, parents must divide their time between children and employers. In order to meet family financial needs, most parents must work and thus have less time for family life. In 2000, 64.0% of mothers with children under 6 and 72.0% with children 6 - 17 were in the labor force. This has increased substantially from 1960 when 44.0% of mothers with children under 6 were in the labor force. Most fathers also work: 61.3% of children under 6 are in families where the single parent or both parents work. Caring for children is a problem for parents unable to obtain quality, affordable daycare while they are at work.

Overall, there are 4,014 spaces in state-regulated childcare facilities* in the county, 88.5% of these are in licensed programs and 11.5% are in registered programs. Of the spaces, 82.3% are in licensed childcare centers serving more than 12 children, 9.3% are in registered or licensed family childcare homes serving six or fewer children, 3.2% are in licensed group childcare homes serving 7-12 children, and 5.2% are in registered or licensed church programs.

The homes and centers are severely constrained by the limited ability of parents to pay. In the county, the average weekly charge is $ 75.73 for centers and $ 66.01 for homes. Consequently, center wages are low: 16.1% of centers with pre-school staff and 53.8% of centers with assistant pre-school staff report paying these staff under $6 per hour. Paying $6-$8 per hour are 77.4% of centers with pre-school staff and 30.8% of centers with assistants. Low wages attract workers with limited education. In 45.2% of centers, most pre-school staff and in 61.5% of centers most assistants have only a high school degree. In 48.4% of centers few to none of the pre-school staff have early childhood credentials. In childcare homes, 61% of lead providers have no more education than a high school degree or GED; 17.1% have less than a high school degree.

Family Violence: In 2000, 1,417 domestic assaults were recorded by law enforcement officials. These domestic assaults comprised 35.0% of all assaults, which include aggravated assaults, simple assaults, and intimidation. Overall, 62.9% of all domestic assaults involve spouse abuse which constitutes 22.0% of all assaults. Since most family violence is not reported, the true incidence of family disruption is much more widespread than even the large number of reported cases would indicate.

Separation from Parents: Some children do not live with their natural parents. In 2000, 6.7% of all children did not live with their natural parents. Approximately 1,988 or 4.9% of all children lived with relatives, 554 or 1.4% lived with non-relatives, 72 or 0.2% were householders or spouses, and 133 or 0.3% were in institutional facilities.

Abuse and Neglect: In 2000-01, there were 659 investigations into reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children. Through its investigations, the Department of Social Services (DSS) determined that 230 of the investigations were indicated for abuse or neglect: 9.2% for physical abuse, 7.9% for sexual abuse, 1.3% for mental injury, 40.2% for physical neglect, 2.1% for educational neglect, 2.1% for medical neglect, 37.2% for threat of harm for physical/sexual abuse, and 0.0% for other types of abuse.

In the indicated cases of abuse and neglect, DSS determined there were 366 children who were victims of abuse or neglect. Of these, 44.2% were male, 55.8% were female; 70.8% were White, 29.2% were African-American and Other. By age, 46.7% were ages 0 - 5, 32.6% were ages 6 - 12, and 20.7% were ages 13 - 17. In the indicated cases, 23.5% of the children lived in two-parent families, 44.3% in single parent families, 26.2% with unmarried couples, and 6.0% in other circumstances.

Out of Home Placements: As of June 2001, 265 children lived in foster care. The median age at first placement in the county is 6.0 years. The ages of children in foster care were 23.4% 0-2, 12.1% 3-5, 21.1% 6-10, 11.3% 11-13, and 32.1% 14 and above. The foster care population is 47.9% males and 52.1% females. Regarding their future, 35.8% were under a plan for placement in adoptive homes, 37.0% for return to a parent or guardian, 4.2% for placement with a relative, 9.1% for independent living, 14.0% for permanent foster care, and 0.0% for other circumstances.

Adult/Child Ratio: A measure of potential adult attention for children from family and community is the ratio of adults to children and youth. In 2000 there were 3.07 adults for every person below age 18. This was up substantially from 1960, when there were only 1.67 adults for every person under the age 18. This indicates that today there are more adults potentially available to provide attention and care for each child than in the past.

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* This data is the best currently available; however, an effort is being made to check the coverage and improve the accuracy. As soon as more recent and complete data becomes available, it will be posted on the website.

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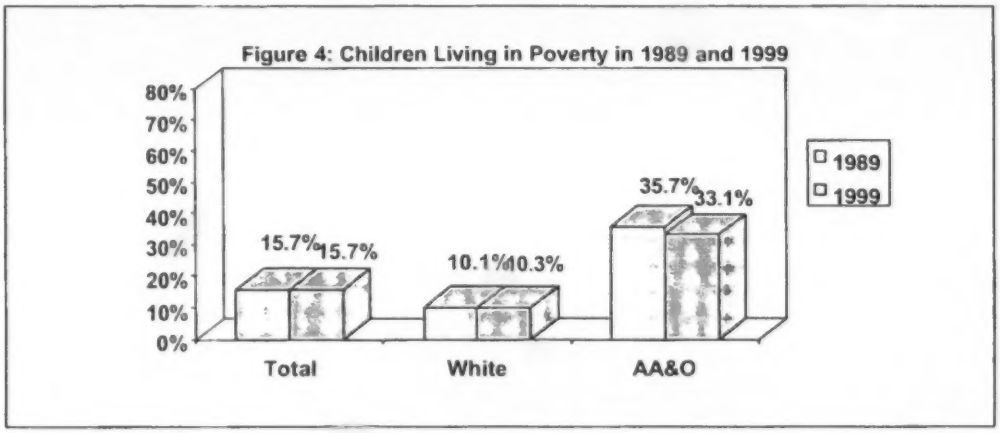
ECONOMIC STATUS

Low income makes it difficult for many families to provide the material and environmental enrichment necessary for healthy child development.

Poverty: In 1999, 6,340 children and youth under the age of 18 lved in 3,083 families with incomes below poverty, comprising 15.7% of all children and youth: 10.3% of Whites and 33.1% of African-Americans and Others. A rough estimate of child poverty in 2001 calculated by the Census Bureau was 23.0%.



Poverty has always been a serious problem. While the rate among children under age 18 in 1989 was 15.7%, it was 14.7% in 1979 and 17.3% in 1969.

Children and the elderly are the age groups most seriously affected by poverty. In 1999, 18.5% of children 0 - 5 (12.8% White, 35.9% African-American and Other), and 13.7% of children 6 - 17 (8.3% White, 31.6% African-American and Other), lived in poverty; 13.8% of persons 65 years and older lived in poverty. Historically, the poverty rate among the elderly was much higher. During the last three decades, federal policy actions have substantially improved the economic status of older persons but have not done so for children.

Single-parent families are most likely to be poor. In 1999, 37.0% of children in single-parent families lived in poverty, but only 6.1% of children in married-couple families were poor. Children in single-parent families made up 54.2% of all the county's children living in poverty.

In 2002, the poverty level was $15,020 for a family of three and $18,100 for a family of four. The poverty threshold is often criticized as an arbitrary number. People can still be poor but may be just above the poverty level. Federal programs utilize varying thresholds. For example, in 1999 there were 15,873 children ages 0-17 who were less than 200 percent of poverty; thus an additional 9,533 children were above the poverty level but could still be considered poor or near-poor with incomes below $30,040 and $36,200 respectively for 3 and 4 person families.

Children Under 18 in Poverty in 1999

Percent of Poverty	Total		White		African American & Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 50%	3,016	7.5%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 100%	6,340	15.7%	3,147	10.3%	3,193	33.1%
Under 125%	8,439	20.9%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 150%	10,633	26.4%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 175%	12,830	31.8%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 185%	14,010	34.8%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 200%	15,873	39.4%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total Children	40,772		31,130		9,642	

Note: Missing data will be released by the Census Bureau later in 2003, and will be posted on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

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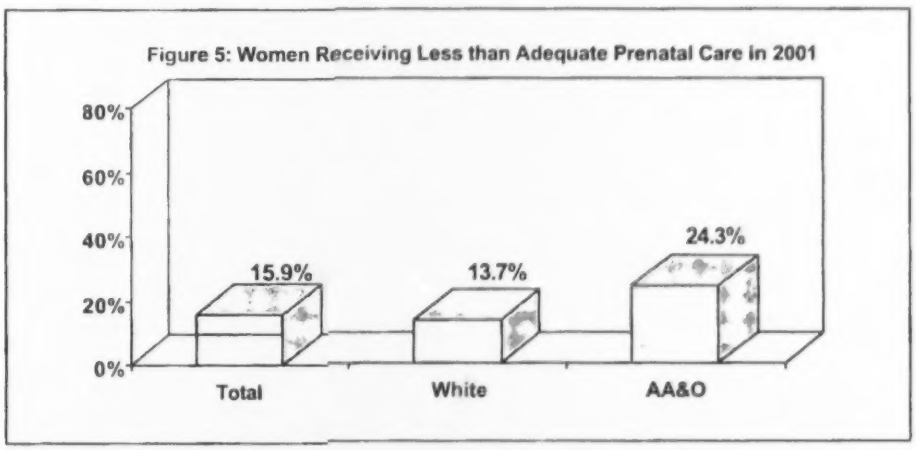
Income: The mean income of families with children in 1999 was $50,941. In 1989 it was $48,193, and 1979, it was $43,195, adjusted for inflation (i.e., in 1999 dollars). The mean income of single-parent families with children was $24,473 for single parents in 1999, as compared with $61,190 in married-couple families with children. From 1999 to 2000, Anderson County real dollar per capita income (eliminating inflation) increased by 1.3%.

Child Support Payments: There were 1,019[7] families receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families in fiscal year 2002, but only 23.7 % had child support court orders. Their average monthly payment of child support was $ 263, including child support receipts and tax refund intercepts. In addition, during fiscal year 2002, an estimated 2,364 parents in non-TANF families were obligated to pay a monthly average of $ 242. Information is not available regarding the amount actually paid.

HEALTH

Good health during a child's formative years helps children to reach their maximum potential. Good health requires healthy lifestyles and effective primary care, starting during the prenatal period and continuing through adolescence into adulthood. Children's health reflects the well-being of the community, as well as how adequately they are protected.

Prenatal Care: Early and continuous prenatal care can make a significant difference in assuring births of healthy babies. Delayed or insufficient prenatal care is associated with low birthweight and other health risks for infants. In 2001, 302, or 13.4% of pregnant women received no prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy. In 2001, 358, or 15.9% of pregnant women received less than adequate prenatal care: 242 or 13.7% of Whites and 116 or 24.3% of African-Americans and Others. In that same year, 19 women received no prenatal care at all.



Low Birthweight: Low birthweight of less than 5.5 pounds and very low birthweight of less than 3.3 pounds are associated with health risks and growth and development problems. In 2001, 206 or 9.2% of all babies in the county were born with low birthweight: 13.0% of African-American and Other babies and 8.1% of White babies. During 1999-2001, approximately 113 or 1.7% of all babies were born with very low birthweight and had the most serious complications: 1.2% of White babies and 3.3% of African-American and Other babies. The cost of hospitalization for each newborn low birthweight baby in the county in 1999 - 2001 was $11,327 and $83,241 for each very low birthweight baby, compared with $1,691 for a baby of normal birthweight. The result was excess cost in the county of $3,710,866 for all low birthweight babies, of which $2,718,335 was for very low birthweight babies.

Infant Mortality: During the decade since 1989-91, the overall infant mortality rate decreased by 17.0% from 10.7 to 8.9 per 1000 live births. For Whites, the rate decreased 17.5% from 8.6 to 7.1 per 1000 live births, while for African-Americans and Others the rate decreased 11.7% from 17.1 to 15.1 per 1000 live births. Over the three-year period 1999-2001, 37 White and 22 African-American and Other infants died before age one. By comparison, 41 White and 26 African-American and Other infants died during 1989-91.

[7] Number is an unduplicated count for the entire fiscal year.

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Child Injuries and Deaths: Childhood deaths and injuries reflect whether communities are safe for children. In 2001, children in the Anderson County went to the emergency room 4,322 times because of injuries. Boys are injured more often than girls. Children visit the emergency room at comparable rates for each age from 0 to 17.

In South Carolina, the major causes of death among young children are unintentional injuries, cancer, homicide, and congenital anomalies. Over the three year period 1999-2001, 18 White and 6 African-American and Other children ages 1-14 died in the county. During 1989-91, 18 White and 5 African-American and Other children died.

Immunization: Immunization rates are an important indication of whether young children are receiving adequate preventive health care. During FY 1989-90, 43.9% of children less than two years old seen in public health clinics were not fully immunized against such preventable diseases as Polio, Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Haemophilus Influenza B and Whooping Cough. After a concerted statewide campaign to increase immunizations, the percentage of children seen in public health clinics who were not fully immunized in January 2001 had declined in the county to 10.4%. The DHEC statewide birth registry survey of all two year old children found that 88.1% were fully immunized in 2001. This success demonstrates the potential to improve the status of children when the leadership of the state and its communities act decisively together.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Children and youth are infected with sexually transmitted diseases through sexual abuse or irresponsible sexual activity. National prevalence rates indicate: a 1 in 8 chance that sexually active 15 year-old girls will develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), the most rapidly increasing cause of infertility; 10% of sexually active adolescent girls and boys are infected with chlamydia, the most common cause of PID; and as many as 15% of teen girls are infected with human papilloma virus, often with strains linked to cervical cancer. Furthermore, research evidence indicates that susceptibility to HIV/AIDS increases by 3 to 8 times through prior infection with various STDs.

According to national studies, approximately 1 in 4 sexually experienced youth aged 13-19 acquires a STD ever year; since two-thirds of all high school students have had sexual intercourse and half engage in intercourse over a thr month period, this would suggest that 10-15% of teens are infected with STDs annually. For 2000, this would indicate th an estimated 1,513 to 2,270 youth ages 13-19 in the county were infected with a STD. Many infections are either n identified for treatment or not reported. In the county, there were 3 reported cases of children under age 15 and 120 you ages 15 - 19 infected with gonorrhea; 11 youth under 15 and 284 ages 15 - 19 were reported infected with chlamydi Youth with undiagnosed and untreated STDs often spread their infections.

Healthy Lifestyles: Although no county data is available, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2001 found that mar high school students are not following good health habits. The YRBS revealed that 26% felt that they were overweight; 42 were trying to lose weight: 27% of boys and 57% of girls. Although during a week 79% of high school students ate fru 59% ate salad, and over 83% ate vegetables, only 17% ate the recommended five or more servings of fruit and vegetabl per day. During a week, 49% did stretching or muscle strengthening exercises, and 59% exercised three or more times f 20 minutes in sports that made them sweat or breathe hard. However, 11% of students engaged in no vigorous or modera activity at all during a week: 8% of boys and 13% of girls.

Tobacco Use:* Cigarette smoking starts at a young age and often becomes habitual. In the county during 2002 among all students 15 and older, 20.3% first smoked by age 11, 40.0% by age 13, and 54.7% by age 15. In a typical month, 17.6% of 7th and 8th graders and 26.6% of high school students smoked cigarettes. White youths were much more likely than African-Americans to smoke: 23.6% of White male and 24.3% of White female 7th to 12th graders used cigarettes, as compared with 13.0% of African-American males and 13.4% of African American females. A smaller but significant group of high school students (10.6%) used smokeless tobacco monthly; it was used primarily by White males (22.8% compared with 1.8% of all other race and sex groups).

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* County participation in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking was not complete but county data is presented to provide the best available picture of teen risk-taking attitudes and behavior in Anderson County. All 5 districts participated, but there was only partial participation by the largest district (District 5).

Disabilities: No data are collected on the true prevalence of disabilities within the county. According to national reported estimates, over 10% of children and youth have developmental disabilities at any point in time, and more than 17 are affected at some time before age 18 by deafness, blindness, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, speech defects, development delays, learning disabilities, and emotional or behavioral problems. For 2000 this suggests that at least 4,077 children ar youth under age 18 in the county are currently affected by disabilities.

Approximately 5% of children and youth nationally have serious disabilities which have lifelong implications f work, social life and community living. Typically among children and youth, there are 1 - 2% who are mentally retarded, - 3% with serious emotional disturbances, over 1% with orthopedic or multiple disabilities, including cerebral palsy an many hereditary conditions, and under 1% with visual or hearing impairments.

Other chronic health problems also affect the lives of many children. Over 3% of children have one or more these limitations. Such serious chronic conditions affect 1 - 2% who have respiratory problems (asthma and chron bronchitis), 0.5 - 1.0% with neurological problems (epilepsy and seizures), and less than 1% with circulatory problen (congenital heart defects and acquired diseases).

Other disabilities are identified primarily in school performance. These would include 2,084 students in grades 12 with learning disabilities and 978 students in grades 1-12 with speech/language deficits.

Disabilities are caused by genetics, disease, poor prenatal conditions, injuries, and environmental factors. For example, lead exposure, primarily from paint dust, was detected in over 1% of all children screened, including 31 in Anderson County.

Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: While over 20% of 9-17 year olds meet diagnostic criteria for some form of mental disorder, the number with serious emotional disturbance and impaired functioning in family, school, or community activities is: 9-13% for substantial functional impairment and 5-9% for extreme functional impairment. The rates among poor children are at the higher end of these ranges. Based on a federal formula for estimating prevalence, in the county there are 12% or 2,471 seriously emotionally disturbed 9-17 year olds with substantial functional impairment and 8% or 1,647 with extreme functional impairment during the course of a year. Conduct disorders, attention deficit, depression, and anxiety disorders are the most prevalent, each affecting 3% or more of school-aged children. These disorders may occur simultaneously in a child. The prevalence rates are highest among males, adolescents, and disadvantaged persons in communities under stress and lacking social cohesion; depression, however, is more prevalent among females. On the YRBS, 20% of boys and 33% of girls in high school reported that during the past year they felt so sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that they stopped doing some usual activities. Another indicator of emotional problems is the 8% of high school students in South Carolina who reported that they had "attempted suicide" in the past year: 5% of boys and 10% of girls. Suicide attempts resulted in 4% of high school students reporting that they required treatment by a doctor or nurse for injury, poisoning, or overdose.

Inadequate Healthcare: No county level data is routinely collected regarding the number of children and youth with inadequate healthcare. According to estimates for 2000-02 by the Bureau of the Census through the annual Current Population Survey, the statewide average rate of uninsured children and youth under age 18 in families with incomes under 200% of poverty in South Carolina was 16.6%, and 9.9% above 200% of poverty. If these rates are applied to the county, there are 2,639 children in the county below 200% of poverty with no health insurance, and 2,471 children above 200% of poverty with no health insurance, for a total of 5,109 uninsured children in Anderson County. The number lacking basic accessible primary care is at least double the number lacking insurance. Those lacking primary care are often dependent on health services at school. The ratio of students to nurses recommended nationally is 750:1. In the county, this would suggest the need for 37 nurses, compared with 12 currently working in the schools.

Medicaid: For several years, the State of South Carolina has emphasized enrolling eligible children into Medicaid. In late 1997, South Carolina implemented its version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, Partners for Healthy Children (PHC), and aggressively pursued outreach enrollment for PHC and Medicaid. As a result, enrollment of children ages 0 through 18 in Anderson County has increased by 89.7% from June 1997 to June 2001; thus Medicaid and PHC were serving 35.8% of all children in that age range. The total Medicaid expenditures in South Carolina for services provided to children ages 0 through 18 for state fiscal year 2002 were $991 million, at an average statewide expenditure of $2,343 per child enrolled, approximate Medicaid expenditure for children in the county would be $34.1 million.

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In June 2001, the total number of Anderson County children, birth through 18, enrolled in Medicaid was 14,576. The total can be broken down into the following age and race groupings:

	White	African American	Hispanic	Other	Total
Children under 1	774	381	15	38	1,208
Children 1 - 5	2,757	1,603	38	156	4,554
Children 6 - 14	3,842	2,457	26	236	6,561
Children 15 - 18	1,378	847	5	23	2,253
Total	8,751	5,288	84	453	14,576

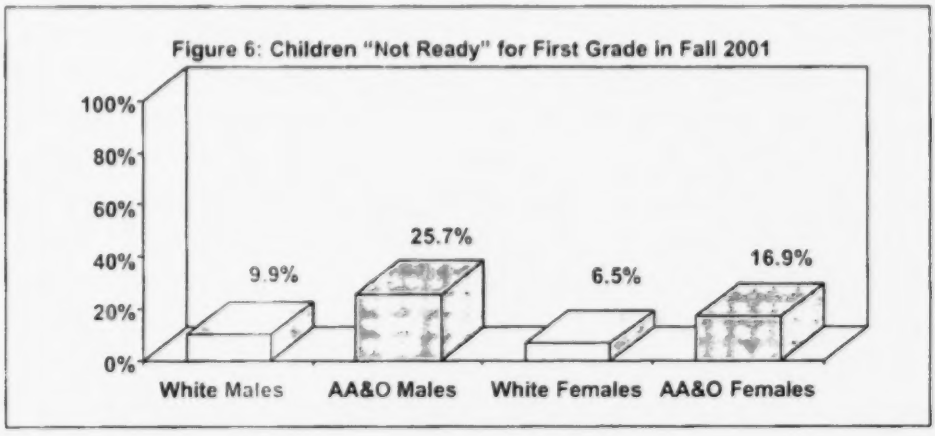
Ambulatory Care: When children lack adequate primary care, whether through lack of insurance, through limite access, or through failing to utilize available care, preventable and treatable conditions become serious and requi hospitalization. A useful indicator of inadequate primary care is the percentage of all hospitalizations that could typicall have been avoided through ambulatory care, especially for pneumonia, asthma, diarrhea and vomiting, dehydration, ar severe ear, nose, and throat infections. The share of hospitalizations for these types of conditions could normally be ke below 20%; for children in the county under the age of 18 during 2001, the share was 24.5% for Whites and 32.4% f African-Americans and Others.

READINESS AND EARLY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Too many children reach school without the readiness skills needed for success in learning, such as language, soc skills, visual and auditory discrimination, memory recall, and knowledge of colors, letters, numbers, names of objects, et Likewise, some schools are not ready to respond appropriately to the varying developmental levels of children in the ear grades. As a result, too many students do not experience the success needed to create the motivation and engagement th sustain learning.

1st Grade "Readiness" on 2001-02 Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB):

261 children not ready 11.9% children not ready



1st Grade Failures in 2002:

126 children failing 5.5% children failing

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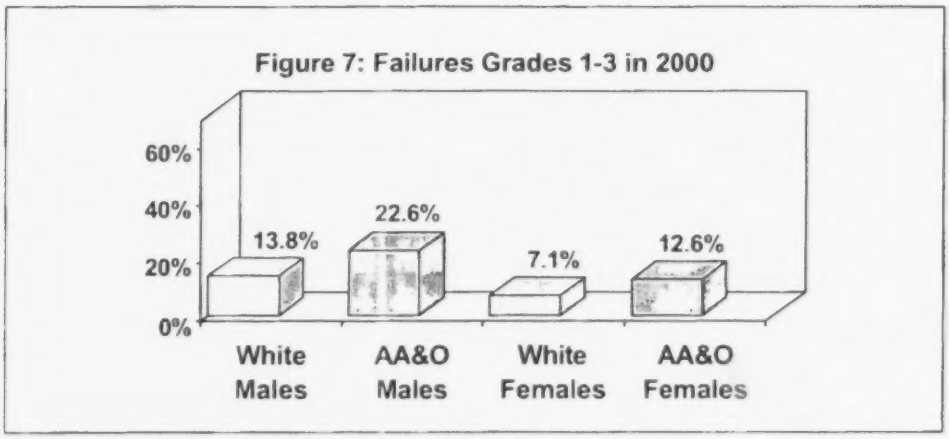
Failures Grades 1-3 in 2002 (approximate cumulative percentage of grades one, two and three):	
247 children failing	10.9% children failing



Over-age for Grade 3 in 2001	
321 children over-age	16.1% children over-age

Special Education: Large numbers of children are placed in special education classes. In elementary school, 706 six and seven year olds and 753 eight and nine year-olds were enrolled in special education classes during 2001-02, approximately 15.4% and 16.8% of their age groups respectively: 16.0% of White 8 – 9 year olds were in special education and 19.4% of African American and Others.

Readiness Summary: A serious problem exists in terms of student readiness and school success in the early grades. With 11.9% assessed not ready for the 1st grade, 16.1% over age in grade 3, and 16.8% of eight and nine year-olds placed in special education, unacceptably large numbers of students still begin school without good prospects of success in future school achievement and graduation; however, great improvement has occurred since the mid 1990s.

School Achievement

By the end of elementary school, significant numbers of students perform below minimum standards. The following standardized test measures, comparing student performance to state minimum standards, should be used in combination with routine classroom assessments more reflective of real-world performance skills.

Special Education: Special education placements reflect both the significant number of children with serious handicapping conditions and a large number of students with mild learning and behavioral problems that have not been accommodated successfully by the regular educational program. The result is a large system of self-contained, resource, and itinerant services to meet the needs of 978 speech and language impaired, 2,084 learning disabled, 275 emotionally disabled, 599 mentally impaired, and 234 physically handicapped, deaf, blind, and other handicapped students. Special education classes served approximately 15.2% of all students in grades 1 - 12 during 2001-2002.

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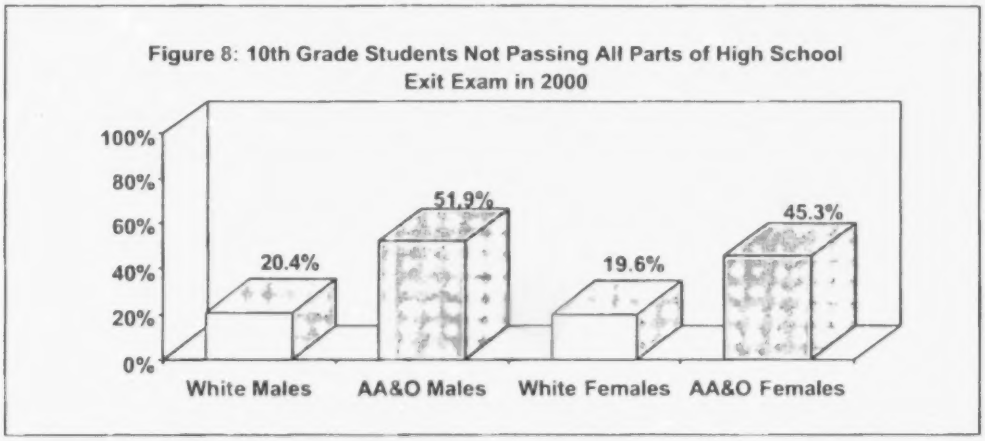
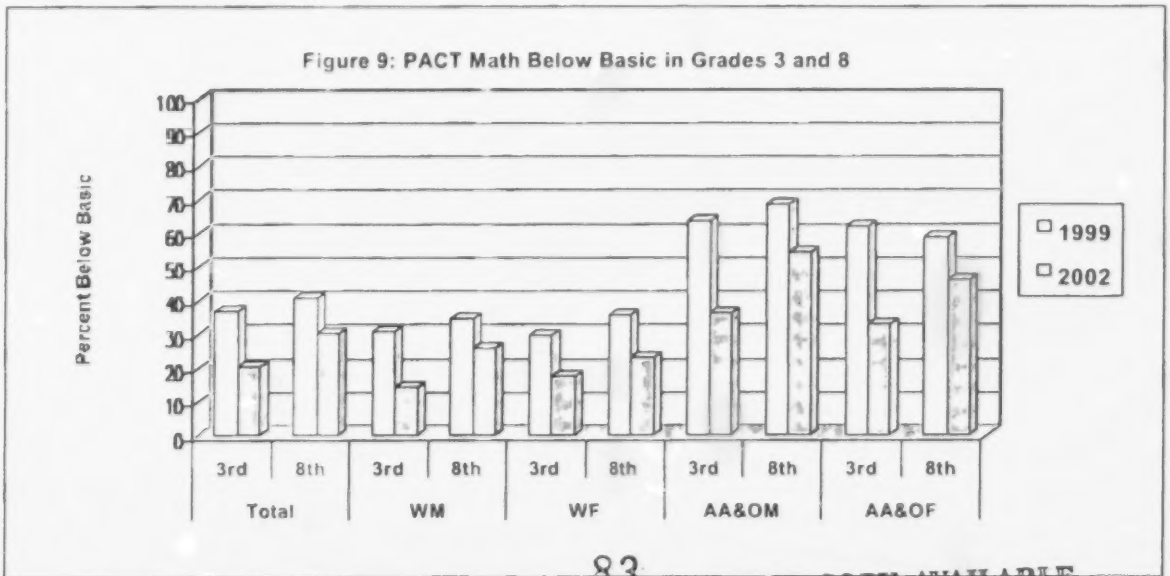
Exit Exam - not passing all parts of Exit Exam on first attempt in the 10th grade in 2002

423 students did not pass all parts	25.5% of students did not pass all parts



Achievement Trends: How has performance on standardized achievement tests changed over the past 20 years? During the 1980s, student performance on the BSAP tests improved dramatically. Between 1981 and 1990, the percentage of 8th grade students in Anderson County who did not meet standards declined from 54.6% to 21.8% in math and from 39.9% to 18.9% in reading. During the 1990's the BSAP trend changed, with 29.8% not meeting 8th grade math standards in 1998 and 23.9% in reading. On standardized tests, the first year when South Carolina students take the exam is comparable to the challenge encountered by the national norm group which took the test only once. Looking at first year data, the percentage of 4th grade students at or below the 25th percentile of national norms was 18.3% in 1983 on the CTBS, 25.2% in 1990 on the Stanford, and 25.1% in 1995 on the Metropolitan; for 9th graders, the percentage in the bottom quarter was 28.2% in 1990 and 25.4% in 1995. Although not comparable, the percent below basic on the 4th grade PACT in 1999, the first year of administration, was 32.7%, but in 2002 19.9% of 4th graders were below basic in reading and math; the percentage of 8th graders below basic in reading and math averaged 36.0% in 1999 and 29.7% in 2002.

PACT: The Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) was first administered in 1999 for grades 3 - 8 in math and reading/language arts. Math assesses skills in numbers, numerical and algebraic concepts, patterns and functions, geometry, measurement, probability and statistics. The percentage of students scoring below basic in math has decreased by 30.4% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 1,916 students below basic in grades 3-8 but there would have been an additional 836 at 1999 performance rates.



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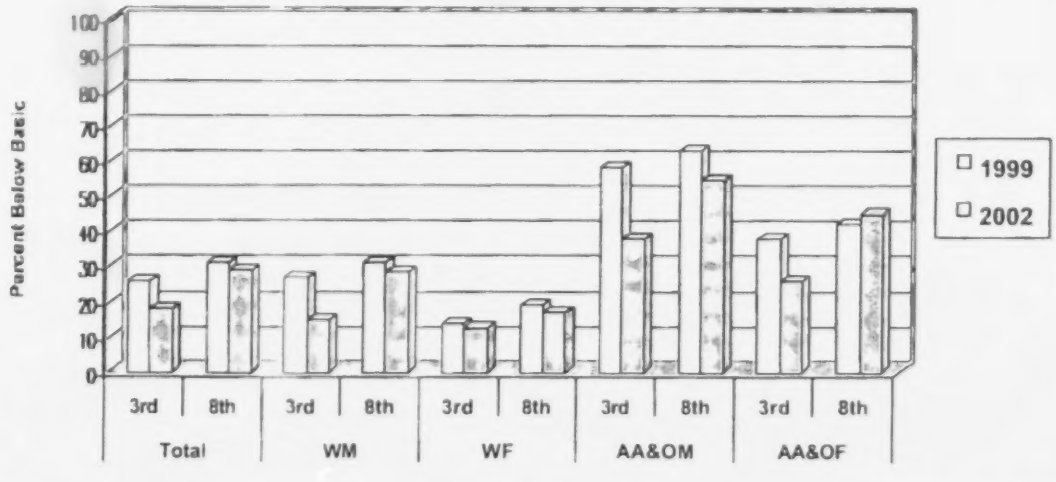
Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
	Math (%)					
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	20.5	14.3	17.8	36.6	33.2
	4	20.0	14.9	13.9	40.7	36.3
	5	25.1	19.7	16.0	48.0	47.5
	6	25.1	17.9	14.8	55.4	47.4
	7	31.1	27.4	21.9	54.8	47.6
	8	30.5	25.8	23.2	54.5	46.1
Basic	3	43.7	42.1	44.4	44.7	46.3
	4	38.2	34.0	41.9	36.4	41.4
	5	42.4	40.8	46.4	39.1	38.6
	6	37.8	37.8	41.7	30.9	33.8
	7	33.5	33.1	34.4	29.8	34.9
	8	42.6	41.5	44.8	38.7	43.2
Proficient	3	21.4	25.3	23.2	11.5	13.5
	4	24.2	29.0	24.5	17.3	14.3
	5	21.1	25.1	23.9	10.0	11.0
	6	22.5	25.8	26.8	8.3	14.9
	7	17.6	16.4	23.1	11.7	10.8
	8	16.5	18.9	19.8	4.5	9.1
Advanced	3	14.3	18.2	14.7	7.2	7.0
	4	17.6	22.1	19.7	5.6	8.0
	5	11.4	14.4	13.7	2.8	3.0
	6	14.5	18.5	16.8	5.4	3.9
	7	17.8	23.1	20.6	3.6	6.7
	8	10.5	13.8	12.2	2.3	1.7

Reading/Language Arts assesses reading, listening, speaking, writing, research, and communication with technology. The first PACT assessment found a high percentage of elementary and middle grades students performing below standards and only a modest number above basic. The percentage of students scoring below basic in reading/language arts has decreased by 17.8% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 1,755 students below basic in grades 3 - 8 but there would have been an additional 381 at 1999 performance rates.

Figure 10: PACT Reading/Language Arts Below Basic in Grades 3 and 8



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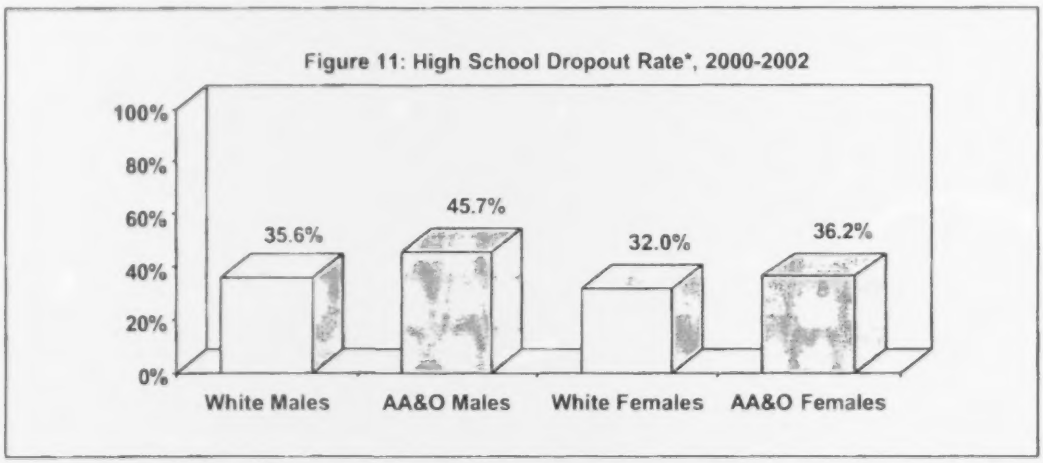
Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
	Reading/Language Arts (%)					
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	18.0	14.9	12.5	37.9	25.9
	4	19.7	18.4	10.9	47.4	26.3
	5	27.6	25.6	15.5	59.2	37.7
	6	28.4	25.9	14.5	62.1	42.1
	7	25.2	25.7	12.8	50.6	36.7
	8	28.9	28.4	16.8	54.3	44.8
Basic	3	34.5	35.1	31.0	36.2	42.0
	4	40.9	42.2	36.9	37.8	51.8
	5	46.0	48.6	46.3	35.5	48.3
	6	32.1	33.3	30.0	26.4	42.1
	7	43.3	43.6	41.2	44.2	47.8
	8	40.3	41.7	40.7	37.2	37.8
Proficient	3	43.3	46.6	50.5	24.1	28.8
	4	36.5	37.7	47.1	14.8	19.9
	5	25.3	25.2	36.1	5.3	13.1
	6	29.6	31.7	40.2	9.4	12.7
	7	26.9	26.7	38.0	5.2	15.2
	8	25.5	26.0	33.2	8.1	16.2
Advanced	3	4.1	3.4	6.0	1.7	3.3
	4	2.9	1.8	5.1	0.0	2.0
	5	1.1	0.6	2.2	0.0	0.8
	6	9.8	9.1	15.3	2.2	3.1
	7	4.5	4.0	7.9	0.0	0.4
	8	5.2	3.9	9.3	0.4	1.2

Dropout Rate - 8th grade students no longer enrolled in grade 12
(average of students for the three years ending 2000-2002)

750 students drop out annually **35.3% students drop out?**



Dropouts: Distressing numbers of students drop out and fail to graduate. An average of 27.3% of 8th graders failed to graduate** from county schools five years later during the period 1980-84, 30.5% during 1985-89, and 29.9% during 1990-94, 31.6% during 1995-97 and 35.3% during 1998-2000***.

During 2001-02, 99.1% of all who did graduate received the State High School Diploma, while the remaining 0.9% received a State Certificate for meeting the required Carnegie units but not passing the Exit Exam.

*12th grade enrollment compared to 8th grade enrollment four years earlier
** This is calculated by using 8th grade enrollment to graduation data.
*** 2001 data will be available soon and will be posted on the website.

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Fortunately, many dropouts enroll in adult education programs and either earn a high school diploma or obtain a GED. During 2001-02, 25 Adult Education high school diplomas were awarded to school completers and in 2001 349 GEDs were awarded in the county. Over time, adult education high school diplomas and GEDs increase the effective school completion rate substantially. In the 2000 Census, 18.1% of county resident 25 - 34 year-olds said they had not completed either high school or a GED.

Achievement Summary: The numbers of students testing below basic on the PACT and dropping out range from 18.0% to 47.4%. Thus, far too many students fail to acquire the knowledge, skills, learning habits, and motivation necessary to compete in the economy or contribute to society in the 21st Century.

ADOLESCENT RISK BEHAVIORS

Academic achievement is greatly influenced by the prevailing youth culture which often promotes popularity with peers and partying rather than studying and doing well in school. The prevalence of adolescent risk-taking and under-achievement is illustrated by the poor grades of substance-abusing teens.

Substance Abuser Rates at Levels of Academic Performance

	Usual School Grades in Past Year					Total
	A Range	B Range	C Range	D Range	F Range	
Smoked Cigarettes (in past 30 days)	10.7%	25.4%	38.8%	44.8%	60.9%	26.5%
Drank 5 or More Drinks on One Occasion (in past 30 days)	8.8%	19.2%	27.1%	28.1%	36.2%	19.3%
Used Any Illicit Drug (in past 30 days)	8.2%	16.0%	29.1%	35.3%	54.0%	18.9%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

As influence from parents and other adults declines during adolescence, significant numbers of students engage in violence, crime, school offenses, depressive emotions and attempted suicide:

Risk Behaviors Participated in During Past 12 Months	White Male		White Female		African American Male		African American Female		Total		Total (Grade 7-12)
	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	
Carried a handgun or knife for self-defense?	26.9%	29.2%	6.3%	5.9%	16.6%	31.7%	5.9%	8.5%	15.8%	17.5%	16.5%
Carried a handgun or knife as a weapon?	7.5%	9.9%	1.7%	1.7%	9.6%	15.6%	2.7%	3.5%	4.8%	6.2%	5.4%
Been in a fight with someone?	39.5%	28.5%	19.0%	13.6%	39.6%	38.1%	21.3%	22.5%	29.4%	22.0%	26.0%
Hit your boyfriend or girlfriend?	1.8%	1.1%	6.7%	9.2%	6.0%	6.0%	14.7%	26.3%	5.2%	6.9%	5.9%
Been hit by your boyfriend or girlfriend?	8.3%	5.6%	6.0%	8.3%	10.8%	12.8%	9.1%	10.6%	7.5%	7.7%	7.6%
Rec'd detention or in-school suspension?	26.8%	31.1%	14.8%	17.9%	29.4%	32.9%	20.7%	28.3%	21.4%	25.1%	23.1%
Been suspended from school?	11.9%	9.6%	5.3%	4.7%	18.3%	17.4%	8.5%	11.9%	9.3%	8.1%	8.7%
Stolen anything worth > $5?	12.2%	15.1%	7.2%	9.2%	14.3%	16.0%	8.9%	16.0%	10.0%	12.6%	11.1%
Had an accident while driving?	NA	13.0%	NA	11.6%	NA	12.0%	NA	8.0%	NA	12.0%	NA
Been arrested and booked?	3.7%	5.8%	2.4%	2.4%	5.9%	11.8%	1.6%	4.3%	3.1%	4.6%	3.8%
Felt hopeless for two weeks or more?	13.2%	14.6%	21.9%	28.2%	12.2%	9.0%	19.6%	29.7%	17.4%	21.4%	19.2%
Seriously considered attempting suicide?	7.4%	7.0%	9.0%	12.9%	8.0%	3.9%	5.4%	11.7%	8.0%	9.8%	8.8%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

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Adolescence is often a time of taking risks and asserting independence from adults. When asked whether they would tell an adult about a problem, the following percentages of county students said they would be "not likely" or "very unlikely" to tell if they:

-heard a student threaten to harm someone: 28.3% middle school, 41.6% high school;
-saw a student with a handgun at school: 17.4% middle school, 14.4% high school;
-saw a student with a knife at school: 20.4% middle school, 30.3% high school;
-saw a student with drugs at school: 27.9% middle school, 54.0% high school;

Alcohol Use:* In the county during 2001-02, 20.1% of 7th and 8th graders and 34.0% of high schoolers said they had used alcohol in the past month. Of White males in grades 7 - 12, 27.4% had used it in the past month, compared with 22.3% of African-American males; likewise, 29.3% of White females said they had used alcohol, compared with 26.1% of African-American females. Many youth first used alcohol at an early age: 13.3% had used alcohol by age 11 or younger, 33.0% by age 13, and 61.5% by age 15.

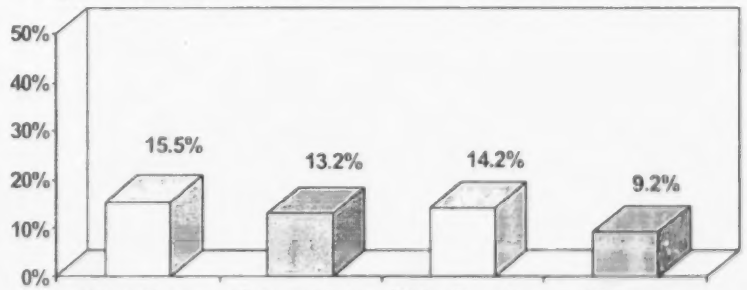
During the previous year, 22.5% of 7th and 8th graders and 28.9% of high schoolers said they had ridden with a drinking driver. Of seniors who drive, 20.0% said they had driven after drinking. Widespread use is encouraged by the ready availability and perceived low risk of alcohol use. Among students who expressed an opinion, 40.5% of eighth graders and 79.6% of seniors felt that beer was easy to get. Also, 71.3% of eighth graders and 72.5% of seniors felt there was not a great risk in drinking two drinks a day, and 46.6% of eighth graders and 52.5% of high schoolers felt there was not a great risk in drinking 5 drinks every weekend.

Heavy Drinking:* In 2001-02, 8.5% of 7th and 8th graders and 19.3% of high school students in the county repor drinking 5 or more drinks in a day during the past month. When asked how many drinks, if any, they usually consur 13.2% of all county students in grades 7 - 12 in 2001-02 responded 3 or more drinks at a time and 7.6% reported usually 5 more drinks. Among high school students, 19.0% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 11.4% 5 or mc Among seniors, 25.1% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 16.8% 5 or more; however 24.2% of seni said that they drank 5 or more drinks in a day once or more during the past month.

Drugs:* In 2001-02, 8.9% of 7th and 8th graders and 18.8% of high schoolers in the county reported using ille drugs during the previous month. Among students in grades 7 - 12, use was reported by 15.5% of White males, 14.2% Wh females, 13.2% of African-American males, and 9.2% of African-American females. Some young people initiated drug u at an early age: 6.3% had experienced their first use by age 11 or sooner; 17.9% had used a drug by age 13, and 36.2% by a 15.

In the past year, 10.1% of all high school students in the county who drive and 13.7% of seniors who drive said that they had driven after using drugs. Such use is encouraged by the ready availability of drugs: 17.8% of 8th graders who had an opinion said it is easy to get marijuana and 7.0% said it is easy to get cocaine or crack; 66.5% of seniors said it is easy to get marijuana and 28.3% said it was easy to get cocaine or crack.

Figure 12: Drug Use among Students Grades 7-12 during 2001-02*



* County participation in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking was not complete but county data is presented to provide the best available picture of teen risk-taking attitudes and behavior in Anderson County. All 5 districts participated, but there was only partial participation by the largest district (District 5).

Sexual Activity and Pregnancy: Many teenagers now engage in sexual activity. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) administered to a representative sample of high school students throughout South Carolina in 2001 showed that sexual activity begins at an early age: 7% of female and 21% of male students have engaged in intercourse before age 13; by age 15, 38% the females and 49% of males have engaged in sexual intercourse. Statewide, 48% of females and 50% of males in the 11th and 12th grades reported engaging in intercourse during the past three months. Furthermore, 27% of female and 33% of male 12th graders have had intercourse with four or more partners during their lifetimes.

Premature sexual activity often results in pregnancy. In the county, 176 girls between the ages of 14 and 17 became pregnant in 1999, 180 in 2000 and 153 in 2001. This represented 3.5% of all girls ages 14 – 17 in 2001; several times this percentage become pregnant at least once by age 18. The 2001 pregnancy rate for ages 14 - 17 was 2.8% for Whites and 5.7% for African-Americans and Others. Of all pregnancies of 14-17 year olds, 81.0% resulted in live births, with almost all other pregnancies ending in abortions.

Teen pregnancy rates increased substantially across the state during the 1980s; as a result, greater emphasis v devoted to preventing teen pregnancy. Since 1989, the teen pregnancy rate in Anderson County has decreased by 26.6 Overall, it has decreased by 34.9% for Whites, and decreased by 13.6% for African Americans and Others.

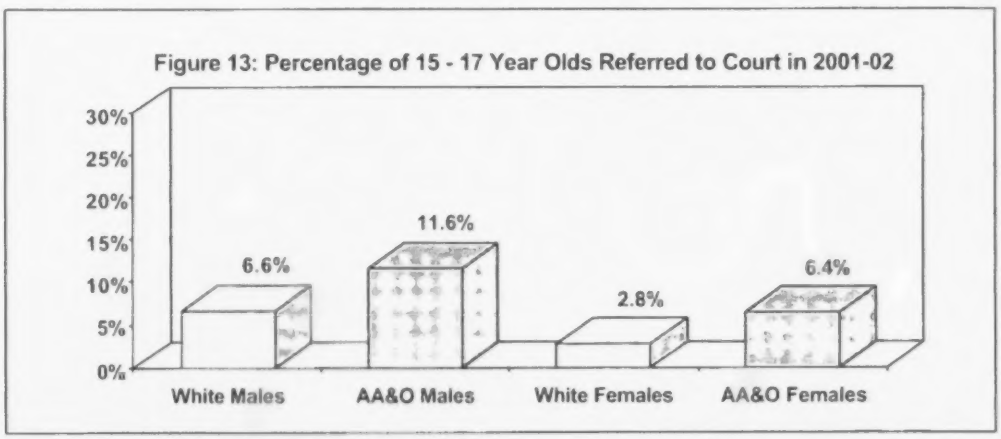
Juvenile Delinquency: In 2001-02, 706 individual juvenile offenders in the county were referred to the Solicitor for delinquency; of these, 16.3% were age 12 or younger, 30.9% were 13 or 14, and 52.8% were 15 or older.

Of the referrals to the family court, 5.8% of all referrals were for violent and serious crimes which include drug trafficking, acts against persons for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and serious property offenses for arson and burglary. Also, 5 juvenile cases constituting 0.5% of all referrals were for status offenses. Status offenses include truancy, running away, incorrigibility, and other offenses that would not be crimes for adults.

Delinquents are likely to live in families with low income: 20.7% lived in families with income under $10,000, 55.3% with $10,000-$19,999 and 24.0% with $20,000 or more. Furthermore, only 17.0% of delinquents lived with both natural parents, while 56.3% lived in a single parent household, 24.4% lived with other relatives, and 2.4% in other situations including parent plus step-parent. Delinquency or criminal activity occurs among many related family members: 37.2% had at least one family member who was delinquent or had some criminal record.

Youth referred to the family courts are likely to have been there before. In 2001-02, 54.1% had at least one prior referral and 21.2% had been referred to court 3 times or more. Many were referred at an early age. For delinquents 15 - 17 years old, 2.8% had been referred by the age of 10, 9.8% by the age of 12, and 26.1% by the age of 14.

During 2001-02, 371 youth ages 15 to 17 were referred to the family courts. In the county, 5.7% of all youth 15 to 17 were referred to court in one year and roughly double that percentage are referred at least once by age 18. Furthermore, the National Youth Survey indicates that typically across the United States the proportion of youth engaging in crime is two or three times the number ever apprehended. In 2001-02, there were 82 juveniles committed from the county to DJJ custody and placed in residential programs.



Not in School or Employed: During 2000, 968 teenagers ages 16-19 were idle, meaning they neither worked any hours nor were enrolled in school, even part-time. Idle teens comprised 11.4% of their age group: 10.9% for White and 13.3% African-American & Other teens. A much larger number, perhaps twice as many, were not engaged in either school full time or work full time. The data reflect a serious failure in both school completion and the critical transition from school to work, significantly affecting their development as future workers. For an in-depth description of the problems of young adults seeking to enter the labor force, visit our website at www.scyoungadults.org for our state and county reports on 18-29 year olds.

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Deaths: During 1997-2001, 53 youth ages 15 to 19 died. Historically, automobile accidents have been the major cause, resulting in 24 deaths between 1996 and 2000; homicides killed 5 youth 15 to 19 years old during the five-year period, and 3 youth committed suicide. Alcohol use is often a significant factor in deaths among teenagers.

SUMMARY

Facing the Scope of Problems: The data on families, economic status, health, readiness, school achievement, and adolescent risk behaviors provide a troublesome picture of the condition of children in Anderson County. The 28.2% of children in single-parent families, 15.7% in poverty, 35.3% not graduating from school, 34.0% of high school students using alcohol and 18.8% using drugs each month, and other data profiled in this report suggest that too many children are at risk of not growing up to become self-supporting adults, good family members, and responsible community citizens.

Emphasizing the Positive: South Carolina Kids Count reports have been developed to describe the problems of children in each of the counties. Fortunately, the majority of children and youth are doing well, and some very well. One simple description is the percentage of children who do not fall into the problem categories reported. For the county, 85.6% of children are born to non-teen mothers ages 20 or older, 64.6% are born to married parents, and 71.8% lived in two-parent families; 84.3% were not poor and 60.6% lived in families with incomes above twice the poverty level for a family of three, $30,040 in 2002; 90.8% of babies were born with normal birthweights; 88.1% were assessed as ready for the first grade, 69.5% scored basic or better on PACT for 8th grade math and 71.1% for 8th grade reading, 74.5% passed all parts of the Exit Exam in the 10th grade, and 64.7% graduated with their class. In a typical month, 66.0% of high school students do not drink alcohol, 81.2% do not use drugs, and 73.4% do not smoke. Unfortunately, the absence of a problem is not always an indicator of success. Some data is available for exemplary performance: for example, 47.4% of 3rd graders and 30.7% of 8th graders scored proficient or advanced on PACT in reading and 35.7% of 3rd graders and 27.0% of 8th graders in math. Unfortunately, data on success is not generally available.

Despite the limitations of success data, we must emphasize the positive in providing good support and appropriate influences for children and youth. Recent philosophy and publications such as those of the Search Institute (700 South Third Street, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN, 55415-1138, tel. 1-800-888-7828, www.search-institute.org), emphasize the critical importance of "developmental assets" to promote and support positive development. One short book from the Search Institute, (What Kids Need to Succeed, by Peter J. Benson, Judy Gailbraith, and Pamela Espeland, 1995) presents an excellent array of suggestions for promoting developmental assets through families, community, faith congregations, and schools. If each family, school, religious congregation and community organization assertively worked to build such assets, the problems described in this report would be reduced dramatically. Such positive family-school-community efforts could improve South Carolina's national Kids Count ranking from the bottom 10 to the average or even into the top 10 by prevention of unnecessary problems affecting children and youth, as shown on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

All data presented in this report is the most recent available at the date it goes to the printer. This version of the Kids Count report will be revised as more recent and additional data become available. Please send us your corrections and suggestions for improvement. We welcome your ideas for ways to make the state and county reports more useful and accurate. Please utilize local data sources whenever possible to supplement the profile provided through our report.

Data related inquiries should be directed to:

Anne Wilson, Data Manager (awilson@drss.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-4810

Calls for **copies of reports** for other counties and inquiries regarding more recent reports should be made to:

Kim Hazel-Lohr, Project Manager (khazel@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
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For **policy questions and general comments**, please contact:

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1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-2291

Comparable reports for all 46 counties and for the state can also be found on the World Wide Web at

www.sckidscount.org

Our website also provides: links to other websites for indicators in our report; high to low rankings for individual indicators; information on how to improve SC's national rank; and a glossary of definitions.

The national Kids Count Report can be found on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website at

www.aecf.org

Anderson County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Indicators		Number					Percent					R	
	Most Recent Year	1980*	1990*	Most Recent Data	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980 Rank	199
Health													
Low Birth Weight	2001	145	162	206	+42.1%	+27.2%	7.5	7.6	9.2	23.4%	20.8%	9	
White babies	*2001*	*98*	*95*	*144*	*+46.9%*	*+51.6%*	*6.5*	*5.8*	*8.1*	*24.6%*	*39.5%*	*29*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*47*	*67*	*62*	*+31.9%*	*-7.5%*	*11.0*	*13.6*	*13.0*	*18.4%*	*-4.7%*	*15*	
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	2001	610	557	358	+41.3%	-35.7%	31.4	26.2	15.9	-49.4%	-39.3%	9	
White babies	*2001*	*395*	*316*	*242*	*-38.7%*	*-23.4%*	*26.0*	*19.3*	*13.7*	*-47.3%*	*-29.1%*	*22*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*215*	*241*	*116*	*-46.0%*	*-51.9%*	*50.2*	*49.1*	*24.3*	*-51.6%*	*-50.5%*	*16*	
Infant Mortality	2001	83	67	59	-28.9%	-11.9%	1.4	1.1	0.9	-38.8%	-17.0%	13	
White babies	*2001*	*58*	*41*	*37*	*-36.2%*	*-9.8%*	*1.3*	*0.9*	*0.7*	*-46.4%*	*-17.5%*	*31*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*25*	*26*	*22*	*-12.0%*	*-15.4%*	*1.8*	*1.7*	*1.5*	*-17.7%*	*-11.7%*	*11*	
Family													
Births to mothers under 18	2001	185	152	125	-32.4%	-17.8%	9.5	7.1	5.6	-41.1%	-21.6%	29	
White babies	*2001*	*118*	*94*	*80*	*-32.2%*	*-14.9%*	*7.8*	*5.7*	*4.5*	*-42.1%*	*-21.7%*	*43*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*67*	*58*	*45*	*-32.8%*	*-22.4%*	*15.7*	*11.8*	*9.4*	*-39.7%*	*-20.1%*	*42*	
Births to mothers under 20	2001	418	387	324	-22.5%	-16.3%	21.5	18.2	14.4	-33.0%	-20.8%	28	
White babies	*2001*	*291*	*263*	*216*	*-25.8%*	*+17.9%*	*19.2*	*16.1*	*12.2*	*-36.4%*	*-24.1%*	*37*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*127*	*124*	*108*	*-15.0%*	*+12.9%*	*29.7*	*25.3*	*22.6*	*-23.7%*	*-10.3%*	*36*	
Births to mothers with less than a high school education	2001	674	580	544	-19.3%	-6.2%	34.7	27.3	24.2	-30.2%	-11.2%	23	
White babies	*2001*	*502*	*416*	*385*	*-23.3%*	*-7.5%*	*33.1*	*25.4*	*21.8*	*-34.1%*	*-14.3%*	*33*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*172*	*164*	*159*	*-7.6%*	*-3.0%*	*40.2*	*33.4*	*33.3*	*-17.1%*	*-0.2%*	*33*	
Births to single mothers****	2001	307	607	795	+159.0%	+31.0%	15.8	28.5	35.4	124.3%	24.1%	6	
White babies	*2001*	*100*	*280*	*450*	*+350.0%*	*+60.7%*	*6.6*	*17.1*	*25.4*	*285.3%*	*48.4%*	*26*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*207*	*327*	*345*	*+66.7%*	*+5.5%*	*48.4*	*66.6*	*72.3*	*49.5%*	*8.6%*	*30*	
Children in single parent families	2000	5,553	6,929	10,161	+83.0%	+46.6%	15.5	21.6	28.2	82.2%	30.7%	8	
White	*2000*	*3,165*	*3,862*	*5,799*	*+83.2%*	*+50.2%*	*10.6*	*14.9*	*20.5*	*93.2%*	*37.4%*	*31*	
African American and Other	*2000*	*2,366*	*3,042*	*4,362*	*+84.4%*	*+43.4%*	*32.4*	*49.4*	*56.9*	*75.5%*	*15.1%*	*36*	
Education													
Not Ready for Grade 1	2001	627	454	261	-58.4%	-42.5%	31.6	21.4	11.9	-62.3%	-44.4%	9	
White males	*2001*	*222*	*180*	*84*	*-62.2%*	*-53.3%*	*29.8*	*21.0*	*9.9*	*-66.8%*	*-52.9%*	*21*	
White females	*2001*	*152*	*100*	*50*	*-67.1%*	*-50.0%*	*21.4*	*13.4*	*6.5*	*-69.6%*	*-51.5%*	*24*	
African American and Other males	*2001*	*139*	*96*	*84*	*-39.6%*	*-12.5%*	*48.9*	*34.3*	*25.7*	*-47.4%*	*-25.1%*	*8*	
African American and Other females	*2001*	*113*	*78*	*43*	*-61.9%*	*-44.9%*	*47.1*	*32.9*	*16.9*	*-64.1%*	*-48.6%*	*25*	
Repeating Grades 1-3	2000	222	319	264	+18.9%	-17.2%	11.3	15.8	12.3	8.8%	-22.2%	4	
White males	*2000*	*82*	*102*	*116*	*+41.5%*	*+13.7%*	*10.8*	*12.6*	*13.8*	*27.8%*	*9.5%*	*3*	
White females	*2000*	*54*	*72*	*55*	*+1.9%*	*-23.6%*	*7.5*	*10.0*	*7.1*	*-5.3%*	*-29.0%*	*11*	
African American and Other males	*2000*	*59*	*87*	*61*	*+3.4%*	*-29.9%*	*23.5*	*34.6*	*22.6*	*-3.8%*	*-34.7%*	*20*	
African American and Other females	*2000*	*26*	*58*	*32*	*+23.1%*	*-44.8%*	*11.8*	*25.4*	*12.6*	*6.8%*	*-50.4%*	*11*	
Grade 3 Math below standards*****	2002	659	247	409	-37.9%	+65.6%	32.8	12.8	20.5	-37.5%	60.2%	7	
White males	*2002*	*223*	*80*	*111*	*-50.2%*	*+38.8%*	*27.5*	*10.2*	*14.3*	*-48.0%*	*40.2%*	*18*	
White females	*2002*	*209*	*68*	*131*	*-37.3%*	*+92.6%*	*27.6*	*9.8*	*17.8*	*-35.5%*	*81.6%*	*23*	
African American and Other males	*2002*	*117*	*47*	*86*	*-26.5%*	*+83.0%*	*52.2*	*20.6*	*36.6*	*-29.9%*	*77.7%*	*13*	
African American and Other females	*2002*	*109*	*52*	*81*	*-25.7%*	*+55.8%*	*51.4*	*23.0*	*33.2*	*-35.4%*	*44.3%*	*24*	
Grade 3 Reading below standards*****	2002	486	160	358	-26.3%	+123.8%	24.2	8.4	18.0	-25.6%	114.3%	6	
White males	*2002*	*185*	*60*	*115*	*-37.8%*	*+91.7%*	*22.9*	*7.7*	*14.9*	*-34.9%*	*93.5%*	*8*	
White females	*2002*	*131*	*36*	*92*	*-29.8%*	*+155.6%*	*17.3*	*5.2*	*12.5*	*-27.7%*	*140.4%*	*22*	
African American and Other males	*2002*	*103*	*44*	*88*	*-14.6%*	*+100.0%*	*45.8*	*19.6*	*37.9*	*-17.2%*	*93.4%*	*6*	
African American and Other females	*2002*	*66*	*20*	*63*	*-4.5%*	*+215.0%*	*31.1*	*8.9*	*25.9*	*-16.7%*	*191.0%*	*5*	
Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT Grade 4	1998	340	479	361	+6.2%	-24.6%	18.3	25.2	19.6	7.1%	-22.2%	4	
White males	*1998*	*136*	*186*	*119*	*-12.5%*	*-36.0%*	*18.5*	*24.7*	*16.4*	*-11.4%*	*-33.6%*	*8*	
White females	*1998*	*64*	*136*	*95*	*+48.4%*	*-30.1%*	*9.2*	*18.5*	*13.5*	*46.7%*	*-27.0%*	*7*	
African American and Other males	*1998*	*91*	*90*	*67*	*-26.4%*	*-25.6%*	*43.1*	*45.7*	*36.5*	*-15.3%*	*-20.1%*	*9*	
African American and Other females	*1998*	*48*	*65*	*80*	*+66.7%*	*+23.1%*	*23.3*	*31.1*	*36.4*	*56.2%*	*17.0%*	*4*	

*Year of data is approximate in many cases.
**1 is best, 46 is worst.
*** Data include paternity acknowledgements.
**** BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Anderson County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Education (continued)

Indicators		Number					Percent				
	Most Recent Year	1980*	1990*	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres
Grade 8 Math below state standards**	2002	1,105	394	609	-44.9%	+54.6%	54.6	21.8	30.5	-44.1%	39.9%
White males	*2002*	*361*	*138*	*202*	*-44.0%*	*+46.4%*	*45.3*	*18.4*	*25.8*	*-43.0%*	*40.2%*
White females	*2002*	*330*	*131*	*175*	*-47.0%*	*+33.6%*	*45.1*	*18.6*	*23.2*	*-48.6%*	*24.7%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*211*	*62*	*121*	*-42.7%*	*+95.2%*	*86.5*	*34.4*	*54.5*	*-37.0%*	*58.4%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*196*	*62*	*111*	*-43.4%*	*+79.0%*	*80.7*	*36.3*	*46.1*	*-42.9%*	*27.0%*
Grade 8 Reading below state standards**	2002	804	343	579	-28.0%	+68.8%	39.9	18.9	28.9	-27.6%	52.9%
White males	*2002*	*284*	*148*	*223*	*-21.5%*	*+50.7%*	*35.7*	*19.6*	*28.4*	*-20.4%*	*44.9%*
White females	*2002*	*193*	*81*	*127*	*-34.2%*	*+56.8%*	*26.4*	*11.4*	*16.8*	*-36.4%*	*47.4%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*188*	*64*	*121*	*-35.6%*	*+89.1%*	*77.4*	*35.2*	*54.3*	*-29.8%*	*54.3%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*134*	*49*	*108*	*-19.4%*	*+120.4%*	*55.6*	*28.5*	*44.8*	*-19.4%*	*57.2%*
Grade 9 Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT	1998	NA	524	493	NA	-5.9%	NA	28.2	23.1	NA	-18.1%
White males	*1998*	*NA*	*211*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*29.4*	*21.3*	*NA*	*-27.6%*
White females	*1998*	*NA*	*133*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*17.8*	*14.4*	*NA*	*-19.1%*
African American and Other males	*1998*	*NA*	*105*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*52.5*	*42.2*	*NA*	*-19.6%*
African American and Other females	*1998*	*NA*	*74*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*38.5*	*42.7*	*NA*	*10.9%*
Exit Exam (not passing all parts on 1st attempt)	2002	793	407	423	-46.7%	+3.9%	41.8	25.1	25.5	-39.0%	1.6%
White males	*2002*	*257*	*153*	*134*	*-47.9%*	*-12.4%*	*34.9*	*24.0*	*20.4*	*-41.5%*	*-15.0%*
White females	*2002*	*237*	*101*	*134*	*-43.5%*	*+32.7%*	*32.4*	*15.6*	*19.6*	*-39.5%*	*25.6%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*143*	*60*	*67*	*-53.1%*	*+11.7%*	*73.7*	*41.1*	*51.9*	*-29.6%*	*26.3%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*156*	*76*	*87*	*-44.2%*	*+14.5%*	*66.1*	*43.4*	*45.3*	*-31.5%*	*4.4%*
Dropout Rate (8th graders no longer enrolled in 12th grade 4 years later)	2000-02	644	566	750	+16.5%	+32.4%	29.4	26.5	35.3	20.4%	33.1%
White males	*2000-02*	*264*	*260*	*310*	*+17.8%*	*+19.4%*	*30.5*	*29.9*	*35.6*	*16.5%*	*19.0%*
White females	*2000-02*	*244*	*174*	*255*	*+4.6%*	*+46.4%*	*29.6*	*22.1*	*32.0*	*8.2%*	*45.0%*
African American and Other males	*2000-02*	*82*	*84*	*101*	*+23.5%*	*+19.8%*	*31.8*	*33.7*	*45.7*	*43.5%*	*35.7%*
African American and Other females	*2000-02*	*55*	*48*	*84*	*+52.7%*	*+75.0%*	*22.1*	*21.5*	*36.2*	*63.9%*	*68.6%*
Young Adults Not Completing High School (18-24)	2000	5,514	4,069	3,960	-28.2%	-2.7%	34.8	29.6	18.1	-48.1%	-39.0%
White males	*NA*	*2,224*	*1,658*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*36.1*	*30.8*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
White females	*NA*	*1,988*	*1,446*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*31.2*	*26.3*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other males	*NA*	*626*	*395*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*43.3*	*34.8*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other females	*NA*	*676*	*570*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*36.4*	*33.6*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*

Economics

Poverty Rate	2000	5,639	5,610	6,340	+12.4%	+13.0%	14.7	15.7	15.7	6.8%	0.0%
White children	*2000*	*3,087*	*2,820*	*3,147*	*+1.9%*	*+11.6%*	*10.3*	*10.1*	*10.3*	*0.0%*	*2.0%*
African American and Other children	*2000*	*2,512*	*2,790*	*3,193*	*+27.1%*	*+14.4%*	*30.3*	*35.7*	*33.1*	*9.3%*	*-7.2%*
Income of Families w/children (1999 $)	2000	$ 43,195	$ 48,193	$ 50,941	+17.9%	+5.7%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
White families	*2000*	*$ 45,600*	*$ 51,805*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other families	*2000*	*$ 31,357*	*$ 30,881*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*

Adolescent Risk Factors

Teenage Pregnancy (ages 14-17)	2001	269	220	153	-43.1%	-30.5%	5.7	5.2	3.5	-38.6%	-32.7%
White	*2001*	*179*	*136*	*98*	*-45.3%*	*-27.9%*	*4.9*	*4.1*	*2.8*	*-42.6%*	*-31.7%*
African American and Other	*2001*	*90*	*84*	*55*	*-38.9%*	*-34.5%*	*8.6*	*8.8*	*5.7*	*-33.5%*	*-35.2%*
Delinquency	2002	190	380	371	+95.3%	-2.4%	2.7	5.8	5.7	109.5%	-2.5%
White males	*2002*	*85*	*171*	*171*	*+101.2%*	*+0.0%*	*3.1*	*6.6*	*6.6*	*112.2%*	*-0.3%*
White females	*2002*	*54*	*88*	*70*	*+29.6%*	*-20.5%*	*2.0*	*3.5*	*2.8*	*40.0%*	*-20.0%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*31*	*79*	*81*	*+161.3%*	*+2.5%*	*4.2*	*11.0*	*11.6*	*175.5%*	*5.2%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*20*	*42*	*49*	*+145.0%*	*+16.7%*	*2.5*	*5.7*	*6.4*	*157.9%*	*13.1%*

*Closest available data to this year was used in many cases.

**BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Kids Count 2003

Bamberg County

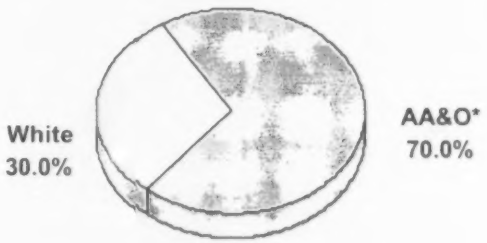
DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2000 there were an estimated 4,235 children under age 18 in the county. Of these, 1,271 were White, 2,898 were African-American, and 66 were other races. There were 4,906 children under age 18 in 1990, 5,770 in 1980, 6,181 in 1970, and 7,167 in 1960.

Children represent a shrinking portion of the county's population. Those under 18 constituted 25.4% of the population in 2000, down from 44.0% in 1960, 38.8% in 1970, and 31.8% in 1980.

In 2000 the 1,261 pre-schoolers under age 6 were 7.6% of the overall population: 6.6% of Whites and 8.0% of African Americans.

Figure 1: Population Ages 0-17 in 2000



* In all charts African-American is combined with other races, and often abbreviated as AA&O. Other races comprise 1.6% of children in the county, with "two or more races" at 1.0% and Asian Alone at 0.3% as the largest Other groups.

FAMILY

Families have always been the most important influence in a child's life. Children depend on their families for material needs, stimulation and guidance. Family life is different in numerous ways from previous generations, and many families now face exceptional challenges.

Families with children now make up a smaller share of all households. Only 31.1% of all households in 2000, as compared with 45.0% of households in 1960, had children below the age of 18.

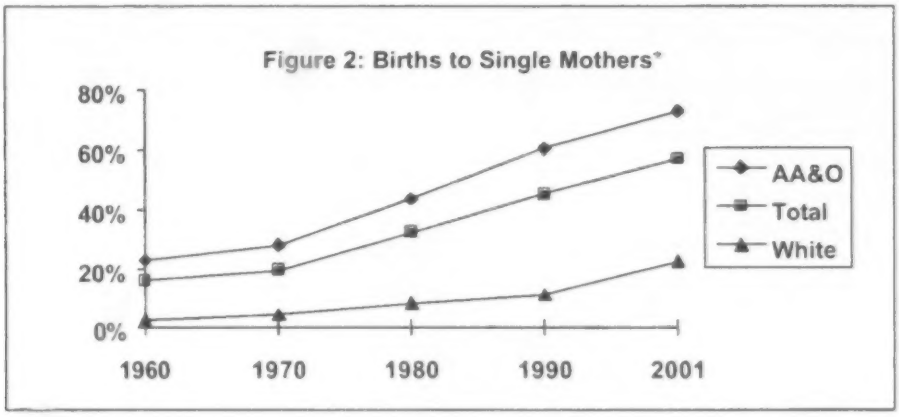
Births to Teen Mothers: In 2001, 19 babies were born to mothers younger than age 18. They were 9.0% of all babies born in the county; 6.0% of all White and 10.4% of all African-American and Other babies were born to teen mothers under the age of 18. Of the babies born to these teens in 2001, 100.0% were born to single mothers, including babies whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers.

In 2001, 50 babies were born to mothers younger than age 20. These babies were 23.7% of all born in the county; 14.9% of all White and 27.8% of all African-American and Other babies were born to mothers under the age of 20. Of the babies born to these mothers in 2001, 88.0% were born to single mothers, including paternity acknowledeged babies.

Education of Mothers Giving Birth: Children's success is strongly influenced by the education of their parents. In 2001, 55 babies, 26.1% of all babies, were born to mothers of all ages who had not completed the 12th grade. In 2001, 22.4% of White and 27.8% of African-American and Other babies were born to mothers who had completed less than the 12th grade. This is a substantial improvement from 60.0% in 1970. In addition, during 2001, 34.1% had completed 12 grades (40.3% of Whites and 31.3% of African Americans and Others) and 39.8% had more than a high school degree (37.3% of Whites and 41.0% of African American and Others).

Births to Single Mothers: Births to single mothers have increased steadily over four decades. In 2001, 77 babies, 36.5% of all babies, were recorded as born to single mothers. A decade earlier in 1990, the percentage was 39.9% and in 1960 it was 15.9%. In 2001, 11.9% of White children and 47.9% of African-American and Other children were born to single mothers. These numbers, however, do not include paternity acknowlegement births.

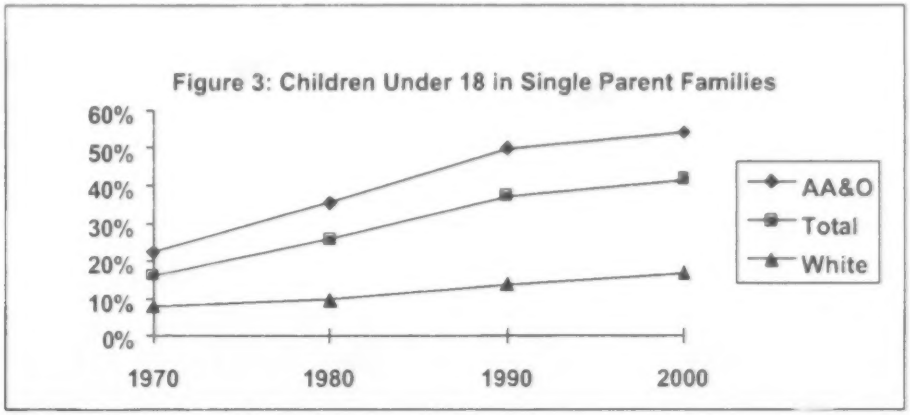
Thus, to these numbers should be added an additional group of 43 babies, 20.4% of all born in 2001, whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers. When the paternity-acknowledged babies are added, the total number born to single mothers in 2001 was 120, constituting 56.9% of all babies, 22.4% of White babies, and 72.9% of African-American and Others.



*Includes paternity acknowleged babies in 1980, 1990 and 2001. Prior to 1979, paternity acknowleged cases were not a statistical category, and thus were included in births to single mothers.

Divorce Rate: In 2001, 111 marriage licenses were issued, while 56 divorce decrees involving 41 children were filed. In 1970, only 23 children were in families involved in divorce.

Single-Parent Family: Increasing numbers of children live in single-parent families. In 2000, 1,433 children lived with only one parent. This was 41.6% of all children, up from 37.3% in 1990, 25.8% in 1980, and 16.2% in 1970. In 2000, 16.9% of White and 54.1% of African-American and Other children lived in single-parent families. Also in 2000, 422 or 39.6% of children under age 6 lived in single parent families: 11.3% of White and 56.6% of African American and Other pre-schoolers.



Parents Working and Child Care: Increasingly, parents must divide their time between children and employers. In order to meet family financial needs, most parents must work and thus have less time for family life. In 2000, 72.3% of mothers with children under 6 and 70.5% with children 6 - 17 were in the labor force. This has increased substantially from 1960 when 39.0% of mothers with children under 6 were in the labor force. Most fathers also work: 64.8% of children under 6 are in families where the single parent or both parents work. Caring for children is a problem for parents unable to obtain quality, affordable daycare while they are at work.

Overall, there are 724 spaces in state-regulated childcare facilities* in the county, 94.2% of these are in licensed programs and 5.8% are in registered programs. Of the spaces, 83.3% are in licensed childcare centers serving more than 12 children, 5.8% are in registered or licensed family childcare homes serving six or fewer children, 3.3% are in licensed group childcare homes serving 7-12 children, and 7.6% are in registered or licensed church programs.

The homes and centers are severely constrained by the limited ability of parents to pay. In the county, the average weekly charge is $ 62.08 for centers and $ 53.75 for homes. Consequently, center wages are low: 80% of centers with pre-school staff and 66.7% of centers with assistant pre-school staff report paying these staff under $6 per hour. Paying $6-$8 per hour are 0% of centers with pre-school staff and 0% of centers with assistants. Low wages attract workers with limited education. In 40% of centers, most pre-school staff and in 33.3% of centers most assistants have only a high school degree. In 40% of centers few to none of the pre-school staff have early childhood credentials. In childcare homes, 50% of lead providers have no more education than a high school degree or GED; 0% have less than a high school degree.

Family Violence: In 2000, 121 domestic assaults were recorded by law enforcement officials. These domestic assaults comprised 29.7% of all assaults, which include aggravated assaults, simple assaults, and intimidation. Overall, 57.0% of all domestic assaults involve spouse abuse which constitutes 16.9% of all assaults. Since most family violence is not reported, the true incidence of family disruption is much more widespread than even the large number of reported cases would indicate.

Separation from Parents: Some children do not live with their natural parents. In 2000, 11.4% of all children did not live with their natural parents. Approximately 355 or 8.4% of all children lived with relatives, 81 or 1.9% lived with non-relatives, 5 or 0.1% were householders or spouses, and 44 or 1.0% were in institutional facilities.

Abuse and Neglect: In 2000-01, there were 49 investigations into reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children. Through its investigations, the Department of Social Services (DSS) determined that 22 of the investigations were indicated for abuse or neglect: 11.1% for physical abuse, 14.8% for sexual abuse, 0.0% for mental injury, 55.6% for physical neglect, 0.0% for educational neglect, 0.0% for medical neglect, 18.5% for threat of harm for physical/sexual abuse, and 0.0% for other types of abuse.

In the indicated cases of abuse and neglect, DSS determined there were 39 children who were victims of abuse or neglect. Of these, 35.9% were male, 64.1% were female; 30.8% were White, 69.2% were African-American and Other. By age, 25.6% were ages 0 - 5, 41.0% were ages 6 - 12, and 33.3% were ages 13 - 17. In the indicated cases, 28.2% of the children lived in two-parent families, 43.6% in single parent families, 28.2% with unmarried couples, and 0.0% in other circumstances.

Out of Home Placements: As of June 2001, 21 children lived in foster care. The median age at first placement in the county is 6.3 years. The ages of children in foster care were 14.3% 0-2, 9.5% 3-5, 19.1% 6-10, 23.8% 11-13, and 33.3% 14 and above. The foster care population is 52.4% males and 47.6% females. Regarding their future, 38.1% were under a plan for placement in adoptive homes, 4.8% for return to a parent or guardian, 9.5% for placement with a relative, 19.1% for independent living, 28.6% for permanent foster care, and 0.0% for other circumstances.

Adult/Child Ratio: A measure of potential adult attention for children from family and community is the ratio of adults to children and youth. In 2000 there were 2.93 adults for every person below age 18. This was up substantially from 1960, when there were only 1.27 adults for every person under the age 18. This indicates that today there are more adults potentially available to provide attention and care for each child than in the past.

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* This data is the best currently available; however, an effort is being made to check the coverage and improve the accuracy. As soon as more recent and complete data becomes available, it will be posted on the website.

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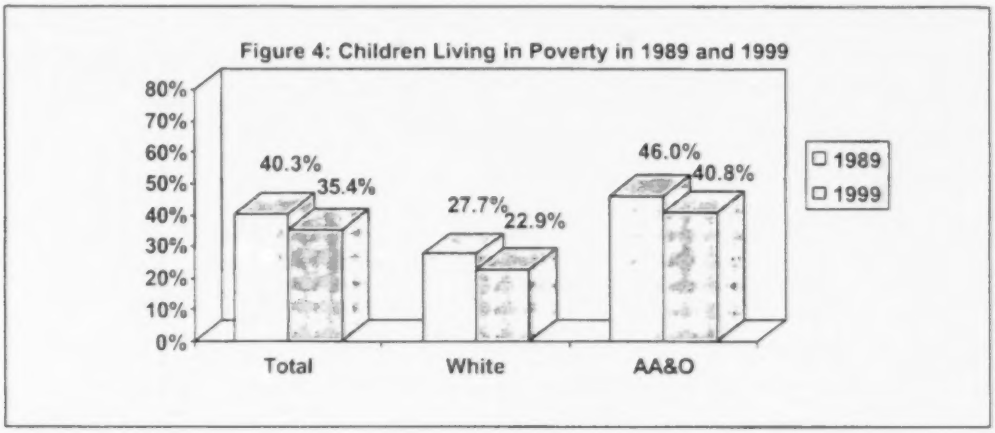
ECONOMIC STATUS

Low income makes it difficult for many families to provide the material and environmental enrichment necessary for healthy child development.

Poverty: In 1999, 1,485 children and youth under the age of 18 lived in 719 families with incomes below poverty, comprising 35.4% of all children and youth: 22.9% of Whites and 40.8% of African-Americans and Others. A rough estimate of child poverty in 2001 calculated by the Census Bureau was 23.0%.



Poverty has always been a serious problem. While the rate among children under age 18 in 1989 was 40.3%, it was 35.4% in 1979 and 39.8% in 1969.

Children and the elderly are the age groups most seriously affected by poverty. In 1999, 38.0% of children 0 - 5 (20.3% White, 46.6% African-American and Other), and 32.9% of children 6 - 17 (23.9% White, 36.8% African-American and Other), lived in poverty; 25.8% of persons 65 years and older lived in poverty. Historically, the poverty rate among the elderly was much higher. During the last three decades, federal policy actions have substantially improved the economic status of older persons but have not done so for children.

Single-parent families are most likely to be poor. In 1999, 54.6% of children in single-parent families lived in poverty, but only 18.7% of children in married-couple families were poor. Children in single-parent families made up 70.3% of all the county's children living in poverty.

In 2002, the poverty level was $15,020 for a family of three and $18,100 for a family of four. The poverty threshold is often criticized as an arbitrary number. People can still be poor but may be just above the poverty level. Federal programs utilize varying thresholds. For example, in 1999 there were 2,742 children ages 0-17 who were less than 200 percent of poverty; thus an additional 1,257 children were above the poverty level but could still be considered poor or near-poor with incomes below $30,040 and $36,200 respectively for 3 and 4 person families.

Children Under 18 in Poverty in 1999

Percent of Poverty	Total		White		African American & Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 50%	567	13.5%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 100%	1,485	35.4%	292	22.9%	1,193	40.8%
Under 125%	1,954	46.5%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 150%	2,227	53.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 175%	2,422	57.7%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 185%	2,558	60.9%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 200%	2,742	65.3%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total Children	4,235		1,271		2,964	

Note: Missing data will be released by the Census Bureau later in 2003, and will be posted on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

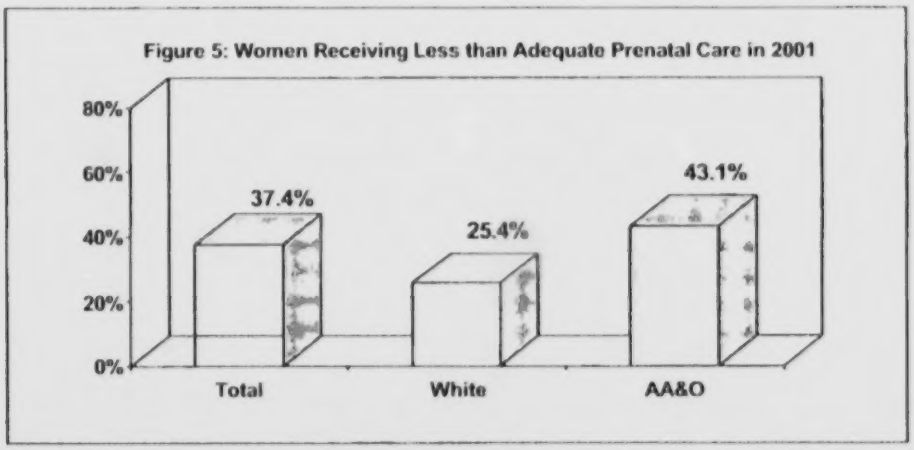
Income: The mean income of families with children in 1999 was $32,420. In 1989 it was $38,758, and 1979, it was $36,881, adjusted for inflation (i.e., in 1999 dollars). The mean income of single-parent families with children was $17,570 for single parents in 1999, as compared with $43,851 in married-couple families with children. From 1999 to 2000, Bamberg County real dollar per capita income (eliminating inflation) remained the same.

Child Support Payments: There were 205[7] families receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families in fiscal year 2002, but only 26.3 % had child support court orders. Their average monthly payment of child support was $ 231, including child support receipts and tax refund intercepts. In addition, during fiscal year 2002, an estimated 354 parents in non-TANF families were obligated to pay a monthly average of $ 206. Information is not available regarding the amount actually paid.

HEALTH

Good health during a child's formative years helps children to reach their maximum potential. Good health requires healthy lifestyles and effective primary care, starting during the prenatal period and continuing through adolescence into adulthood. Children's health reflects the well-being of the community, as well as how adequately they are protected.

Prenatal Care: Early and continuous prenatal care can make a significant difference in assuring births of healthy babies. Delayed or insufficient prenatal care is associated with low birthweight and other health risks for infants. In 2001, 54, or 25.6% of pregnant women received no prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy. In 2001, 79, or 37.4% of pregnant women received less than adequate prenatal care: 17 or 25.4% of Whites and 62 or 43.1% of African-Americans and Others. In that same year, 2 women received no prenatal care at all.



Low Birthweight: Low birthweight of less than 5.5 pounds and very low birthweight of less than 3.3 pounds are associated with health risks and growth and development problems. In 2001, 27 or 12.8% of all babies in the county were born with low birthweight: 16.7% of African-American and Other babies and 4.5% of White babies. During 1999-2001, approximately 20 or 3.0% of all babies were born with very low birthweight and had the most serious complications: 0.5% of White babies and 4.2% of African-American and Other babies. The cost of hospitalization for each newborn low birthweight baby in the county in 1999 - 2001 was $10,056 and $185,881 for each very low birthweight baby, compared with $1,489 for a baby of normal birthweight. The result was excess cost in the county of $999,057 for all low birthweight babies, of which $921,958 was for very low birthweight babies.

Infant Mortality: During the decade since 1989-91, the overall infant mortality rate decreased by 24.8% from 18.0 to 13.5 per 1000 live births. For Whites, the rate decreased 100.0% from 7.8 to 0.0 per 1000 live births, while for African-Americans and Others the rate decreased 10.7% from 22.5 to 20.0 per 1000 live births. Over the three-year period 1999-2001, 0 White and 9 African-American and Other infants died before age one. By comparison, 2 White and 13 African-American and Other infants died during 1989-91.

[7] Number is an unduplicated count for the entire fiscal year.

Child Injuries and Deaths: Childhood deaths and injuries reflect whether communities are safe for children. In 2001, children in the Bamberg County went to the emergency room 485 times because of injuries. Boys are injured more often than girls. Children visit the emergency room at comparable rates for each age from 0 to 17.

In South Carolina, the major causes of death among young children are unintentional injuries, cancer, homicide, and congenital anomalies. Over the three year period 1999-2001, 1 White and 1 African-American and Other children ages 1-14 died in the county. During 1989-91, 1 White and 3 African-American and Other children died.

Immunization: Immunization rates are an important indication of whether young children are receiving adequate preventive health care. During FY 1989-90, 43.2% of children less than two years old seen in public health clinics were not fully immunized against such preventable diseases as Polio, Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Haemophilus Influenza B and Whooping Cough. After a concerted statewide campaign to increase immunizations, the percentage of children seen in public health clinics who were not fully immunized in January 2001 had declined in the county to 9.9%. The DHEC statewide birth registry survey of all two year old children found that 88.1% were fully immunized in 2001. This success demonstrates the potential to improve the status of children when the leadership of the state and its communities act decisively together.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Children and youth are infected with sexually transmitted diseases through sexual abuse or irresponsible sexual activity. National prevalence rates indicate: a 1 in 8 chance that sexually active 15 year-old girls will develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), the most rapidly increasing cause of infertility; 10% of sexually active adolescent girls and boys are infected with chlamydia, the most common cause of PID; and as many as 15% of teen girls are infected with human papilloma virus, often with strains linked to cervical cancer. Furthermore, research evidence indicates that susceptibility to HIV/AIDS increases by 3 to 8 times through prior infection with various STDs.

According to national studies, approximately 1 in 4 sexually experienced youth aged 13-19 acquires a STD ever year; since two-thirds of all high school students have had sexual intercourse and half engage in intercourse over a three month period, this would suggest that 10-15% of teens are infected with STDs annually. For 2000, this would indicate that an estimated 204 to 306 youth ages 13-19 in the county were infected with a STD. Many infections are either not identified for treatment or not reported. In the county, there were 2 reported cases of children under age 15 and 30 youth ages 15 - 19 infected with gonorrhea; 5 youth under 15 and 60 ages 15 - 19 were reported infected with chlamydia. Youth with undiagnosed and untreated STDs often spread their infections.

Healthy Lifestyles: Although no county data is available, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2001 found that many high school students are not following good health habits. The YRBS revealed that 26% felt that they were overweight; 42% were trying to lose weight: 27% of boys and 57% of girls. Although during a week 79% of high school students ate fruit, 59% ate salad, and over 83% ate vegetables, only 17% ate the recommended five or more servings of fruit and vegetables per day. During a week, 49% did stretching or muscle strengthening exercises, and 59% exercised three or more times for 20 minutes in sports that made them sweat or breathe hard. However, 11% of students engaged in no vigorous or moderate activity at all during a week: 8% of boys and 13% of girls.

Tobacco Use:* Cigarette smoking starts at a young age and often becomes habitual. In the county during 2002 among all students 15 and older, 10.1% first smoked by age 11, 23.9% by age 13, and 37.6% by age 15. In a typical month, 12.7% of 7th and 8th graders and 17.3% of high school students smoked cigarettes. White youths were much more likely than African-Americans to smoke: NA% of White male and NA% of White female 7th to 12th graders used cigarettes, as compared with 23.6% of African-American males and 9.4% of African American females. A smaller but significant group of high school students (2.8%) used smokeless tobacco monthly; it was used primarily by White males (NA% compared with 2.8% of all other race and sex groups).

* County participation in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking was not complete but county data is presented to provide the best available picture of teen risk-taking attitudes and behavior in Bamberg County. One of 2 districts participated (District 2).

Disabilities: No data are collected on the true prevalence of disabilities within the county. According to national reported estimates, over 10% of children and youth have developmental disabilities at any point in time, and more than 17 are affected at some time before age 18 by deafness, blindness, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, speech defects, development delays, learning disabilities, and emotional or behavioral problems. For 2000 this suggests that at least 424 children ar youth under age 18 in the county are currently affected by disabilities.

Approximately 5% of children and youth nationally have serious disabilities which have lifelong implications f work, social life and community living. Typically among children and youth, there are 1 - 2% who are mentally retarded, - 3% with serious emotional disturbances, over 1% with orthopedic or multiple disabilities, including cerebral palsy an many hereditary conditions, and under 1% with visual or hearing impairments.

Other chronic health problems also affect the lives of many children. Over 3% of children have one or more these limitations. Such serious chronic conditions affect 1 - 2% who have respiratory problems (asthma and chron bronchitis), 0.5 - 1.0% with neurological problems (epilepsy and seizures), and less than 1% with circulatory problen (congenital heart defects and acquired diseases).

Other disabilities are identified primarily in school performance. These would include 117 students in grades 1- with learning disabilities and 272 students in grades 1-12 with speech/language deficits.

Disabilities are caused by genetics, disease, poor prenatal conditions, injuries, and environmental factors. For example, lead exposure, primarily from paint dust, was detected in over 1% of all children screened, including 3 in Bamberg County.

Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: While over 20% of 9-17 year olds meet diagnostic criteria for some form of mental disorder, the number with serious emotional disturbance and impaired functioning in family, school, or community activities is: 9-13% for substantial functional impairment and 5-9% for extreme functional impairment. The rates among poor children are at the higher end of these ranges. Based on a federal formula for estimating prevalence, in the county there are 12% or 276 seriously emotionally disturbed 9-17 year olds with substantial functional impairment and 8% or 184 with extreme functional impairment during the course of a year. Conduct disorders, attention deficit, depression, and anxiety disorders are the most prevalent, each affecting 3% or more of school-aged children. These disorders may occur simultaneously in a child. The prevalence rates are highest among males, adolescents, and disadvantaged persons in communities under stress and lacking social cohesion; depression, however, is more prevalent among females. On the YRBS, 20% of boys and 33% of girls in high school reported that during the past year they felt so sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that they stopped doing some usual activities. Another indicator of emotional problems is the 8% of high school students in South Carolina who reported that they had "attempted suicide" in the past year: 5% of boys and 10% of girls. Suicide attempts resulted in 4% of high school students reporting that they required treatment by a doctor or nurse for injury, poisoning, or overdose.

Inadequate Healthcare: No county level data is routinely collected regarding the number of children and youth with inadequate healthcare. According to estimates for 2000-02 by the Bureau of the Census through the annual Current Population Survey, the statewide average rate of uninsured children and youth under age 18 in families with incomes under 200% of poverty in South Carolina was 16.6%, and 9.9% above 200% of poverty. If these rates are applied to the county, there are 456 children in the county below 200% of poverty with no health insurance, and 148 children above 200% of poverty with no health insurance, for a total of 604 uninsured children in Bamberg County. The number lacking basic accessible primary care is at least double the number lacking insurance. Those lacking primary care are often dependent on health services at school. The ratio of students to nurses recommended nationally is 750:1. In the county, this would suggest the need for 4 nurses, compared with 3 currently working in the schools.

Medicaid: For several years, the State of South Carolina has emphasized enrolling eligible children into Medicaid. In late 1997, South Carolina implemented its version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, Partners for Healthy Children (PHC), and aggressively pursued outreach enrollment for PHC and Medicaid. As a result, enrollment of children ages 0 through 18 in Bamberg County has increased by 43.3% from June 1997 to June 2001; thus Medicaid and PHC were serving 63.1% of all children in that age range. The total Medicaid expenditures in South Carolina for services provided to children ages 0 through 18 for state fiscal year 2002 were $991 million, at an average statewide expenditure of $2,343 per child enrolled, approximate Medicaid expenditure for children in the county would be $6.3 million.

In June 2001, the total number of Bamberg County children, birth through 18, enrolled in Medicaid was 2,673. The total can be broken down into the following age and race groupings:

	White	African American	Hispanic	Other	Total
Children under 1	40	140	3	0	183
Children 1 - 5	120	556	4	22	702
Children 6 - 14	174	1,047	5	37	1,263
Children 15 - 18	60	462	2	1	525
Total	394	2,205	14	60	2,673

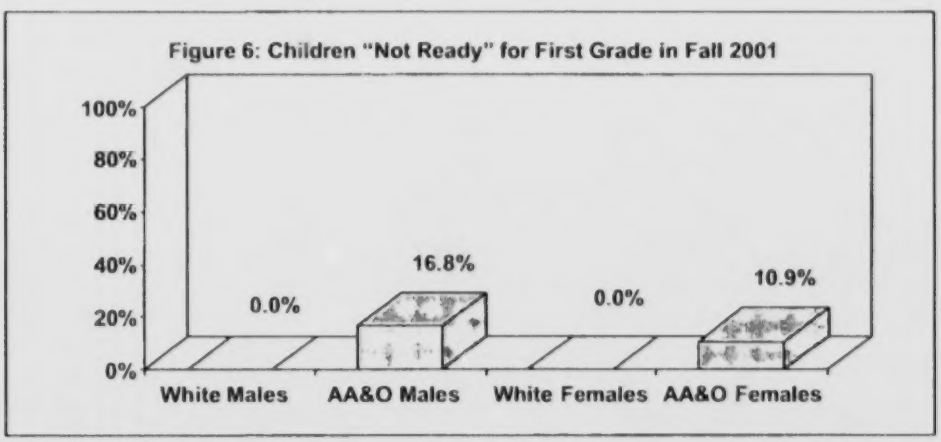
Ambulatory Care: When children lack adequate primary care, whether through lack of insurance, through limite access, or through failing to utilize available care, preventable and treatable conditions become serious and requi hospitalization. A useful indicator of inadequate primary care is the percentage of all hospitalizations that could typicall have been avoided through ambulatory care, especially for pneumonia, asthma, diarrhea and vomiting, dehydration, a severe ear, nose, and throat infections. The share of hospitalizations for these types of conditions could normally be ke below 20%; for children in the county under the age of 18 during 2001, the share was 35.3% for Whites and 31.3% f African-Americans and Others.

READINESS AND EARLY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Too many children reach school without the readiness skills needed for success in learning, such as language, soci skills, visual and auditory discrimination, memory recall, and knowledge of colors, letters, numbers, names of objects, et Likewise, some schools are not ready to respond appropriately to the varying developmental levels of children in the ear grades. As a result, too many students do not experience the success needed to create the motivation and engagement th sustain learning.

1st Grade "Readiness" on 2001-02 Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB):

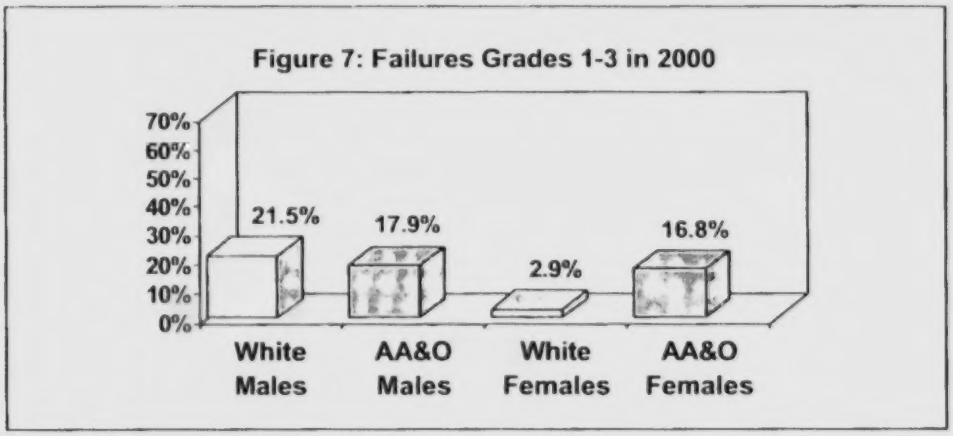
23 children not ready 11.3% children not ready



1st Grade Failures in 2002:

25 children failing 11.0% children failing

Failures Grades 1-3 in 2002 (approximate cumulative percentage of grades one, two and three):	
52 children failing	24.0% children failing



Over-age for Grade 3 in 2001	
46 children over-age	23.0% children over-age

Special Education: Large numbers of children are placed in special education classes. In elementary school, 122 six and seven year olds and 106 eight and nine year-olds were enrolled in special education classes during 2001-02, approximately 28.2% and 25.6% of their age groups respectively: 21.3% of White 8 – 9 year olds were in special education and 27.1% of African American and Others.

Readiness Summary: A serious problem exists in terms of student readiness and school success in the early grades. With 11.3% assessed not ready for the 1st grade, 23.0% over age in grade 3, and 25.6% of eight and nine year-olds placed in special education, unacceptably large numbers of students still begin school without good prospects of success in future school achievement and graduation; however, great improvement has occurred since the mid 1990s.

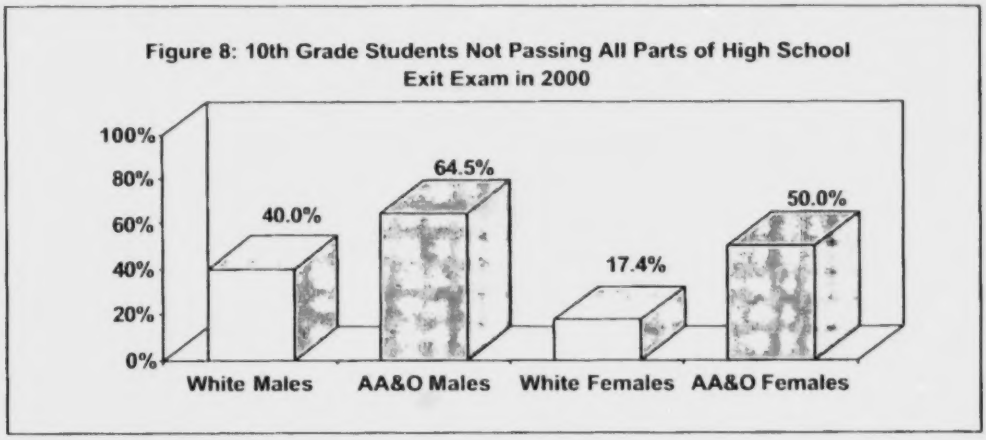
School Achievement

By the end of elementary school, significant numbers of students perform below minimum standards. The following standardized test measures, comparing student performance to state minimum standards, should be used in combination with routine classroom assessments more reflective of real-world performance skills.

Special Education: Special education placements reflect both the significant number of children with serious handicapping conditions and a large number of students with mild learning and behavioral problems that have not been accommodated successfully by the regular educational program. The result is a large system of self-contained, resource, and itinerant services to meet the needs of 272 speech and language impaired, 117 learning disabled, 10 emotionally disabled, 94 mentally impaired, and 11 physically handicapped, deaf, blind, and other handicapped students. Special education classes served approximately 18.4% of all students in grades 1 - 12 during 2001-2002.

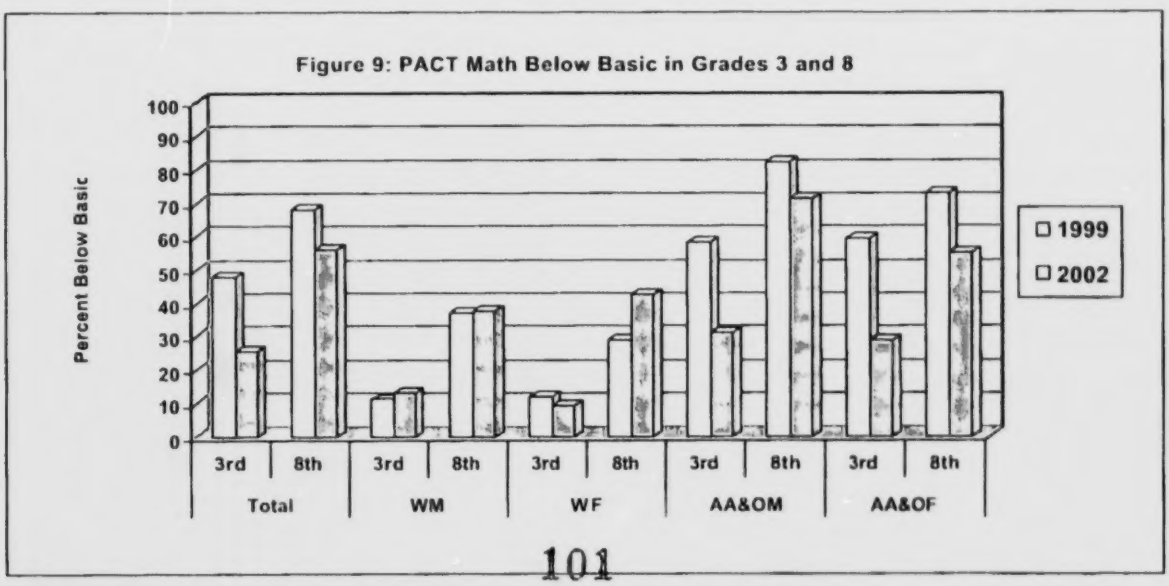
Exit Exam - not passing all parts of Exit Exam on first attempt in the 10th grade in 2002

82 students did not pass all parts	50.3% of students did not pass all parts



Achievement Trends: How has performance on standardized achievement tests changed over the past 20 years? During the 1980s, student performance on the BSAP tests improved dramatically. Between 1981 and 1990, the percentage of 8th grade students in Bamberg County who did not meet standards declined from 70.3% to 32.5% in math and from 53.4% to 27.5% in reading. During the 1990's the BSAP trend changed, with 35.3% not meeting 8th grade math standards in 1998 and 43.3% in reading. On standardized tests, the first year when South Carolina students take the exam is comparable to the challenge encountered by the national norm group which took the test only once. Looking at first year data, the percentage of 4th grade students at or below the 25th percentile of national norms was 43.4% in 1983 on the CTBS, 50.2% in 1990 on the Stanford, and 39.7% in 1995 on the Metropolitan; for 9th graders, the percentage in the bottom quarter was 38.8% in 1990 and 39.2% in 1995. Although not comparable, the percent below basic on the 4th grade PACT in 1999, the first year of administration, was 53.1%, but in 2002 31.3% of 4th graders were below basic in reading and math; the percentage of 8th graders below basic in reading and math averaged 56.4% in 1999 and 46.8% in 2002.

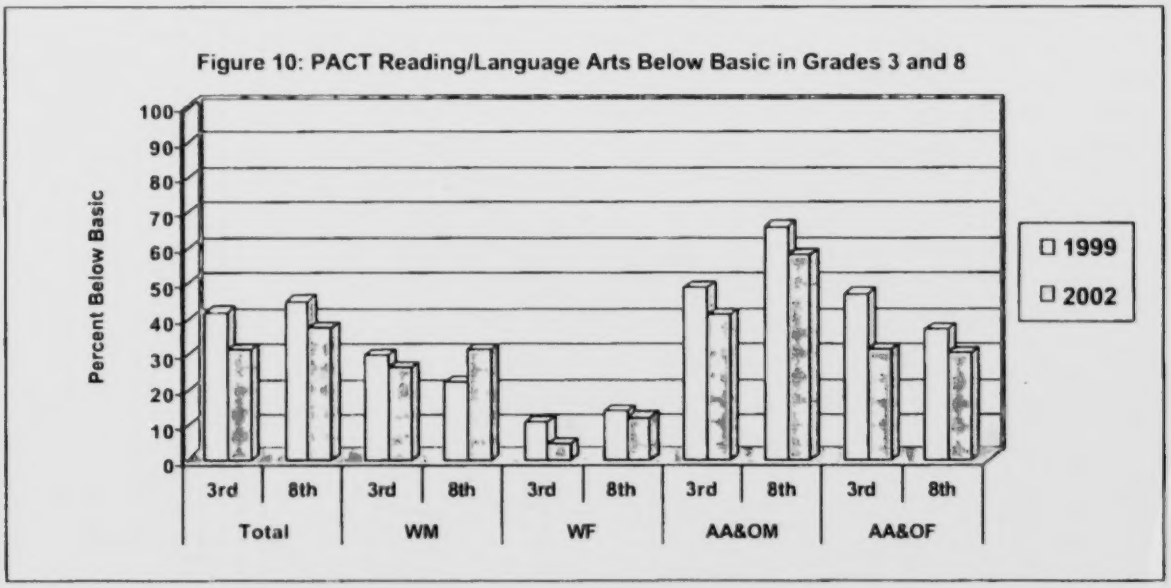
PACT: The Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) was first administered in 1999 for grades 3 - 8 in math and reading/language arts. Math assesses skills in numbers, numerical and algebraic concepts, patterns and functions, geometry, measurement, probability and statistics. The percentage of students scoring below basic in math has decreased by 27.3% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 363 students below basic in grades 3-8 but there would have been an additional 137 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
		Math (%)				
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	25.6	13.0	9.1	30.7	28.9
	4	31.9	12.0	13.8	35.7	42.0
	5	40.2	26.9	29.4	55.1	37.8
	6	43.8	11.1	15.6	56.5	48.1
	7	55.3	17.9	28.6	62.0	66.0
	8	56.0	37.5	42.3	71.0	54.9
Basic	3	53.7	43.5	50.0	56.0	55.4
	4	46.9	44.0	37.9	50.0	47.8
	5	50.0	46.2	58.8	38.8	56.1
	6	39.7	38.9	50.0	32.6	44.2
	7	25.5	7.1	33.3	30.4	24.5
	8	30.1	31.3	34.6	23.2	34.1
Proficient	3	16.7	30.4	31.8	10.7	14.5
	4	11.1	24.0	24.1	8.3	4.3
	5	5.7	15.4	0.0	4.1	4.9
	6	13.2	38.9	31.3	8.7	5.2
	7	7.7	28.6	9.5	3.3	5.3
	8	6.7	18.8	3.8	4.3	4.9
Advanced	3	3.9	13.0	9.1	2.7	1.2
	4	10.1	20.0	24.1	6.0	5.8
	5	4.0	11.5	11.8	2.0	1.2
	6	3.2	11.1	3.1	2.2	2.6
	7	11.5	46.4	28.6	4.3	4.3
	8	7.2	12.5	19.2	1.4	6.1

Reading/Language Arts assesses reading, listening, speaking, writing, research, and communication with technology. The first PACT assessment found a high percentage of elementary and middle grades students performing below standards and only a modest number above basic. The percentage of students scoring below basic in reading/language arts has decreased by 26.8% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 299 students below basic in grades 3 - 8 but there would have been an additional 109 at 1999 performance rates.

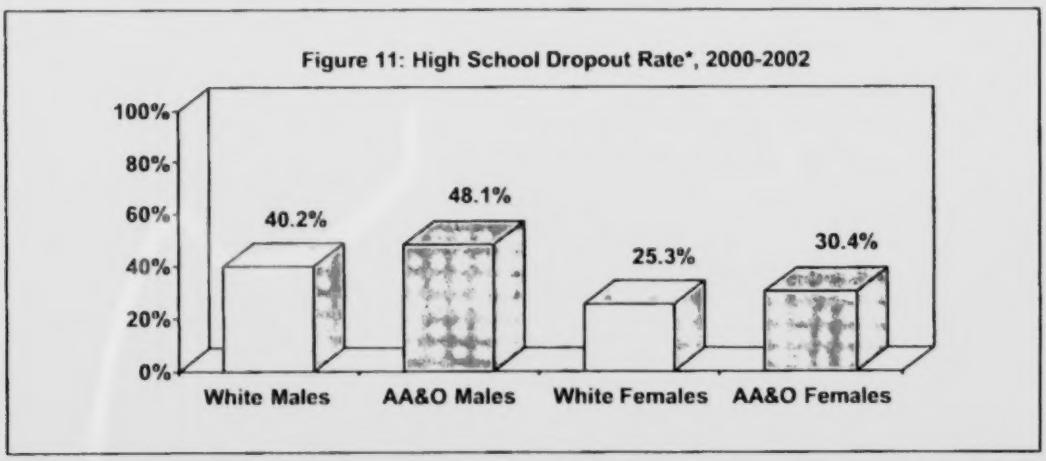
Figure 10: PACT Reading/Language Arts Below Basic in Grades 3 and 8



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
	Reading/Language Arts (%)					
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	31.3	26.1	4.5	41.1	31.3
	4	30.8	16.0	10.3	41.2	31.9
	5	35.4	34.6	17.6	42.0	35.4
	6	46.2	33.3	9.4	59.1	48.7
	7	37.7	10.7	14.3	48.4	40.4
	8	37.5	31.3	12.0	58.0	30.5
Basic	3	43.3	39.1	40.9	46.6	42.2
	4	50.5	52.0	34.5	49.4	58.0
	5	54.3	46.2	70.6	58.0	51.2
	6	35.3	44.4	50.0	29.0	34.6
	7	47.9	50.0	61.9	46.2	45.7
	8	42.3	34.4	44.0	37.7	48.8
Proficient	3	24.9	34.8	54.5	12.3	25.3
	4	16.8	32.0	44.8	9.4	8.7
	5	10.3	19.2	11.8	0.0	13.4
	6	17.2	22.2	37.5	9.7	16.7
	7	12.3	35.7	14.3	5.4	11.7
	8	17.8	31.3	36.0	2.9	19.5
Advanced	3	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.2
	4	1.9	0.0	10.3	0.0	1.4
	5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	6	1.4	0.0	3.1	2.2	0.0
	7	2.1	3.6	9.5	0.0	2.1
	8	2.4	3.1	8.0	1.4	1.2

Dropout Rate - 8th grade students no longer enrolled in grade 12
(average of students for the three years ending 2000-2002)

98 students drop out annually **37.8% students drop out***



Dropouts: Distressing numbers of students drop out and fail to graduate. An average of 14.1% of 8th graders failed to graduate** from county schools five years later during the period 1980-84, 21.1% during 1985-89, and 27.0% during 1990-94, 27.1% during 1995-97 and 36.4% during 1998-2000***.

During 2001-02, 93.7% of all who did graduate received the State High School Diploma, while the remaining 6.3% received a State Certificate for meeting the required Carnegie units but not passing the Exit Exam.

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* 12th grade enrollment compared to 8th grade enrollment four years earlier

** This is calculated by using 8th grade enrollment to graduation data.

*** 2001 data will be available soon and will be posted on the website.

Fortunately, many dropouts enroll in adult education programs and either earn a high school diploma or obtain a GED. During 2001-02, 2 Adult Education high school diplomas were awarded to school completers and in 2001 70 GEDs were awarded in the county. Over time, adult education high school diplomas and GEDs increase the effective school completion rate substantially. In the 2000 Census, 19.4% of county resident 25 - 34 year-olds said they had not completed either high school or a GED.

Achievement Summary: The numbers of students testing below basic on the PACT and dropping out range from 25.6% to 56.0%. Thus, far too many students fail to acquire the knowledge, skills, learning habits, and motivation necessary to compete in the economy or contribute to society in the 21st Century.

ADOLESCENT RISK BEHAVIORS

Academic achievement is greatly influenced by the prevailing youth culture which often promotes popularity with peers and partying rather than studying and doing well in school. The prevalence of adolescent risk-taking and under-achievement is illustrated by the poor grades of substance-abusing teens.

Substance Abuser Rates at Levels of Academic Performance

	Usual School Grades in Past Year					Total
	A Range	B Range	C Range	D Range	F Range	
Smoked Cigarettes (in past 30 days)	13.2%	6.0%	22.8%	39.9%	100.0%	17.3%
Drank 5 or More Drinks on One Occasion (in past 30 days)	4.2%	9.3%	13.8%	40.3%	100.0%	12.9%
Used Any Illicit Drug (in past 30 days)	4.7%	5.7%	13.5%	24.0%	%	10.5%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

As influence from parents and other adults declines during adolescence, significant numbers of students engage in violence, crime, school offenses, depressive emotions and attempted suicide:

Risk Behaviors Participated in During Past 12 Months	White Male		White Female		African American Male		African American Female		Total		Total (Grade 7-12)
	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	
Carried a handgun or knife for self-defense?	NA%	NA%	NA%	NA%	13.4%	14.2%	2.7%	7.3%	7.5%	10.6%	9.3%
Carried a handgun or knife as a weapon?	NA%	NA%	NA%	NA%	8.2%	12.6%	1.8%	1.5%	4.6%	6.8%	5.9%
Been in a fight with someone?	NA%	NA%	NA%	NA%	43.1%	24.2%	13.8%	18.0%	26.8%	20.9%	23.3%
Hit your boyfriend or girlfriend?	NA%	NA%	NA%	NA%	10.6%	10.4%	17.3%	34.2%	14.3%	22.8%	19.4%
Been hit by your boyfriend or girlfriend?	NA%	NA%	NA%	NA%	15.5%	14.8%	10.4%	16.8%	12.7%	15.8%	14.6%
Rec'd detention or in-school suspension?	NA%	NA%	NA%	NA%	37.2%	14.1%	20.9%	12.7%	28.0%	13.4%	19.2%
Been suspended from school?	NA%	NA%	NA%	NA%	20.9%	18.2%	10.1%	18.5%	14.8%	18.4%	16.9%
Stolen anything worth > $5?	NA%	NA%	NA%	NA%	12.0%	8.9%	4.7%	4.8%	7.9%	6.7%	7.2%
Had an accident while driving?	NA	NA%	NA	NA%	NA	6.0%	NA	4.5%	NA	5.2%	NA
Been arrested and booked?	NA%	NA%	NA%	NA%	6.2%	7.2%	0.9%	3.1%	3.1%	5.1%	4.3%
Felt hopeless for two weeks or more?	NA%	NA%	NA%	NA%	7.4%	19.0%	14.0%	34.3%	11.1%	27.0%	20.8%
Seriously considered attempting suicide?	NA%	NA%	NA%	NA%	2.5%	4.7%	4.6%	11.7%	3.7%	8.4%	6.5%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

Adolescence is often a time of taking risks and asserting independence from adults. When asked whether they would tell an adult about a problem, the following percentages of county students said they would be "not likely" or "very unlikely" to tell if they:

-heard a student threaten to harm someone: 34.7% middle school, 39.9% high school;
-saw a student with a handgun at school: 27.2% middle school, 27.4% high school;
-saw a student with a knife at school: 28.2% middle school, 32.5% high school;
-saw a student with drugs at school: 40.4% middle school, 52.8% high school;

Alcohol Use:* In the county during 2001-02, 20.0% of 7th and 8th graders and 32.6% of high schoolers said they had used alcohol in the past month. Of White males in grades 7 - 12, NA% had used it in the past month, compared with 34.1% of African-American males; likewise, NA% of White females said they had used alcohol, compared with 23.4% of African-American females. Many youth first used alcohol at an early age: 14.0% had used alcohol by age 11 or younger, 27.2% by age 13, and 48.4% by age 15.

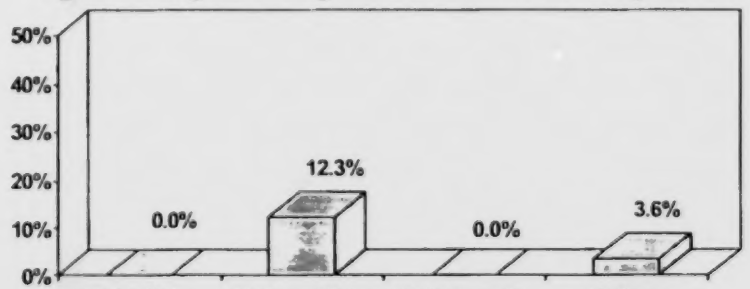
During the previous year, 19.0% of 7th and 8th graders and 24.7% of high schoolers said they had ridden with a drinking driver. Of seniors who drive, 10.0% said they had driven after drinking. Widespread use is encouraged by the ready availability and perceived low risk of alcohol use. Among students who expressed an opinion, 28.2% of eighth graders and 68.0% of seniors felt that beer was easy to get. Also, 71.9% of eighth graders and 56.3% of seniors felt there was not a great risk in drinking two drinks a day, and 41.3% of eighth graders and 42.6% of high schoolers felt there was not a great risk in drinking 5 drinks every weekend.

Heavy Drinking:* In 2001-02, 5.0% of 7th and 8th graders and 12.9% of high school students in the county repor drinking 5 or more drinks in a day during the past month. When asked how many drinks, if any, they usually consume, 8. of all county students in grades 7 - 12 in 2001-02 responded 3 or more drinks at a time and 1.7% reported usually 5 or m drinks. Among high school students, 10.6% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 1.7% 5 or more. Amc seniors, 12.8% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and NA% 5 or more; however 14.9% of seniors said t they drank 5 or more drinks in a day once or more during the past month.

Drugs:* In 2001-02, 2.5% of 7th and 8th graders and 10.5% of high schoolers in the county reported using ille drugs during the previous month. Among students in grades 7 - 12, use was reported by NA% of White males, NA% Wh females, 12.3% of African-American males, and 3.6% of African-American females. Some young people initiated drug u at an early age: 3.5% had experienced their first use by age 11 or sooner; 7.3% had used a drug by age 13, and 17.2% by a 15.

In the past year, 4.2% of all high school students in the county who drive and 12.5% of seniors who drive said that they had driven after using drugs. Such use is encouraged by the ready availability of drugs: 5.2% of 8th graders who had an opinion said it is easy to get marijuana and 1.3% said it is easy to get cocaine or crack; 50.0% of seniors said it is easy to get marijuana and 36.0% said it was easy to get cocaine or crack.

Figure 12: Drug Use among Students Grades 7-12 during 2001-02*



* County participation in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking was not complete but county data is presented to provide the best available picture of teen risk-taking attitudes and behavior in Bamberg County. One of 2 districts participated (District 2).

Sexual Activity and Pregnancy: Many teenagers now engage in sexual activity. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) administered to a representative sample of high school students throughout South Carolina in 2001 showed that sexual activity begins at an early age: 7% of female and 21% of male students have engaged in intercourse before age 13; by age 15, 38% the females and 49% of males have engaged in sexual intercourse. Statewide, 48% of females and 50% of males in the 11th and 12th grades reported engaging in intercourse during the past three months. Furthermore, 27% of female and 33% of male 12th graders have had intercourse with four or more partners during their lifetimes.

Premature sexual activity often results in pregnancy. In the county, 25 girls between the ages of 14 and 17 became pregnant in 1999, 17 in 2000 and 22 in 2001. This represented 3.7% of all girls ages 14 – 17 in 2001; several times this percentage become pregnant at least once by age 18. The 2001 pregnancy rate for ages 14 - 17 was 2.9% for Whites and 4.0% for African-Americans and Others. Of all pregnancies of 14-17 year olds, 77.3% resulted in live births, with almost all other pregnancies ending in abortions.

Teen pregnancy rates increased substantially across the state during the 1980s; as a result, greater emphasis v devoted to preventing teen pregnancy. Since 1989, the teen pregnancy rate in Bamberg County has decreased by 30.6 Overall, it has increased by 16.0% for Whites, and decreased by 41.2% for African Americans and Others.

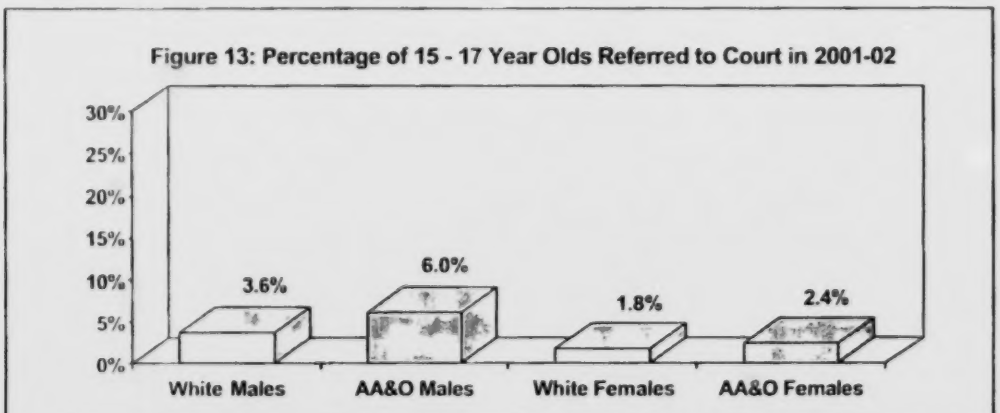
Juvenile Delinquency: In 2001-02, 70 individual juvenile offenders in the county were referred to the Solicitor for delinquency; of these, 18.6% were age 12 or younger, 30.0% were 13 or 14, and 51.4% were 15 or older.

Of the referrals to the family court, 22.5% of all referrals were for violent and serious crimes which include drug trafficking, acts against persons for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and serious property offenses for arson and burglary. Also, 2 juvenile cases constituting 2.0% of all referrals were for status offenses. Status offenses include truancy, running away, incorrigibility, and other offenses that would not be crimes for adults.

Delinquents are likely to live in families with low income: 24.4% lived in families with income under $10,000, 40.0% with $10,000-$19,999 and 35.6% with $20,000 or more. Furthermore, only 8.2% of delinquents lived with both natural parents, while 63.3% lived in a single parent household, 26.5% lived with other relatives, and 2.0% in other situations including parent plus step-parent. Delinquency or criminal activity occurs among many related family members: 35.4% had at least one family member who was delinquent or had some criminal record.

Youth referred to the family courts are likely to have been there before. In 2001-02, 60.0% had at least one prior referral and 21.4% had been referred to court 3 times or more. Many were referred at an early age. For delinquents 15 - 17 years old, 2.0% had been referred by the age of 10, 2.0% by the age of 12, and 25.5% by the age of 14.

During 2001-02, 36 youth ages 15 to 17 were referred to the family courts. In the county, 3.8% of all youth 15 to 17 were referred to court in one year and roughly double that percentage are referred at least once by age 18. Furthermore, the National Youth Survey indicates that typically across the United States the proportion of youth engaging in crime is two or three times the number ever apprehended. In 2001-02, there were 4 juveniles committed from the county to DJJ custody and placed in residential programs.



Not in School or Employed: During 2000, 155 teenagers ages 16-19 were idle, meaning they neither worked any hours nor were enrolled in school, even part-time. Idle teens comprised 10.9% of their age group: 4.0% for White and 12.9% African-American & Other teens. A much larger number, perhaps twice as many, were not engaged in either school full time or work full time. The data reflect a serious failure in both school completion and the critical transition from school to work, significantly affecting their development as future workers. For an in-depth description of the problems of young adults seeking to enter the labor force, visit our website at www.scyoungadults.org for our state and county reports on 18-29 year olds.

Deaths: During 1997-2001, 4 youth ages 15 to 19 died. Historically, automobile accidents have been the major cause, resulting in 4 deaths between 1996 and 2000; homicides killed youth 15 to 19 years old during the five-year period, and 0 youth committed suicide. Alcohol use is often a significant factor in deaths among teenagers.

SUMMARY

Facing the Scope of Problems: The data on families, economic status, health, readiness, school achievement, and adolescent risk behaviors provide a troublesome picture of the condition of children in Bamberg County. The 41.6% of children in single-parent families, 35.4% in poverty, 36.4% not graduating from school, 32.6% of high school students using alcohol and 10.5% using drugs each month, and other data profiled in this report suggest that too many children are at risk of not growing up to become self-supporting adults, good family members, and responsible community citizens.

Emphasizing the Positive: South Carolina Kids Count reports have been developed to describe the problems of children in each of the counties. Fortunately, the majority of children and youth are doing well, and some very well. One simple description is the percentage of children who do not fall into the problem categories reported. For the county, 76.3% of children are born to non-teen mothers ages 20 or older, 43.1% are born to married parents, and 58.4% lived in two-parent families; 64.6% were not poor and 34.7% lived in families with incomes above twice the poverty level for a family of three, $30,040 in 2002; 87.2% of babies were born with normal birthweights; 88.7% were assessed as ready for the first grade, 44.0% scored basic or better on PACT for 8th grade math and 62.5% for 8th grade reading, 49.7% passed all parts of the Exit Exam in the 10th grade, and 63.6% graduated with their class. In a typical month, 67.4% of high school students do not drink alcohol, 89.5% do not use drugs, and 82.7% do not smoke. Unfortunately, the absence of a problem is not always an indicator of success. Some data is available for exemplary performance: for example, 25.4% of 3rd graders and 20.2% of 8th graders scored proficient or advanced on PACT in reading and 20.6% of 3rd graders and 13.9% of 8th graders in math. Unfortunately, data on success is not generally available.

Despite the limitations of success data, we must emphasize the positive in providing good support and appropriate influences for children and youth. Recent philosophy and publications such as those of the Search Institute (700 South Third Street, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN, 55415-1138, tel. 1-800-888-7828, www.search-institute.org), emphasize the critical importance of "developmental assets" to promote and support positive development. One short book from the Search Institute, (What Kids Need to Succeed, by Peter J. Benson, Judy Gailbraith, and Pamela Espeland, 1995) presents an excellent array of suggestions for promoting developmental assets through families, community, faith congregations, and schools. If each family, school, religious congregation and community organization assertively worked to build such assets, the problems described in this report would be reduced dramatically. Such positive family-school-community efforts could improve South Carolina's national Kids Count ranking from the bottom 10 to the average or even into the top 10 by prevention of unnecessary problems affecting children and youth, as shown on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

All data presented in this report is the most recent available at the date it goes to the printer. This version of the Kids Count report will be revised as more recent and additional data become available. Please send us your corrections and suggestions for improvement. We welcome your ideas for ways to make the state and county reports more useful and accurate. Please utilize local data sources whenever possible to supplement the profile provided through our report.

Data related inquiries should be directed to:

Anne Wilson, Data Manager (awilson@drss.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-4810

Calls for **copies of reports** for specific counties and inquiries regarding more recent reports should be made to:

Kim Hazel-Lohr, Project Manager (khazel@oge.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-1295

For **policy questions** and general comments, please contact:

Dr. A. Baron Holmes, Project Director (abholmes@oge.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-2291

Comparable reports for all 46 counties and for the state can also be found on the World Wide Web at

www.sckidscount.org

Our website also provides: links to other websites for indicators in our report; high to low rankings for individual indicators; information on how to improve SC's national rank; and a glossary of definitions.

The national Kids Count Report can be found on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website at

www.aecf.org

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Bamberg County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Indicators	Most Recent Year	Number 1980*	Number 1990*	Number Most Recent Data	Number Percent Change 80-pres	Number Percent Change 90-pres	Percent 1980	Percent 1990	Percent Most Recent	Percent Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Percent Change 90-pres	R 1980 Rank	R 199
Health													
Low Birth Weight	2001	37	34	27	-27.0%	-20.6%	12.5	11.7	12.8	2.1%	9.6%	44	
White babies	2001	7	1	3	-57.1%	+200.0%	7.4	1.1	4.5	-39.2%	305.0%	40	
African American and Other ba	2001	30	33	24	-20.0%	-27.3%	15.0	16.4	16.7	11.1%	1.5%	43	
Less than Adequate Pre natal Care	2001	127	132	79	+37.8%	-40.2%	43.1	45.4	37.4	-13.2%	-17.6%	26	
White babies	2001	22	28	17	-22.7%	-39.3%	23.2	31.1	25.4	9.5%	-18.4%	13	
African American and Other ba	2001	105	104	62	-41.0%	-40.4%	52.5	51.7	43.1	-18.0%	-16.8%	20	
Infant Mortality	2001	23	15	9	-60.9%	-40.0%	2.8	1.8	1.4	-48.6%	-24.8%	43	
White babies	2001	9	2	-	-100.0%	-100.0%	3.0	0.8	0.0	-100.0%	-100.0%	45	
African American and Other ba	2001	14	13	9	-35.7%	-30.8%	2.4	2.2	2.0	-17.5%	-10.7%	29	
Family													
Births to mothers under 18	2001	28	24	19	-32.1%	-20.8%	9.5	8.2	9.0	-5.2%	9.1%	28	
White babies	2001	7	2	4	-42.9%	+100.0%	7.4	2.2	6.0	-18.6%	170.0%	39	
African American and Other ba	2001	21	22	15	-28.6%	-31.8%	10.5	10.9	10.4	-0.8%	-4.8%	10	
Births to mothers under 20	2001	73	62	50	-31.5%	-19.4%	24.7	21.3	23.7	-4.2%	11.2%	39	
White babies	2001	17	10	10	-41.2%	+0.0%	17.9	11.1	14.9	-16.7%	34.1%	33	
African American and Other ba	2001	56	52	40	-28.6%	+23.1%	28.0	25.9	27.8	-0.8%	7.4%	28	
Births to mothers with less than 13 years of education	2001	112	75	55	-50.9%	-26.7%	38.0	25.8	26.1	-31.3%	1.3%	34	
White babies	2001	34	17	15	-55.9%	-11.8%	35.8	18.9	22.4	-37.4%	18.6%	37	
African American and Other ba	2001	78	58	40	-48.7%	-31.0%	39.0	28.9	27.8	-28.8%	-3.7%	9	
Births to single mothers	2001	95	131	120	+26.3%	-8.4%	32.2	45.0	56.9	76.7%	26.4%	35	
White babies	2001	8	10	15	+87.5%	+50.0%	8.4	11.1	22.4	166.0%	101.6%	40	
African American and Other ba	2001	87	121	105	+20.7%	-13.2%	43.5	60.2	72.9	67.6%	21.1%	11	
Children in single parent families	2000	1,324	1,479	1,433	+8.5%	-3.1%	25.8	37.3	41.6	61.3%	11.6%	45	
White	2000	200	151	194	-3.0%	+1.6%	9.8	13.8	16.9	72.0%	22.1%	20	
African American and Other	2000	1,113	1,279	1,239	+11.3%	-3.7%	35.5	49.9	54.1	52.3%	8.3%	17	
Education													
Not Ready for Grade 1	2001	124	130	23	-81.3%	-77.9%	46.6	29.4	11.3	-75.8%	-61.6%	37	
White males	2001	13	8	-	-100.0%	-100.0%	38.2	6.7	0.0	-100.0%	-100.0%	41	
White females	2001	9	8	-	-100.0%	-100.0%	21.4	2.9	0.0	-100.0%	-100.0%	24	
African American and Other	2001	53	54	18	-66.0%	-66.7%	55.8	35.6	16.8	-69.9%	-52.8%	29	
African American	2001	38	52	7	-81.4%	-86.5%	51.6	37.4	10.9	-78.9%	-70.9%	35	
Repeating Grades 1-3	2000	78	100	40	-48.7%	-60.0%	27.8	14.0	15.8	-43.2%	12.9%	38	
White males	2000	5	3	6	+20.0%	+100.0%	14.2	7.0	21.5	51.4%	207.1%	16	
White females	2000	5	3	1	-80.0%	+0.0%	11.9	3.3	2.9	-75.6%	-12.1%	32	
African American and Other	2000	73	94	16	-58.8%	-38.5%	36.5	23.1	17.9	-51.0%	-22.5%	36	
African American	2000	30	81	16	-46.7%	+23.1%	28.6	10.0	16.8	-41.3%	68.0%	39	
Grade 3 Math below standard	2000	112	122	52	-53.6%	+6.1%	50.2	18.9	25.6	-49.0%	35.4%	38	
White males	2000	18	11	3	-83.3%	-25.0%	48.6	10.8	13.0	-73.3%	20.4%	43	
White females	2000	8	8	2	-75.0%	+0.0%	21.4	6.5	9.1	-57.5%	40.0%	7	
African American and Other	2000	70	74	23	-67.1%	+0.0%	58.3	25.0	30.7	-47.3%	22.8%	20	
African American	2000	53	69	24	-54.7%	+20.0%	49.1	20.2	28.9	-41.1%	43.1%	20	
Grade 3 Reading below standard	2000	135	141	63	-53.3%	+6.8%	44.7	22.8	31.3	-30.0%	37.3%	37	
White males	2000	11	10	6	-45.0%	+50.0%	27.0	10.8	26.1	-3.3%	141.7%	21	
White females	2000	3	3	1	-66.7%	-66.7%	14.3	9.7	4.5	-68.5%	-53.6%	12	
African American and Other	2000	71	77	30	-57.7%	-3.2%	52.5	33.7	41.1	-21.7%	22.0%	12	
African American	2000	57	67	26	-54.7%	+23.8%	50.0	21.2	31.3	-37.4%	47.6%	39	
Bottom Quartile Standardized	2000	156	171	56	-64.1%	-67.3%	54.8%	43.4	50.2	-8.4%	15.7%	39	
White males	2000	2	2	2	0.0%	0.0%	11.8%	11.5	37.9	221.3%	229.6%	7	
White females	2000	2	2	2	0.0%	0.0%	50.0%	30.0	14.8	-70.4%	-50.7%	43	
African American and Other	2000	154	169	28	-81.8%	-83.4%	50.9%	61.3	62.6	23.0%	2.1%	42	
African American	2000	152	167	24	-84.2%	-85.6%	52.0%	39.8	51.6	-0.8%	29.6%	30	

*Year of data is Apr
**1 is best, 46 is
*** Data include
**** BSAP for

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Bamberg County

Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

(continued)

Indicator	Most Recent Year	Number				Percent				
		1990*	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres
Grade 8 Math below	2002	77	117	+51.9%	+51.9%	70.3	32.5	58.0	-20.3%	72.3%
White males		5	12	+140.0%	+140.0%	34.7	16.1	37.5	8.1%	132.9%
White females		12	11	-8.3%	-8.3%	58.5	28.6	42.3	-27.7%	47.9%
African American		29	49	+69.0%	+69.0%	78.0	38.7	71.0	-9.0%	83.5%
African American		31	45	+45.2%	+45.2%	85.6	34.8	54.9	-35.9%	57.8%
Grade 8 Reading be		65	78	+20.0%	+20.0%	53.4	27.5	37.5	-29.8%	36.4%
White males		5	10	+100.0%	+100.0%	32.6	16.1	31.3	-4.0%	94.4%
White females		8	3	-62.5%	-62.5%	24.5	19.1	12.0	-51.0%	-37.2%
African American		30	40	+33.3%	+33.3%	64.0	40.5	58.0	-9.4%	43.2%
African American		22	25	+13.6%	+13.6%	68.0	24.7	30.5	-55.1%	23.5%
Grade 9 Bottom Qua		92	110	+19.6%	NA	NA	38.8	40.3	NA	3.9%
White males		12	NA	NA	NA	NA	33.3	20.6	NA	-38.1%
White females		4	NA	NA	NA	NA	11.1	12.1	NA	9.0%
African American		42	NA	NA	NA	NA	51.2	56.4	NA	10.2%
African American		34	NA	NA	NA	NA	41.5	40.0	NA	-3.6%
Exit Exam (not pass	1st	112	82	-26.8%	-26.8%	58.0	48.5	50.3	-13.3%	3.7%
attempt)		3	0	-100.0%	-100.0%	33.3	11.1	40.0	20.1%	260.4%
White males		5	4	-20.0%	-20.0%	31.8	14.7	17.4	-45.3%	18.4%
White females		43	40	-7.0%	-7.0%	71.4	56.6	64.5	-9.7%	14.0%
African American		60	31	-48.3%	-48.3%	67.6	64.5	50.0	-26.0%	-22.5%
African American										
Dropout Rate (8th g	enroll	90	96	+9.5%	+9.5%	23.7	29.4	37.8	59.4%	28.6%
in 12th grade 4 years	02	19	14	-24.0%	-24.0%	5.1	42.2	40.2	690.3%	-4.8%
White males		9	9	-5.3%	-5.3%	17.3	26.2	25.3	45.7%	-3.4%
White females		39	37	-5.1%	-5.1%	33.2	33.9	48.1	45.0%	41.9%
African American		23	29	+26.1%	+26.1%	20.1	20.5	30.4	51.2%	48.0%
African American										
Young Adults Not C	h School	552	346	-37.0%	-37.0%	27.7	22.6	19.4	-29.8%	-14.0%
(18-24)		77	NA	NA	NA	30.2	30.3	NA	NA	NA
White males		53	NA	NA	NA	35.4	17.9	NA	NA	NA
White females		255	NA	NA	NA	29.9	30.7	NA	NA	NA
African American		167	NA	NA	NA	22.6	15.7	NA	NA	NA
African American										
Poverty Rate		1,988	1,8	-7	-7	35.4	40.3	35.4	0.0%	-12.2%
White children		420	3	-2	-2	15.3	27.7	22.9	49.6%	-17.3%
African Americ		1,568	1,5	-4	-4	46.6	46.0	40.8	-12.4%	-11.2%
Income of Families		$ 8,758	$ 32,426	12.1%	16.2%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
White families		$ 7,441	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
African American		$ 7,356	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
		31		-48	-29	5.4	4.4	3.7	-31.2%	-15.9%
Teenage Pregnanc		5		-69	-29	5.7	2.9	2.9	-48.7%	0.0%
White		26		-30	-36	5.4	4.9	4.0	-25.4%	-18.4%
African American		48		+1		2.1	5.5	3.8	82.4%	-30.4%
Delinquency		15		-2		3.2	11.0	3.6	13.6%	-66.9%
White males		6				1.2	4.0	1.8	51.5%	-54.5%
White females		20		-0.6	+2	3.7	7.7	6.0	62.2%	-22.1%
African Americ		7		3.0	+3	0.5	2.2	2.4	386.5%	10.6%
African American										

*Closest available d... it was use...

**BSAP for 1980 a... for 2002

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Kids Count 2003

Barnwell County

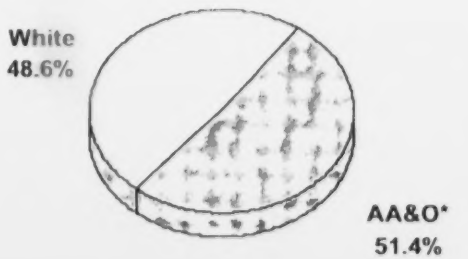
Demographics

In 2000 there were an estimated 6,609 children under age 18 in the county. Of these, 3,209 were White, 3,226 were African-American, and 174 were other races. There were 6,175 children under age 18 in 1990, 6,712 in 1980, 6,747 in 1970, and 7,981 in 1960.

Children represent a shrinking portion of the county's population. Those under 18 constituted 28.1% of the population in 2000, down from 45.2% in 1960, 39.3% in 1970, and 33.8% in 1980.

In 2000 the 2,009 pre-schoolers under age 6 were 8.6% of the overall population: 7.2% of Whites and 10.1% of African Americans.

Figure 1: Population Ages 0-17 in 2000



* In all charts African-American is combined with other races, and often abbreviated as AA&O. Other races comprise 2.6% of children in the county, with "two or more races" at 1.2% and "some other race alone" at 0.7% as the largest Other groups.

Family

Families have always been the most important influence in a child's life. Children depend on their families for material needs, stimulation and guidance. Family life is different in numerous ways from previous generations, and many families now face exceptional challenges.

Families with children now make up a smaller share of all households. Only 34.8% of all households in 2000, as compared with 48.0% of households in 1960, had children below the age of 18.

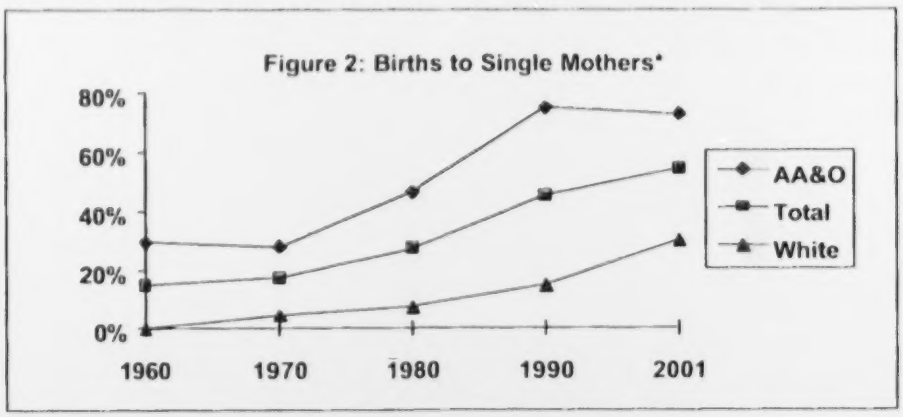
Births to Teen Mothers: In 2001, 17 babies were born to mothers younger than age 18. They were 5.0% of all babies born in the county; 3.4% of all White and 6.3% of all African-American and Other babies were born to teen mothers under the age of 18. Of the babies born to these teens in 2001, 94.1% were born to single mothers, including babies whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers.

In 2001, 60 babies were born to mothers younger than age 20. These babies were 17.7% of all born in the county; 15.6% of all White and 19.3% of all African-American and Other babies were born to mothers under the age of 20. Of the babies born to these mothers in 2001, 85.0% were born to single mothers, including paternity acknowledeged babies.

Education of Mothers Giving Birth: Children's success is strongly influenced by the education of their parents. In 2001, 85 babies, 25.1% of all babies, were born to mothers of all ages who had not completed the 12th grade. In 2001, 28.6% of White and 22.4% of African-American and Other babies were born to mothers who had completed less than the 12th grade. This is a substantial improvement from 60.9% in 1970. In addition, during 2001, 40.4% had completed 12 grades (31.3% of Whites and 47.4% of African Americans and Others) and 34.5% had more than a high school degree (40.1% of Whites and 30.2% of African American and Others).

Births to Single Mothers: Births to single mothers have increased steadily over four decades. In 2001, 125 babies, 36.9% of all babies, were recorded as born to single mothers. A decade earlier in 1990, the percentage was 40.9% and in 1960 it was 14.6%. In 2001, 15.0% of White children and 53.6% of African-American and Other children were born to single mothers. These numbers, however, do not include paternity acknowlegement births.

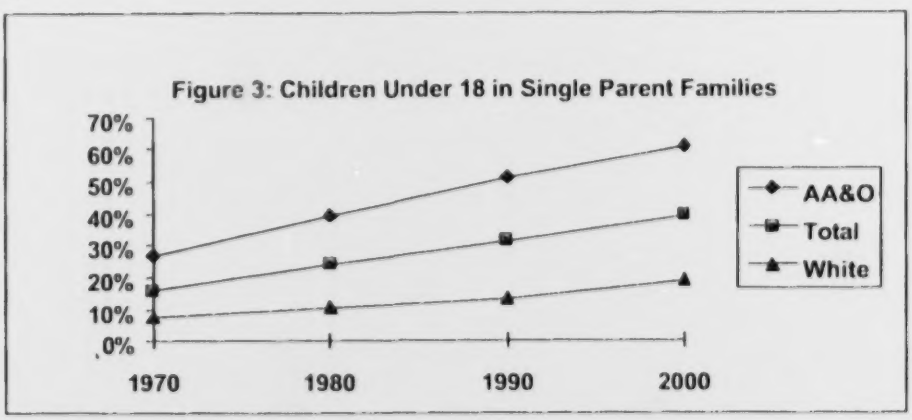
Thus, to these numbers should be added an additional group of 59 babies, 17.4% of all born in 2001, whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers. When the paternity-acknowledged babies are added, the total number born to single mothers in 2001 was 184, constituting 54.3% of all babies, 29.9% of White babies, and 72.9% of African-American and Others.



*Includes paternity acknowleged babies in 1980, 1990 and 2001. Prior to 1979, paternity acknowleged cases were not a statistical category, and thus were included in births to single mothers.

Divorce Rate: In 2001, 150 marriage licenses were issued, while 94 divorce decrees involving 60 children were filed. In 1970, only 27 children were in families involved in divorce.

Single-Parent Family: Increasing numbers of children live in single-parent families. In 2000, 2,265 children lived with only one parent. This was 39.4% of all children, up from 31.6% in 1990, 24.2% in 1980, and 15.8% in 1970. In 2000, 19.1% of White and 61.1% of African-American and Other children lived in single-parent families. Also in 2000, 698 or 40.5% of children under age 6 lived in single parent families: 13.8% of White and 67.4% of African American and Other pre-schoolers.



Parents Working and Child Care: Increasingly, parents must divide their time between children and employers. In order to meet family financial needs, most parents must work and thus have less time for family life. In 2000, 65.3% of mothers with children under 6 and 70.7% with children 6 - 17 were in the labor force. This has increased substantially from 1960 when 44.9% of mothers with children under 6 were in the labor force. Most fathers also work: 60.2% of children under 6 are in families where the single parent or both parents work. Caring for children is a problem for parents unable to obtain quality, affordable daycare while they are at work.

Overall, there are 609 spaces in state-regulated childcare facilities* in the county, 92.1% of these are in licensed programs and 7.9% are in registered programs. Of the spaces, 86.5% are in licensed childcare centers serving more than 12 children, 7.9% are in registered or licensed family childcare homes serving six or fewer children, 5.6% are in licensed group childcare homes serving 7-12 children, and 0.0% are in registered or licensed church programs.

The homes and centers are severely constrained by the limited ability of parents to pay. In the area, the average weekly charge is $ 62.00 for centers and $ 68.75 for homes. Consequently, center wages are low: 20% of centers with pre-school staff and 33.3% of centers with assistant pre-school staff report paying these staff under $6 per hour. Paying $6-$8 per hour are 40% of centers with pre-school staff and 66.7% of centers with assistants. Low wages attract workers with limited education. In 20% of centers, most pre-school staff and in 0% of centers most assistants have only a high school degree. In 40% of centers few to none of the pre-school staff have early childhood credentials. In childcare homes, 25% of lead providers have no more education than a high school degree or GED; 0% have less than a high school degree.

Family Violence: In 2000, 195 domestic assaults were recorded by law enforcement officials. These domestic assaults comprised 30.5% of all assaults, which include aggravated assaults, simple assaults, and intimidation. Overall, 58.5% of all domestic assaults involve spouse abuse which constitutes 17.8% of all assaults. Since most family violence is not reported, the true incidence of family disruption is much more widespread than even the large number of reported cases would indicate.

Separation from Parents: Some children do not live with their natural parents. In 2000, 6.3% of all children did not live with their natural parents. Approximately 291 or 4.4% of all children lived with relatives, 104 or 1.6% lived with non-relatives, 7 or 0.1% were householders or spouses, and 15 or 0.2% were in institutional facilities.

Abuse and Neglect: In 2000-01, there were 102 investigations into reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children. Through its investigations, the Department of Social Services (DSS) determined that 45 of the investigations were indicated for abuse or neglect: 23.8% for physical abuse, 0.0% for sexual abuse, 7.1% for mental injury, 26.2% for physical neglect, 0.0% for educational neglect, 9.5% for medical neglect, 33.3% for threat of harm for physical/sexual abuse, and 0.0% for other types of abuse.

In the indicated cases of abuse and neglect, DSS determined there were 78 children who were victims of abuse or neglect. Of these, 44.9% were male, 55.1% were female; 33.3% were White, 66.7% were African-American and Other. By age, 35.5% were ages 0 - 5, 36.8% were ages 6 - 12, and 27.6% were ages 13 - 17. In the indicated cases, 23.1% of the children lived in two-parent families, 60.3% in single parent families, 6.4% with unmarried couples, and 10.3% in other circumstances.

Out of Home Placements: As of June 2001, 16 children lived in foster care. The median age at first placement in the county is 10.4 years. The ages of children in foster care were 12.5% 0-2, 6.3% 3-5, 6.3% 6-10, 25.0% 11-13, and 50.0% 14 and above. The foster care population is 56.3% males and 43.8% females. Regarding their future, 37.5% were under a plan for placement in adoptive homes, 18.8% for return to a parent or guardian, 0.0% for placement with a relative, 31.3% for independent living, 12.5% for permanent foster care, and 0.0% for other circumstances.

Adult/Child Ratio: A measure of potential adult attention for children from family and community is the ratio of adults to children and youth. In 2000 there were 2.55 adults for every person below age 18. This was up substantially from 1960, when there were only 1.21 adults for every person under the age 18. This indicates that today there are more adults potentially available to provide attention and care for each child than in the past.

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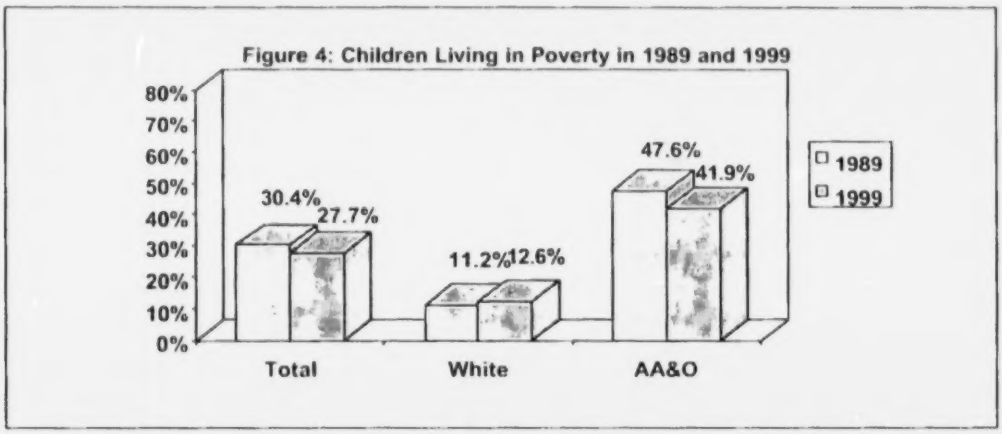
* This data is the best currently available; however, an effort is being made to check the coverage and improve the accuracy. As soon as more recent and complete data becomes available, it will be posted on the website.

ECONOMIC STATUS

Low income makes it difficult for many families to provide the material and environmental enrichment necessary for healthy child development.

Poverty: In 1999, 1,816 children and youth under the age of 18 lved in 850 families with incomes below poverty, comprising 27.7% of all children and youth: 12.6% of Whites and 41.9% of African-Americans and Others. A rough estimate of child poverty in 2001 calculated by the Census Bureau was 23.0%.



Poverty has always been a serious problem. While the rate among children under age 18 in 1989 was 30.4%, it was 24.3% in 1979 and 32.6% in 1969.

Children and the elderly are the age groups most seriously affected by poverty. In 1999, 30.0% of children 0 - 5 (8.9% White, 47.9% African-American and Other), and 26.5% of children 6 - 17 (12.5% White, 40.0% African-American and Other), lived in poverty; 24.4% of persons 65 years and older lived in poverty. Historically, the poverty rate among the elderly was much higher. During the last three decades, federal policy actions have substantially improved the economic status of older persons but have not done so for children.

Single-parent families are most likely to be poor. In 1999, 48.9% of children in single-parent families lived in poverty, but only 10.8% of children in married-couple families were poor. Children in single-parent families made up 60.6% of all the county's children living in poverty.

In 2002, the poverty level was $15,020 for a family of three and $18,100 for a family of four. The poverty threshold is often criticized as an arbitrary number. People can still be poor but may be just above the poverty level. Federal programs utilize varying thresholds. For example, in 1999 there were 3,507 children ages 0-17 who were less than 200 percent of poverty; thus an additional 1,691 children were above the poverty level but could still be considered poor or near-poor with incomes below $30,040 and $36,200 respectively for 3 and 4 person families.

Children Under 18 in Poverty in 1999

Percent of Poverty	Total		White		African American & Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 50%	1,009	15.4%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 100%	1,816	27.7%	399	12.6%	1,417	41.9%
Under 125%	2,320	35.4%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 150%	2,854	43.5%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 175%	3,119	47.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 185%	3,296	50.3%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 200%	3,507	53.5%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total Children	6,609		3,209		3,400	

Note: Missing data will be released by the Census Bureau later in 2003, and will be posted on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

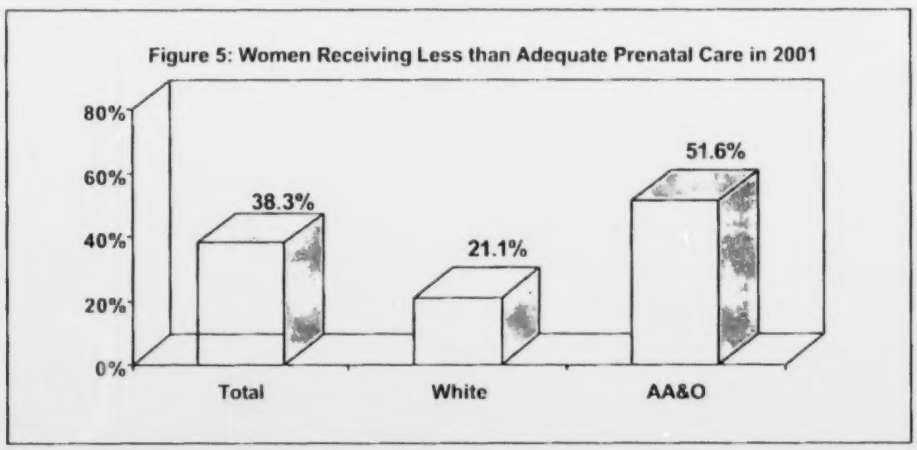
Income: The mean income of families with children in 1999 was $45,655. In 1989 it was $43,045, and 1979, it was $40,929, adjusted for inflation (i.e., in 1999 dollars). The mean income of single-parent families with children was $28,155 for single parents in 1999, as compared with $57,343 in married-couple families with children. From 1999 to 2000, Barnwell County real dollar per capita income (eliminating inflation) decreased by -7.4%.

Child Support Payments: There were 319[7] families receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families in fiscal year 2002, but only 34.2 % had child support court orders. Their average monthly payment of child support was $ 236, including child support receipts and tax refund intercepts. In addition, during fiscal year 2002, an estimated 495 parents in non-TANF families were obligated to pay a monthly average of $ 214. Information is not available regarding the amount actually paid.

HEALTH

Good health during a child's formative years helps children to reach their maximum potential. Good health requires healthy lifestyles and effective primary care, starting during the prenatal period and continuing through adolescence into adulthood. Children's health reflects the well-being of the community, as well as how adequately they are protected.

Prenatal Care: Early and continuous prenatal care can make a significant difference in assuring births of healthy babies. Delayed or insufficient prenatal care is associated with low birthweight and other health risks for infants. In 2001, 98, or 28.9% of pregnant women received no prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy. In 2001, 130, or 38.3% of pregnant women received less than adequate prenatal care: 31 or 21.1% of Whites and 99 or 51.6% of African-Americans and Others. In that same year, 2 women received no prenatal care at all.



Low Birthweight: Low birthweight of less than 5.5 pounds and very low birthweight of less than 3.3 pounds are associated with health risks and growth and development problems. In 2001, 40 or 11.8% of all babies in the county were born with low birthweight: 13.5% of African-American and Other babies and 9.5% of White babies. During 1999-2001, approximately 19 or 1.9% of all babies were born with very low birthweight and had the most serious complications: 1.3% of White babies and 2.3% of African-American and Other babies. The cost of hospitalization for each newborn low birthweight baby in the county in 1999 - 2001 was $8,274 and $43,721 for each very low birthweight baby, compared with $1,931 for a baby of normal birthweight. The result was excess cost in the county of $196,389 for all low birthweight babies, of which $139,302 was for very low birthweight babies.

Infant Mortality: During the decade since 1989-91, the overall infant mortality rate increased by 59.9% from 11.7 to 18.8 per 1000 live births. For Whites, the rate increased 11.6% from 10.0 to 11.1 per 1000 live births, while for African-Americans and Others the rate increased 85.1% from 13.4 to 24.8 per 1000 live births. Over the three-year period 1999-2001, 5 White and 14 African-American and Other infants died before age one. By comparison, 5 White and 7 African-American and Other infants died during 1989-91.

[7] Number is an unduplicated count for the entire fiscal year.

Child Injuries and Deaths: Childhood deaths and injuries reflect whether communities are safe for children. In 2001, children in the Barnwell County went to the emergency room 755 times because of injuries. Boys are injured more often than girls. Children visit the emergency room at comparable rates for each age from 0 to 17.

In South Carolina, the major causes of death among young children are unintentional injuries, cancer, homicide, and congenital anomalies. Over the three year period 1999-2001, 1 White and 3 African-American and Other children ages 1-14 died in the county. During 1989-91, 3 White and 3 African-American and Other children died.

Immunization: Immunization rates are an important indication of whether young children are receiving adequate preventive health care. During FY 1989-90, 51.3% of children less than two years old seen in public health clinics were not fully immunized against such preventable diseases as Polio, Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Haemophilus Influenza B and Whooping Cough. After a concerted statewide campaign to increase immunizations, the percentage of children seen in public health clinics who were not fully immunized in January 2001 had declined in the county to 8.2%. The DHEC statewide birth registry survey of all two year old children found that 88.1% were fully immunized in 2001. This success demonstrates the potential to improve the status of children when the leadership of the state and its communities act decisively together.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Children and youth are infected with sexually transmitted diseases through sexual abuse or irresponsible sexual activity. National prevalence rates indicate: a 1 in 8 chance that sexually active 15 year-old girls will develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), the most rapidly increasing cause of infertility; 10% of sexually active adolescent girls and boys are infected with chlamydia, the most common cause of PID; and as many as 15% of teen girls are infected with human papilloma virus, often with strains linked to cervical cancer. Furthermore, research evidence indicates that susceptibility to HIV/AIDS increases by 3 to 8 times through prior infection with various STDs.

According to national studies, approximately 1 in 4 sexually experienced youth aged 13-19 acquires a STD ever year; since two-thirds of all high school students have had sexual intercourse and half engage in intercourse over a three month period, this would suggest that 10-15% of teens are infected with STDs annually. For 2000, this would indicate that an estimated 256 to 384 youth ages 13-19 in the county were infected with a STD. Many infections are either not identified for treatment or not reported. In the county, there were reported cases of children under age 15 and 17 youth ages 15 - 19 infected with gonorrhea; 2 youth under 15 and 33 ages 15 - 19 were reported infected with chlamydia. Youth with undiagnosed and untreated STDs often spread their infections.

Healthy Lifestyles: Although no county data is available, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2001 found that many high school students are not following good health habits. The YRBS revealed that 26% felt that they were overweight; 42% were trying to lose weight: 27% of boys and 57% of girls. Although during a week 79% of high school students ate fruit, 59% ate salad, and over 83% ate vegetables, only 17% ate the recommended five or more servings of fruit and vegetables per day. During a week, 49% did stretching or muscle strengthening exercises, and 59% exercised three or more times for 20 minutes in sports that made them sweat or breathe hard. However, 11% of students engaged in no vigorous or moderate activity at all during a week: 8% of boys and 13% of girls.

Tobacco Use:* Cigarette smoking starts at a young age and often becomes habitual. In the county during 2002 among all students 15 and older, 18.0% first smoked by age 11, 38.8% by age 13, and 52.5% by age 15. In a typical month, 16.0% of 7th and 8th graders and 27.5% of high school students smoked cigarettes. White youths were much more likely than African-Americans to smoke: 33.1% of White male and 30.8% of White female 7th to 12th graders used cigarettes, as compared with 20.9% of African-American males and 10.2% of African American females. A smaller but significant group of high school students (10.4%) used smokeless tobacco monthly; it was used primarily by White males (31.7% compared with 2.2% of all other race and sex groups).

* County participation in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking was not complete but county data is presented to provide the best available picture of teen risk-taking attitudes and behavior in Barnwell County. Two of 3 districts participated (Districts 19 and 45).

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Disabilities: No data are collected on the true prevalence of disabilities within the county. According to national reported estimates, over 10% of children and youth have developmental disabilities at any point in time, and more than 17 are affected at some time before age 18 by deafness, blindness, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, speech defects, development delays, learning disabilities, and emotional or behavioral problems. For 2000 this suggests that at least 661 children ar youth under age 18 in the county are currently affected by disabilities.

Approximately 5% of children and youth nationally have serious disabilities which have lifelong implications f work, social life and community living. Typically among children and youth, there are 1 - 2% who are mentally retarded, - 3% with serious emotional disturbances, over 1% with orthopedic or multiple disabilities, including cerebral palsy an many hereditary conditions, and under 1% with visual or hearing impairments.

Other chronic health problems also affect the lives of many children. Over 3% of children have one or more these limitations. Such serious chronic conditions affect 1 - 2% who have respiratory problems (asthma and chron bronchitis), 0.5 - 1.0% with neurological problems (epilepsy and seizures), and less than 1% with circulatory problen (congenital heart defects and acquired diseases).

Other disabilities are identified primarily in school performance. These would include 366 students in grades 1- with learning disabilities and 237 students in grades 1-12 with speech/language deficits.

Disabilities are caused by genetics, disease, poor prenatal conditions, injuries, and environmental factors. For example, lead exposure, primarily from paint dust, was detected in over 1% of all children screened, including 4 in Barnwell County.

Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: While over 20% of 9-17 year olds meet diagnostic criteria for some form of mental disorder, the number with serious emotional disturbance and impaired functioning in family, school, or community activities is: 9-13% for substantial functional impairment and 5-9% for extreme functional impairment. The rates among poor children are at the higher end of these ranges. Based on a federal formula for estimating prevalence, in the county there are 12% or 424 seriously emotionally disturbed 9-17 year olds with substantial functional impairment and 8% or 283 with extreme functional impairment during the course of a year. Conduct disorders, attention deficit, depression, and anxiety disorders are the most prevalent, each affecting 3% or more of school-aged children. These disorders may occur simultaneously in a child. The prevalence rates are highest among males, adolescents, and disadvantaged persons in communities under stress and lacking social cohesion; depression, however, is more prevalent among females. On the YRBS, 20% of boys and 33% of girls in high school reported that during the past year they felt so sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that they stopped doing some usual activities. Another indicator of emotional problems is the 8% of high school students in South Carolina who reported that they had "attempted suicide" in the past year: 5% of boys and 10% of girls. Suicide attempts resulted in 4% of high school students reporting that they required treatment by a doctor or nurse for injury, poisoning, or overdose.

Inadequate Healthcare: No county level data is routinely collected regarding the number of children and youth with inadequate healthcare. According to estimates for 2000-02 by the Bureau of the Census through the annual Current Population Survey, the statewide average rate of uninsured children and youth under age 18 in families with incomes under 200% of poverty in South Carolina was 16.6%, and 9.9% above 200% of poverty. If these rates are applied to the county, there are 583 children in the county below 200% of poverty with no health insurance, and 308 children above 200% of poverty with no health insurance, for a total of 891 uninsured children in Barnwell County. The number lacking basic accessible primary care is at least double the number lacking insurance. Those lacking primary care are often dependent on health services at school. The ratio of students to nurses recommended nationally is 750:1. In the county, this would suggest the need for 6 nurses, compared with 3 currently working in the schools.

Medicaid: For several years, the State of South Carolina has emphasized enrolling eligible children into Medicaid. In late 1997, South Carolina implemented its version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, Partners for Healthy Children (PHC), and aggressively pursued outreach enrollment for PHC and Medicaid. As a result, enrollment of children ages 0 through 18 in Barnwell County has increased by 62.9% from June 1997 to June 2001; thus Medicaid and PHC were serving 54.0% of all children in that age range. The total Medicaid expenditures in South Carolina for services provided to children ages 0 through 18 for state fiscal year 2002 were $991 million, at an average statewide expenditure of $2,343 per child enrolled, approximate Medicaid expenditure for children in the county would be $8.4 million.

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In June 2001, the total number of Barnwell County children, birth through 18, enrolled in Medicaid was 3,568. The total can be broken down into the following age and race groupings:

	White	African American	Hispanic	Other	Total
Children under 1	93	171	1	4	269
Children 1 - 5	295	714	1	45	1,055
Children 6 - 14	455	1,124	2	63	1,644
Children 15 - 18	184	412	2	2	600
Total	1,027	2,421	6	114	3,568

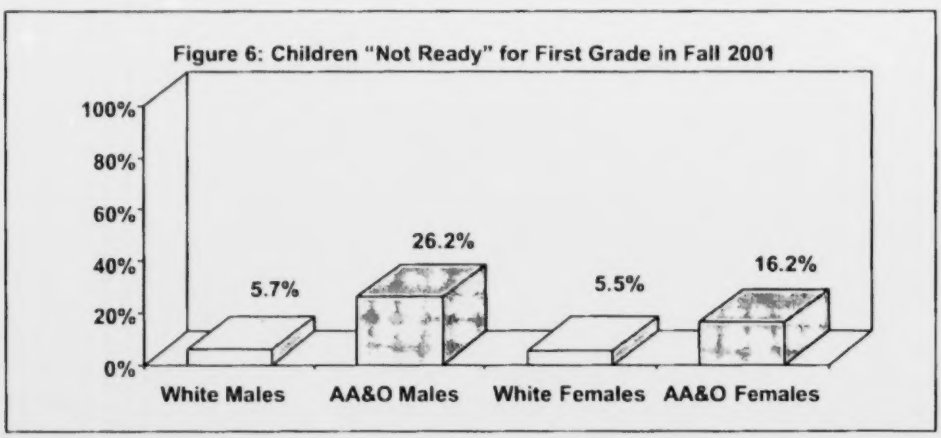
Ambulatory Care: When children lack adequate primary care, whether through lack of insurance, through limite access, or through failing to utilize available care, preventable and treatable conditions become serious and requi hospitalization. A useful indicator of inadequate primary care is the percentage of all hospitalizations that could typicall have been avoided through ambulatory care, especially for pneumonia, asthma, diarrhea and vomiting, dehydration, a severe ear, nose, and throat infections. The share of hospitalizations for these types of conditions could normally be ke below 20%; for children in the county under the age of 18 during 2001, the share was 43.0% for Whites and 39.7% f African-Americans and Others.

Readiness and Early School Performance

Too many children reach school without the readiness skills needed for success in learning, such as language, soci skills, visual and auditory discrimination, memory recall, and knowledge of colors, letters, numbers, names of objects, et Likewise, some schools are not ready to respond appropriately to the varying developmental levels of children in the ear grades. As a result, too many students do not experience the success needed to create the motivation and engagement th sustain learning.

1st Grade "Readiness" on 2001-02 Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB):

52 children not ready 14.8% children not ready



1st Grade Failures in 2002:

51 children failing 14.0% children failing

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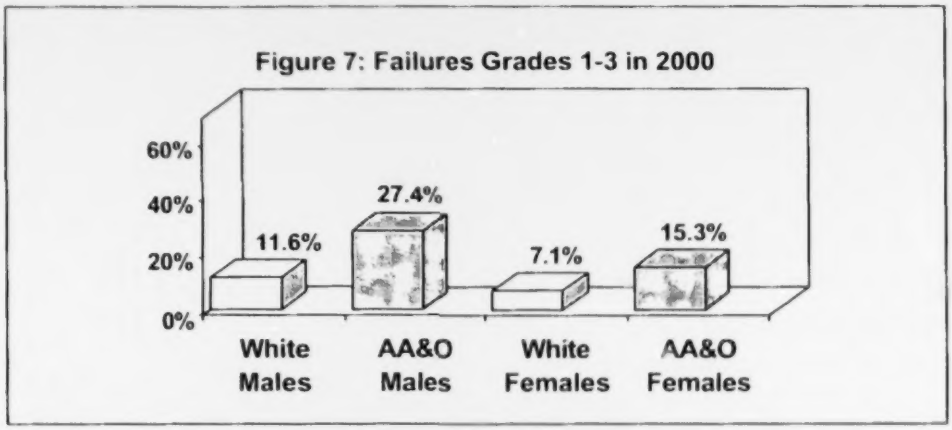
Failures Grades 1-3 in 2002 (approximate cumulative percentage of grades one, two and three):	
86 children failing	23.9% children failing



Over-age for Grade 3 in 2001	
70 children over-age	19.2% children over-age

Special Education: Large numbers of children are placed in special education classes. In elementary school, 170 six and seven year olds and 147 eight and nine year-olds were enrolled in special education classes during 2001-02, approximately 24.6% and 20.9% of their age groups respectively: 19.4% of White 8 – 9 year olds were in special education and 22.0% of African American and Others.

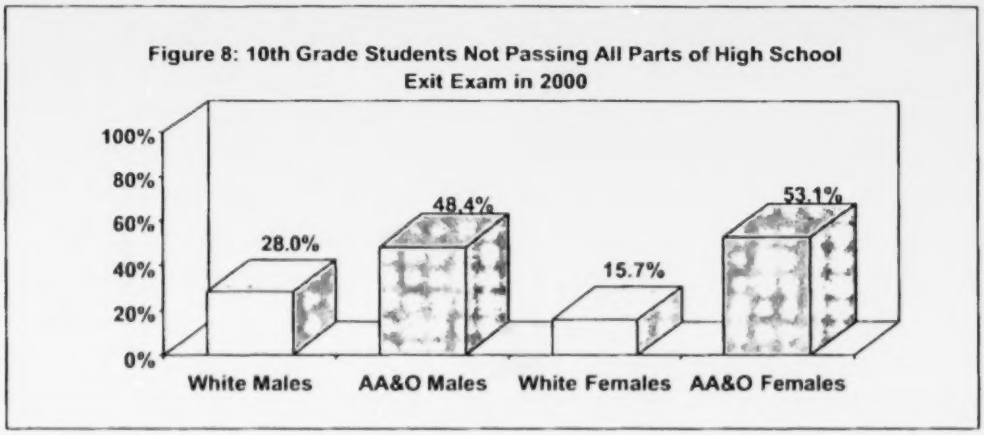
Readiness Summary: A serious problem exists in terms of student readiness and school success in the early grades. With 14.8% assessed not ready for the 1st grade, 19.2% over age in grade 3, and 20.9% of eight and nine year-olds placed in special education, unacceptably large numbers of students still begin school without good prospects of success in future school achievement and graduation; however, great improvement has occurred since the mid 1990s.

SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

By the end of elementary school, significant numbers of students perform below minimum standards. The following standardized test measures, comparing student performance to state minimum standards, should be used in combination with routine classroom assessments more reflective of real-world performance skills.

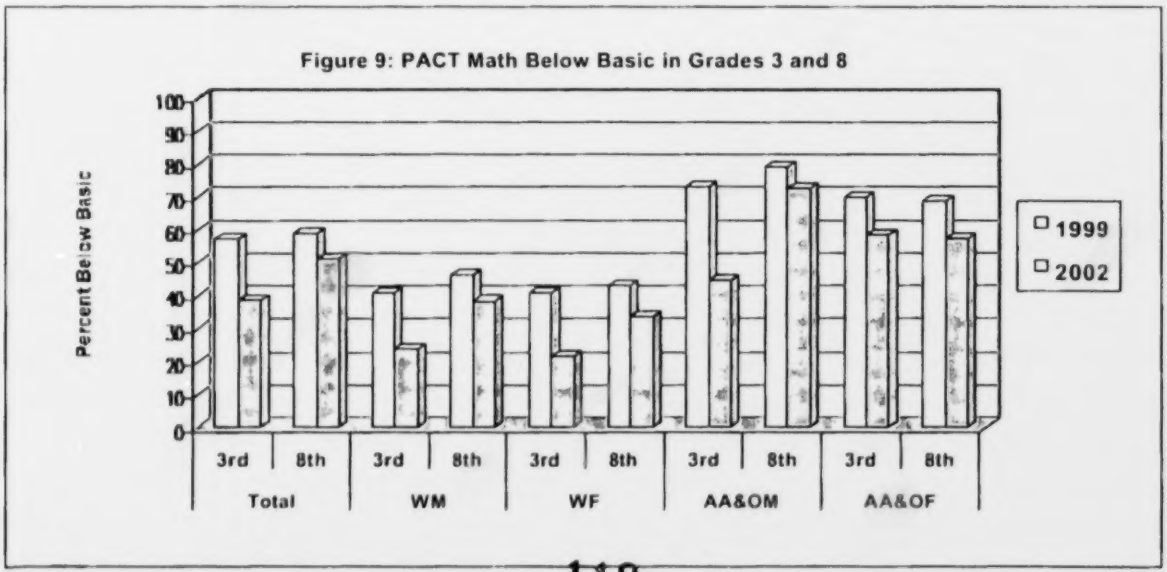
Special Education: Special education placements reflect both the significant number of children with serious handicapping conditions and a large number of students with mild learning and behavioral problems that have not been accommodated successfully by the regular educational program. The result is a large system of self-contained, resource, and itinerant services to meet the needs of 237 speech and language impaired, 366 learning disabled, 14 emotionally disabled, 198 mentally impaired, and 37 physically handicapped, deaf, blind, and other handicapped students. Special education classes served approximately 18.4% of all students in grades 1 - 12 during 2001-2002.

Exit Exam - not passing all parts of Exit Exam on first attempt in the 10th grade in 2002	
109 students did not pass all parts	35.3% of students did not pass all parts



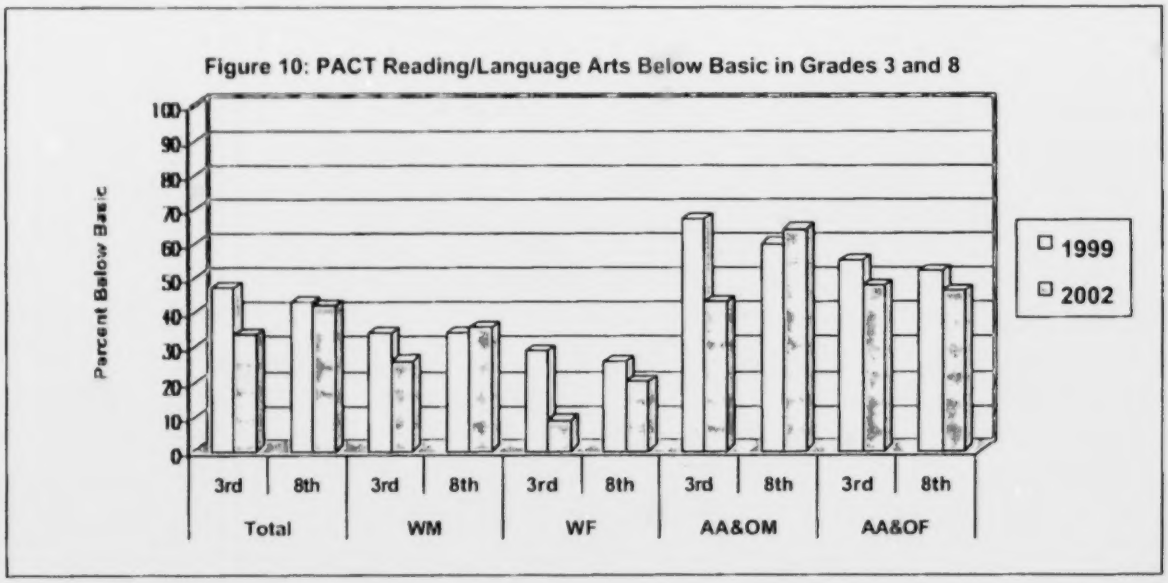
Achievement Trends: How has performance on standardized achievement tests changed over the past 20 years? During the 1980s, student performance on the BSAP tests improved dramatically. Between 1981 and 1990, the percentage of 8th grade students in Barnwell County who did not meet standards declined from 74.2% to 24.8% in math and from 64.3% to 21.5% in reading. During the 1990's the BSAP trend changed, with 35% not meeting 8th grade math standards in 1998 and 35.1% in reading. On standardized tests, the first year when South Carolina students take the exam is comparable to the challenge encountered by the national norm group which took the test only once. Looking at first year data, the percentage of 4th grade students at or below the 25th percentile of national norms was 35% in 1983 on the CTBS, 32.2% in 1990 on the Stanford, and 38.6% in 1995 on the Metropolitan; for 9th graders, the percentage in the bottom quarter was 37.9% in 1990 and 32.3% in 1995. Although not comparable, the percent below basic on the 4th grade PACT in 1999, the first year of administration, was 52.6%, but in 2002 37.2% of 4th graders were below basic in reading and math; the percentage of 8th graders below basic in reading and math averaged 50.9% in 1999 and 46.6% in 2002.

PACT: The Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) was first administered in 1999 for grades 3 - 8 in math and reading/language arts. Math assesses skills in numbers, numerical and algebraic concepts, patterns and functions, geometry, measurement, probability and statistics. The percentage of students scoring below basic in math has decreased by 13.0% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 633 students below basic in grades 3-8 but there would have been an additional 95 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
		Math (%)				
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	38.5	23.9	21.4	44.4	58.3
	4	36.2	23.2	17.0	44.6	57.4
	5	41.5	26.1	26.0	58.8	54.7
	6	44.1	27.6	28.8	57.3	57.3
	7	54.8	41.3	45.6	65.7	63.7
	8	51.3	38.3	33.8	72.8	57.4
Basic	3	35.5	38.6	41.1	38.4	25.0
	4	39.6	34.1	52.3	40.2	31.9
	5	38.5	37.0	49.4	30.4	40.6
	6	38.2	39.1	45.5	35.9	34.1
	7	28.3	35.9	22.8	25.7	28.6
	8	38.4	45.7	47.5	24.7	36.5
Proficient	3	15.9	22.7	21.4	11.1	10.7
	4	14.9	25.6	19.3	9.8	6.4
	5	14.6	25.0	16.9	9.8	4.7
	6	13.9	21.8	22.7	5.8	8.5
	7	11.7	17.4	21.5	2.9	7.7
	8	7.8	11.1	12.5	2.5	6.1
Advanced	3	10.1	14.8	16.1	6.1	6.0
	4	9.3	17.1	11.4	5.4	4.3
	5	5.4	12.0	7.8	1.0	0.0
	6	3.8	11.5	3.0	1.0	0.0
	7	5.2	5.4	10.1	5.7	0.0
	8	2.5	4.9	6.3	0.0	0.0

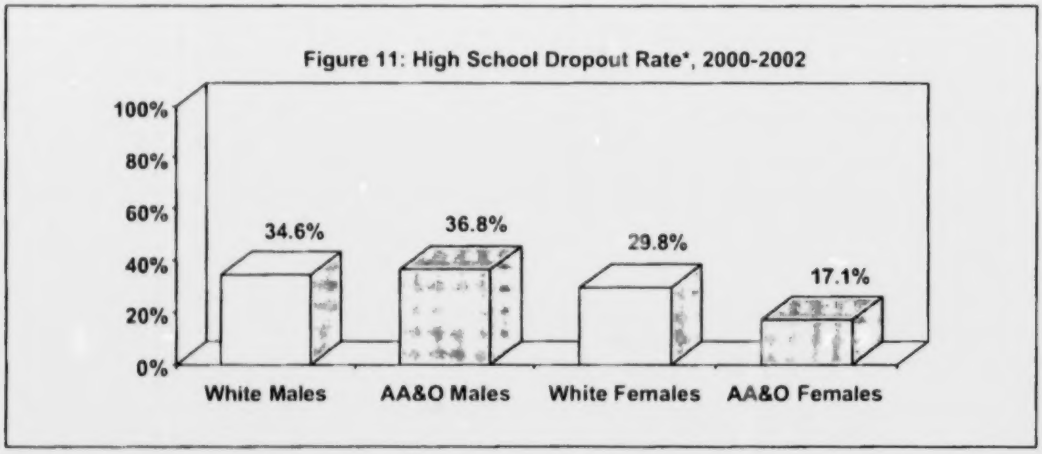
Reading/Language Arts assesses reading, listening, speaking, writing, research, and communication with technology. The first PACT assessment found a high percentage of elementary and middle grades students performing below standards and only a modest number above basic. The percentage of students scoring below basic in reading/language arts has decreased by 13.7% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 512 students below basic in grades 3 - 8 but there would have been an additional 81 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
	Reading/Language Arts (%)					
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	33.7	26.1	8.9	42.9	47.6
	4	38.2	24.4	15.9	58.7	51.1
	5	36.1	26.4	23.4	52.9	38.7
	6	44.8	34.1	21.2	62.7	52.4
	7	38.0	36.6	15.2	52.9	42.2
	8	42.0	35.8	20.0	64.2	46.0
Basic	3	33.4	30.7	35.7	33.7	34.5
	4	37.4	43.9	42.0	27.2	37.2
	5	46.1	48.4	44.2	42.2	51.6
	6	30.4	36.5	25.8	31.4	26.8
	7	43.2	48.4	45.6	37.5	42.2
	8	37.2	35.8	42.5	32.1	38.1
Proficient	3	30.1	40.9	48.2	21.4	16.7
	4	23.3	28.0	40.9	14.1	11.7
	5	16.9	24.2	29.9	4.9	9.7
	6	20.3	22.4	43.9	5.9	17.1
	7	17.8	12.9	36.7	9.6	15.6
	8	17.7	25.9	28.8	3.7	14.2
Advanced	3	2.8	2.3	7.1	2.0	1.2
	4	1.1	3.7	1.1	0.0	0.0
	5	0.9	1.1	2.6	0.0	0.0
	6	4.5	7.1	9.1	0.0	3.7
	7	1.1	2.2	2.5	0.0	0.0
	8	3.1	2.5	8.8	0.0	1.8

Dropout Rate - 8th grade students no longer enrolled in grade 12
(average of students for the three years ending 2000-2002)

122 students drop out annually **29.8% students drop out?**



Dropouts: Distressing numbers of students drop out and fail to graduate. An average of 29.3% of 8th graders failed to graduate** from county schools five years later during the period 1980-84, 23.1% during 1985-89, and 25.0% during 1990-94, 27.6% during 1995-97 and 37.5% during 1998-2000***.

During 2001-02, 96.3% of all who did graduate received the State High School Diploma, while the remaining 3.7% received a State Certificate for meeting the required Carnegie units but not passing the Exit Exam.

* 12th grade enrollment compared to 8th grade enrollment four years earlier
** This is calculated by using 8th grade enrollment to graduation data.
*** 2001 data will be available soon and will be posted on the website.

Fortunately, many dropouts enroll in adult education programs and either earn a high school diploma or obtain a GED. During 2001-02, 1 Adult Education high school diplomas were awarded to school completers and in 2001 12 GEDs were awarded in the county. Over time, adult education high school diplomas and GEDs increase the effective school completion rate substantially. In the 2000 Census, 21.6% of county resident 25 - 34 year-olds said they had not completed either high school or a GED.

Achievement Summary: The numbers of students testing below basic on the PACT and dropping out range from 29.8% to 57.3%. Thus, far too many students fail to acquire the knowledge, skills, learning habits, and motivation necessary to compete in the economy or contribute to society in the 21st Century.

ADOLESCENT RISK BEHAVIORS

Academic achievement is greatly influenced by the prevailing youth culture which often promotes popularity with peers and partying rather than studying and doing well in school. The prevalence of adolescent risk-taking and under-achievement is illustrated by the poor grades of substance-abusing teens.

Substance Abuser Rates at Levels of Academic Performance

	Usual School Grades in Past Year					
	A Range	B Range	C Range	D Range	F Range	Total
Smoked Cigarettes (in past 30 days)	15.7%	24.7%	33.5%	48.8%	76.5%	27.7%
Drank 5 or More Drinks on One Occasion (in past 30 days)	10.3%	13.6%	19.0%	27.4%	60.5%	15.9%
Used Any Illicit Drug (in past 30 days)	4.1%	13.2%	17.4%	25.0%	65.1%	14.1%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

As influence from parents and other adults declines during adolescence, significant numbers of students engage in violence, crime, school offenses, depressive emotions and attempted suicide:

Risk Behaviors Participated in During Past 12 Months	White Male		White Female		African American Male		African American Female		Total		Total (Grade 7-12)
	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	
Carried a handgun or knife for self-defense?	17.8%	23.2%	2.9%	6.6%	11.4%	19.0%	3.8%	7.2%	9.1%	14.1%	12.2%
Carried a handgun or knife as a weapon?	5.3%	10.6%	1.0%	0.5%	7.6%	13.2%	2.0%	5.1%	4.1%	7.3%	6.1%
Been in a fight with someone?	30.1%	29.1%	18.1%	17.3%	25.5%	26.9%	24.8%	12.0%	25.0%	21.4%	22.7%
Hit your boyfriend or girlfriend?	0.8%	1.1%	5.7%	12.0%	8.1%	4.5%	13.7%	20.5%	7.4%	9.4%	8.7%
Been hit by your boyfriend or girlfriend?	4.7%	3.2%	4.9%	9.7%	9.7%	13.3%	8.2%	9.4%	7.1%	8.7%	8.1%
Rec'd detention or in-school suspension?	30.4%	54.2%	24.3%	42.3%	38.4%	40.5%	28.5%	33.7%	30.6%	43.0%	38.4%
Been suspended from school?	16.3%	16.5%	4.7%	10.5%	25.9%	15.0%	15.4%	15.3%	16.2%	14.4%	15.1%
Stolen anything worth > $5?	7.4%	8.0%	3.7%	6.4%	7.2%	9.8%	4.0%	3.3%	5.7%	6.8%	6.4%
Had an accident while driving?	NA	13.4%	NA	13.2%	NA	6.7%	NA	NA%	NA	9.0%	NA
Been arrested and booked?	3.2%	4.1%	0.9%	4.8%	3.0%	5.9%	2.0%	0.6%	2.3%	3.8%	3.2%
Felt hopeless for two weeks or more?	12.3%	17.5%	15.8%	35.1%	18.3%	16.6%	13.2%	28.4%	14.8%	24.3%	20.8%
Seriously considered attempting suicide?	6.0%	8.0%	8.7%	14.2%	8.4%	6.6%	6.2%	12.2%	7.2%	10.3%	9.2%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

Adolescence is often a time of taking risks and asserting independence from adults. When asked whether they would tell an adult about a problem, the following percentages of county students said they would be "not likely" or "very unlikely" to tell if they:

-heard a student threaten to harm someone: 35.8% middle school, 41.5% high school;
-saw a student with a handgun at school: 31.0% middle school, 22.8% high school;
-saw a student with a knife at school: 33.6% middle school, 31.2% high school;
-saw a student with drugs at school: 38.1% middle school, 55.3% high school;

Alcohol Use:* In the county during 2001-02, 15.9% of 7th and 8th graders and 30.8% of high schoolers said they had used alcohol in the past month. Of White males in grades 7 - 12, 34.0% had used it in the past month, compared with 24.0% of African-American males; likewise, 31.6% of White females said they had used alcohol, compared with 16.5% of African-American females. Many youth first used alcohol at an early age: 14.2% had used alcohol by age 11 or younger, 31.4% by age 13, and 59.8% by age 15.

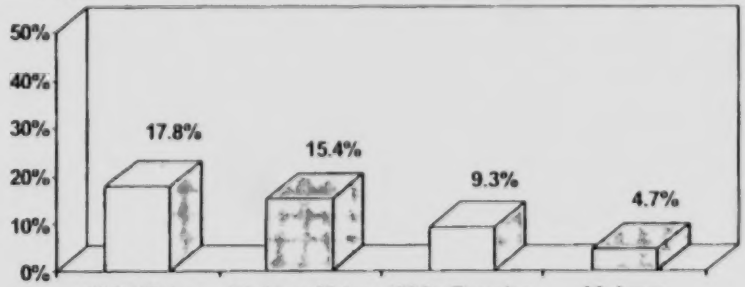
During the previous year, 15.7% of 7th and 8th graders and 27.4% of high schoolers said they had ridden with a drinking driver. Of seniors who drive, 21.7% said they had driven after drinking. Widespread use is encouraged by the ready availability and perceived low risk of alcohol use. Among students who expressed an opinion, 32.8% of eighth graders and 71.1% of seniors felt that beer was easy to get. Also, 62.6% of eighth graders and 55.6% of seniors felt there was not a great risk in drinking two drinks a day, and 39.9% of eighth graders and 39.3% of high schoolers felt there was not a great risk in drinking 5 drinks every weekend.

Heavy Drinking:* In 2001-02, 4.9% of 7th and 8th graders and 15.8% of high school students in the county repor drinking 5 or more drinks in a day during the past month. When asked how many drinks, if any, they usually consu 13.1% of all county students in grades 7 - 12 in 2001-02 responded 3 or more drinks at a time and 6.9% reported usually more drinks. Among high school students, 16.6% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 8.7% 5 or mo Among seniors, 20.0% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 9.6% 5 or more; however 19.9% of seni said that they drank 5 or more drinks in a day once or more during the past month.

Drugs:* In 2001-02, 8.1% of 7th and 8th graders and 14.1% of high schoolers in the county reported using ille drugs during the previous month. Among students in grades 7 - 12, use was reported by 17.8% of White males, 9.3% Wh females, 15.4% of African-American males, and 4.7% of African-American females. Some young people initiated drug at an early age: 4.7% had experienced their first use by age 11 or sooner; 12.8% had used a drug by age 13, and 26.8% by 15.

In the past year, 7.4% of all high school students in the county who drive and 7.5% of seniors who drive said that they had driven after using drugs. Such use is encouraged by the ready availability of drugs: 17.4% of 8th graders who had an opinion said it is easy to get marijuana and 3.9% said it is easy to get cocaine or crack; 50.4% of seniors said it is easy to get marijuana and 23.9% said it was easy to get cocaine or crack.

Figure 12: Drug Use among Students Grades 7-12 during 2001-02*



* County participation in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking was not complete but county data is presented to provide the best available picture of teen risk-taking attitudes and behavior in Barnwell County. Two of 3 districts participated (Districts 19 and 45).

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Sexual Activity and Pregnancy: Many teenagers now engage in sexual activity. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) administered to a representative sample of high school students throughout South Carolina in 2001 showed that sexual activity begins at an early age: 7% of female and 21% of male students have engaged in intercourse before age 13; by age 15, 38% the females and 49% of males have engaged in sexual intercourse. Statewide, 48% of females and 50% of males in the 11th and 12th grades reported engaging in intercourse during the past three months. Furthermore, 27% of female and 33% of male 12th graders have had intercourse with four or more partners during their lifetimes.

Premature sexual activity often results in pregnancy. In the county, 33 girls between the ages of 14 and 17 became pregnant in 1999, 31 in 2000 and 19 in 2001. This represented 2.7% of all girls ages 14 – 17 in 2001; several times this percentage become pregnant at least once by age 18. The 2001 pregnancy rate for ages 14 - 17 was 1.5% for Whites and 3.8% for African-Americans and Others. Of all pregnancies of 14-17 year olds, 84.2% resulted in live births, with almost all other pregnancies ending in abortions.

Teen pregnancy rates increased substantially across the state during the 1980s; as a result, greater emphasis v devoted to preventing teen pregnancy. Since 1989, the teen pregnancy rate in Barnwell County has decreased by 54.8 Overall, it has decreased by 76.2% for Whites, and decreased by 33.3% for African Americans and Others.

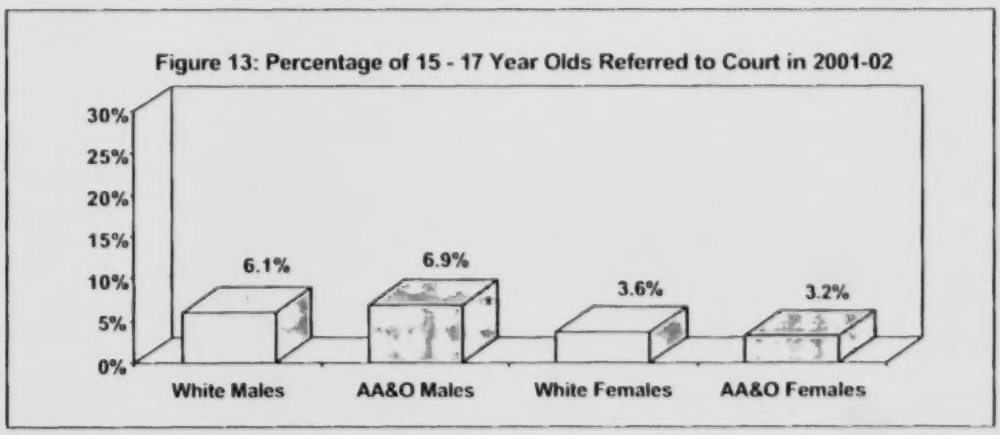
Juvenile Delinquency: In 2001-02, 100 individual juvenile offenders in the county were referred to the Solicitor for delinquency; of these, 14.0% were age 12 or younger, 31.0% were 13 or 14, and 55.0% were 15 or older.

Of the referrals to the family court, 13.0% of all referrals were for violent and serious crimes which include drug trafficking, acts against persons for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and serious property offenses for arson and burglary. Also, 11 juvenile cases constituting 8.4% of all referrals were for status offenses. Status offenses include truancy, running away, incorrigibility, and other offenses that would not be crimes for adults.

Delinquents are likely to live in families with low income: 25.4% lived in families with income under $10,000, 40.7% with $10,000-$19,999 and 33.9% with $20,000 or more. Furthermore, only 9.7% of delinquents lived with both natural parents, while 61.3% lived in a single parent household, 27.4% lived with other relatives, and 1.6% in other situations including parent plus step-parent. Delinquency or criminal activity occurs among many related family members: 68.9% had at least one family member who was delinquent or had some criminal record.

Youth referred to the family courts are likely to have been there before. In 2001-02, 57.0% had at least one prior referral and 15.0% had been referred to court 3 times or more. Many were referred at an early age. For delinquents 15 - 17 years old, 0.0% had been referred by the age of 10, 10.0% by the age of 12, and 21.3% by the age of 14.

During 2001-02, 55 youth ages 15 to 17 were referred to the family courts. In the county, 5.0% of all youth 15 to 17 were referred to court in one year and roughly double that percentage are referred at least once by age 18. Furthermore, the National Youth Survey indicates that typically across the United States the proportion of youth engaging in crime is two or three times the number ever apprehended. In 2001-02, there were 13 juveniles committed from the county to DJJ custody and placed in residential programs.



Not in School or Employed: During 2000, 142 teenagers ages 16-19 were idle, meaning they neither worked any hours nor were enrolled in school, even part-time. Idle teens comprised 9.9% of their age group: 9.4% for White and 10.3% African-American & Other teens. A much larger number, perhaps twice as many, were not engaged in either school full time or work full time. The data reflect a serious failure in both school completion and the critical transition from school to work, significantly affecting their development as future workers. For an in-depth description of the problems of young adults seeking to enter the labor force, visit our website at www.scyoungadults.org for our state and county reports on 18-29 year olds.

Deaths: During 1997-2001, 8 youth ages 15 to 19 died. Historically, automobile accidents have been the major cause, resulting in 5 deaths between 1996 and 2000; homicides killed 2 youth 15 to 19 years old during the five-year period, and 0 youth committed suicide. Alcohol use is often a significant factor in deaths among teenagers.

Summary

Facing the Scope of Problems: The data on families, economic status, health, readiness, school achievement, and adolescent risk behaviors provide a troublesome picture of the condition of children in Barnwell County. The 39.4% of children in single-parent families, 27.7% in poverty, 37.5% not graduating from school, 30.8% of high school students using alcohol and 14.1% using drugs each month, and other data profiled in this report suggest that too many children are at risk of not growing up to become self-supporting adults, good family members, and responsible community citizens.

Emphasizing the Positive: South Carolina Kids Count reports have been developed to describe the problems of children in each of the counties. Fortunately, the majority of children and youth are doing well, and some very well. One simple description is the percentage of children who do not fall into the problem categories reported. For the county, 82.3% of children are born to non-teen mothers ages 20 or older, 45.7% are born to married parents, and 60.6% lived in two-parent families; 72.3% were not poor and 46.5% lived in families with incomes above twice the poverty level for a family of three, $30,040 in 2002; 88.2% of babies were born with normal birthweights; 85.2% were assessed as ready for the first grade, 48.7% scored basic or better on PACT for 8th grade math and 58.0% for 8th grade reading, 64.7% passed all parts of the Exit Exam in the 10th grade, and 62.5% graduated with their class. In a typical month, 69.2% of high school students do not drink alcohol, 85.9% do not use drugs, and 72.5% do not smoke. Unfortunately, the absence of a problem is not always an indicator of success. Some data is available for exemplary performance: for example, 32.9% of 3rd graders and 20.8% of 8th graders scored proficient or advanced on PACT in reading and 26.0% of 3rd graders and 10.3% of 8th graders in math. Unfortunately, data on success is not generally available.

Despite the limitations of success data, we must emphasize the positive in providing good support and appropriate influences for children and youth. Recent philosophy and publications such as those of the Search Institute (700 South Third Street, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN, 55415-1138, tel. 1-800-888-7828, www.search-institute.org), emphasize the critical importance of "developmental assets" to promote and support positive development. One short book from the Search Institute, (What Kids Need to Succeed, by Peter J. Benson, Judy Gailbraith, and Pamela Espeland, 1995) presents an excellent array of suggestions for promoting developmental assets through families, community, faith congregations, and schools. If each family, school, religious congregation and community organization assertively worked to build such assets, the problems described in this report would be reduced dramatically. Such positive family-school-community efforts could improve South Carolina's national Kids Count ranking from the bottom 10 to the average or even into the top 10 by prevention of unnecessary problems affecting children and youth, as shown on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

All data presented in this report is the most recent available at the date it goes to the printer. This version of the Kids Count report will be revised as more recent and additional data become available. Please send us your corrections and suggestions for improvement. We welcome your ideas for ways to make the state and county reports more useful and accurate. Please utilize local data sources whenever possible to supplement the profile provided through our report.

Data related inquiries should be directed to:

Anne Wilson, Data Manager (awilson@drss.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-4810

Calls for **copies of reports** for other counties and inquiries regarding more recent reports should be made to:

Kim Hazel-Lohr, Project Manager (khazel@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-1295

For **policy questions and general comments**, please contact:

Dr. A. Baron Holmes, Project Director (bholmes@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-2291

Comparable reports for all 46 counties and for the state can also be found on the World Wide Web at

www.sckidscount.org

Our website also provides: links to other websites for indicators in our report; high to low rankings for individual indicators; information on how to improve SC's national rank; and a glossary of definitions.

The national Kids Count Report can be found on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website at

www.aecf.org

Barnwell County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Indicators	Most Recent Year	Number 1980*	Number 1990*	Most Recent Data	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	Percent 1980	Percent 1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980 Rank	R 199
Health													
Low Birth Weight	2001	26	35	40	+53.8%	+14.3%	7.6	10.2	11.8	56.1%	15.3%	11	
White babies	*2001*	*5*	*13*	*14*	*+180.0%*	*+7.7%*	*3.1*	*7.6*	*9.5*	*206.5%*	*24.2%*	*2*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*21*	*22*	*26*	*+23.8%*	*+18.2%*	*11.5*	*12.8*	*13.5*	*17.4%*	*5.9%*	*19*	
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	2001	132	157	130	+1.5%	-17.2%	38.4	45.9	38.3	-0.3%	-16.6%	19	
White babies	*2001*	*41*	*57*	*31*	*-24.4%*	*-45.6%*	*25.3*	*33.5*	*21.1*	*-16.6%*	*-37.1%*	*20*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*91*	*100*	*99*	*+8.8%*	*-1.0%*	*50.0*	*58.1*	*51.6*	*3.1%*	*-11.3%*	*15*	
Infant Mortality	2001	23	12	19	-17.4%	+58.3%	2.2	1.2	1.9	-15.1%	59.9%	36	
White babies	*2001*	*10*	*5*	*5*	*-50.0%*	*+0.0%*	*2.1*	*1.0*	*1.1*	*-46.0%*	*11.6%*	*42*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*13*	*7*	*14*	*+7.7%*	*+100.0%*	*2.3*	*1.3*	*2.5*	*6.2%*	*85.1%*	*26*	
Family													
Births to mothers under 18	2001	32	31	17	-46.9%	-45.2%	9.3	9.1	5.0	-46.3%	-44.8%	26	
White babies	*2001*	*7*	*12*	*5*	*28.6%*	*-58.3%*	*4.3*	*7.1*	*3.4*	*-21.3%*	*-51.8%*	*12*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*25*	*19*	*12*	*-52.0%*	*-36.8%*	*13.7*	*11.0*	*6.3*	*-54.5%*	*-43.4%*	*31*	
Births to mothers under 20	2001	83	78	60	-27.7%	-23.1%	24.1	22.8	17.7	-26.6%	-22.4%	36	
White babies	*2001*	*31*	*32*	*23*	*-25.8%*	*+28.1%*	*19.1*	*18.8*	*15.6*	*-18.5%*	*-17.1%*	*36*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*52*	*46*	*37*	*-28.8%*	*+19.6%*	*28.6*	*26.7*	*19.3*	*-32.6%*	*-27.9%*	*30*	
Births to mothers with less than a high school education	2001	141	87	85	-39.7%	-2.3%	41.0	25.4	25.1	-38.8%	-1.3%	38	
White babies	*2001*	*57*	*45*	*42*	*-26.3%*	*-6.7%*	*35.2*	*26.5*	*28.6*	*-18.7%*	*8.0%*	*35*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*84*	*42*	*43*	*-48.8%*	*+2.4%*	*46.2*	*24.4*	*22.4*	*-51.5%*	*-8.3%*	*10*	
Births to single mothers****	2001	96	154	184	+91.7%	+19.5%	27.9	45.0	54.3	94.6%	20.6%	28	
White babies	*2001*	*12*	*25*	*44*	*+266.7%*	*+76.0%*	*7.4*	*14.7*	*29.9*	*303.7%*	*103.3%*	*36*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*84*	*129*	*140*	*+66.7%*	*+8.5%*	*46.2*	*75.0*	*72.9*	*58.0%*	*-2.8%*	*21*	
Children in single parent families	2000	1,449	1,692	2,265	+56.3%	+33.9%	24.2	31.6	39.4	62.9%	24.7%	42	
White	*2000*	*358*	*373*	*569*	*+58.9%*	*+52.5%*	*10.6*	*13.4*	*19.1*	*80.6%*	*42.9%*	*31*	
African American and Other	*2000*	*1,082*	*1,316*	*1,696*	*+56.7%*	*+28.9%*	*39.5*	*51.4*	*61.1*	*54.7%*	*18.9%*	*15*	
Education													
Not Ready for Grade 1	2001	173	102	52	-69.9%	-49.0%	47.3	26.2	14.8	-68.7%	-43.5%	40	
White males	*2001*	*28*	*17*	*4*	*-85.7%*	*-76.5%*	*32.6*	*18.5*	*5.7*	*-82.5%*	*-69.2%*	*27*	
White females	*2001*	*17*	*8*	*4*	*-76.5%*	*-50.0%*	*19.3*	*10.7*	*5.5*	*-71.5%*	*-48.6%*	*19*	
African American and Other males	*2001*	*75*	*32*	*27*	*-64.0%*	*-15.6%*	*73.5*	*31.7*	*26.2*	*-64.4%*	*-17.4%*	*46*	
African American and Other females	*2001*	*53*	*45*	*17*	*-67.9%*	*-62.2%*	*58.9*	*37.2*	*16.2*	*-72.5%*	*-56.5%*	*41*	
Repeating Grades 1-3	2000	37	46	62	+67.6%	+34.8%	10.4	13.4	15.9	52.9%	18.7%	3	
White males	*2000*	*12*	*9*	*11*	*-8.3%*	*+22.2%*	*14.1*	*10.6*	*11.6*	*-17.7%*	*9.4%*	*15*	
White females	*2000*	*5*	*2*	*6*	*+20.0%*	*+200.0%*	*5.6*	*2.2*	*7.1*	*26.8%*	*222.7%*	*8*	
African American and Other males	*2000*	*15*	*21*	*31*	*+106.7%*	*+47.6%*	*15.1*	*25.4*	*27.4*	*81.5%*	*7.9%*	*6*	
African American and Other females	*2000*	*5*	*14*	*14*	*+180.0%*	*+0.0%*	*5.7*	*14.2*	*15.3*	*168.4%*	*7.7%*	*3*	
Grade 3 Math below standards*****	2002	145	34	126	-13.1%	+270.6%	40.6	9.5	38.5	-5.2%	305.3%	21	
White males	*2002*	*34*	*8*	*21*	*-38.2%*	*+162.5%*	*39.5*	*9.1*	*23.9*	*-39.5%*	*162.6%*	*39*	
White females	*2002*	*29*	*2*	*12*	*-58.6%*	*+500.0%*	*30.2*	*2.2*	*21.4*	*29.1%*	*872.7%*	*34*	
African American and Other males	*2002*	*43*	*8*	*44*	*+2.3%*	*+450.0%*	*47.2*	*10.0*	*44.4*	*-5.9%*	*344.0%*	*5*	
African American and Other females	*2002*	*39*	*16*	*49*	*+25.6%*	*+206.3%*	*47.0*	*16.2*	*58.3*	*24.0%*	*259.9%*	*14*	
Grade 3 Reading below standards*****	2002	140	20	110	-21.4%	+450.0%	39.2	5.7	33.7	-14.0%	491.2%	27	
White males	*2002*	*32*	*6*	*23*	*-28.1%*	*+283.3%*	*37.2*	*7.1*	*26.1*	*-29.8%*	*267.6%*	*39*	
White females	*2002*	*24*	*2*	*5*	*-79.2%*	*+150.0%*	*25.0*	*2.2*	*8.9*	*-64.4%*	*304.5%*	*40*	
African American and Other males	*2002*	*49*	*5*	*42*	*-14.3%*	*+740.0%*	*53.8*	*6.3*	*42.9*	*-20.3%*	*581.0%*	*17*	
African American and Other females	*2002*	*34*	*7*	*40*	*+17.6%*	*+471.4%*	*41.0*	*7.0*	*47.6*	*16.1%*	*580.0%*	*25*	
Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT Grade 4	1998	113	111	82	-27.4%	-26.1%	35.0	32.2	24.4	-30.3%	-24.2%	29	
White males	*1998*	*22*	*20*	*9*	*-59.1%*	*-55.0%*	*27.9*	*24.4*	*12.2*	*-56.3%*	*-50.0%*	*32*	
White females	*1998*	*9*	*10*	*9*	*+0.0%*	*-10.0%*	*11.8*	*13.2*	*11.7*	*-0.8%*	*-11.4%*	*13*	
African American and Other males	*1998*	*52*	*43*	*32*	*-38.5%*	*-25.6%*	*59.8*	*47.8*	*40.8*	*-31.8%*	*-14.6%*	*39*	
African American and Other females	*1998*	*27*	*38*	*32*	*+18.5%*	*-15.8%*	*36.5*	*39.2*	*30.8*	*-15.6%*	*-21.4%*	*21*	

*Year of data is approximate in many cases.
**1 is best, 46 is worst.
*** Data include paternity acknowledgements.
**** BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Barnwell County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Education (continued)

Indicators		Number					Percent				
	Most Recent Year	1980*	1990*	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres
Grade 8 Math below state standards**	2002	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!
White males	*2002*	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!
White females	*2002*	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!
African American and Other males	*2002*	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!
African American and Other females	*2002*	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!
Grade 8 Reading below state standards**	2002	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!
White males	*2002*	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!
White females	*2002*	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!
African American and Other males	*2002*	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!
African American and Other females	*2002*	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!
Grade 9 Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT	1998	NA	136	109	NA	-19.9%	NA	37.9	32.6	NA	-14.0%
White males	*1998*	*NA*	*41*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*43.2*	*21.1*	*NA*	*-51.2%*
White females	*1998*	*NA*	*15*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*16.7*	*18.3*	*NA*	*9.6%*
African American and Other males	*1998*	*NA*	*41*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*48.8*	*53.1*	*NA*	*8.8%*
African American and Other females	*1998*	*NA*	*39*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*43.3*	*37.2*	*NA*	*-14.1%*
Exit Exam (not passing all parts on 1st attempt)	2002	142	78	109	-23.2%	+39.7%	47.0	29.4	35.3	-24.9%	20.1%
White males	*2002*	*19*	*15*	*23*	*+21.1%*	*+53.3%*	*21.6*	*22.1*	*28.0*	*29.6%*	*26.7%*
White females	*2002*	*22*	*12*	*13*	*-40.9%*	*+8.3%*	*30.6*	*18.5*	*15.7*	*-48.7%*	*-15.1%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*54*	*33*	*30*	*-44.4%*	*-9.1%*	*74.0*	*52.4*	*48.4*	*-34.6%*	*-7.6%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*47*	*16*	*43*	*-8.5%*	*+168.8%*	*68.1*	*23.9*	*53.1*	*-22.0%*	*122.2%*
Dropout Rate (8th graders no longer enrolled in 12th grade 4 years later)	2000-02	112	86	122	+8.9%	+42.7%	30.5	22.0	29.8	-2.4%	35.5%
White males	*2000-02*	*34*	*29*	*41*	*+23.4%*	*+45.0%*	*36.0*	*27.5*	*34.6*	*-3.8%*	*25.8%*
White females	*2000-02*	*27*	*20*	*28*	*+5.7%*	*+40.0%*	*29.4*	*20.9*	*29.8*	*1.2%*	*42.2%*
African American and Other males	*2000-02*	*35*	*25*	*36*	*+1.9%*	*+45.6%*	*36.6*	*23.2*	*36.8*	*0.3%*	*58.3%*
African American and Other females	*2000-02*	*17*	*13*	*17*	*+0.0%*	*+36.0%*	*19.2*	*14.8*	*17.1*	*-10.9%*	*15.7%*
Young Adults Not Completing High School (18-24)	2000	746	483	614	-17.7%	+27.1%	32.4	24.7	21.6	-33.2%	-12.4%
White males	*NA*	*223*	*167*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*36.1*	*30.6*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
White females	*NA*	*160*	*79*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*24.8*	*14.8*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other males	*NA*	*179*	*139*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*39.8*	*34.1*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other females	*NA*	*184*	*98*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*31.3*	*20.7*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
Economics											
Poverty Rate	2000	1,622	1,864	1,816	+12.0%	-2.6%	24.3	30.4	27.7	14.0%	-8.9%
White children	*2000*	*534*	*325*	*399*	*-25.3%*	*+22.8%*	*15.7*	*11.2*	*12.6*	*-19.7%*	*12.5%*
African American and Other children	*2000*	*1,088*	*1,539*	*1,417*	*+30.2%*	*-7.9%*	*33.3*	*47.6*	*41.9*	*25.8%*	*-12.0%*
Income of Families w/children (1999 $)	2000	$ 40,929	$ 43,045	$ 45,655	+11.5%	+6.1%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
White families	*2000*	*$ 44,867*	*$ 56,491*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other families	*2000*	*$ 35,167*	*$ 26,466*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
Adolescent Risk Factors											
Teenage Pregnancy (ages 14-17)	2001	41	42	19	-53.7%	-54.8%	5.7	6.5	2.7	-52.5%	-58.5%
White	*2001*	*12*	*18*	*5*	*-58.3%*	*-72.2%*	*3.2*	*6.0*	*1.5*	*-52.5%*	*-75.0%*
African American and Other	*2001*	*29*	*24*	*14*	*-51.7%*	*-41.7%*	*8.3*	*7.1*	*3.8*	*-54.2%*	*-46.5%*
Delinquency	2002	45	26	55	+22.2%	+111.5%	4.2	2.4	5.0	19.0%	108.3%
White males	*2002*	*12*	*7*	*17*	*+41.7%*	*+142.9%*	*4.4*	*2.9*	*6.1*	*38.0%*	*109.4%*
White females	*2002*	*11*	*1*	*9*	*-18.2%*	*+800.0%*	*4.1*	*0.5*	*3.6*	*-12.2%*	*620.0%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*17*	*16*	*20*	*+17.6%*	*+25.0%*	*6.0*	*4.5*	*6.9*	*14.9%*	*53.3%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*5*	*2*	*9*	*+80.0%*	*+350.0%*	*1.9*	*0.7*	*3.2*	*69.2%*	*359.2%*

*Closest available data to this year was used in many cases.
**BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Kids Count 2003

Beaufort County

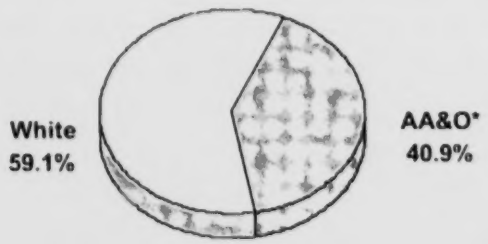
DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2000 there were an estimated 28,143 children under age 18 in the county. Of these, 16,644 were White, 9,636 were African-American, and 1,863 were other races. There were 21,818 children under age 18 in 1990, 18,188 in 1980, 18,651 in 1970, and 19,233 in 1960.

Children represent a shrinking portion of the county's population. Those under 18 constituted 23.3% of the population in 2000, down from 43.5% in 1960, 36.5% in 1970, and 27.8% in 1980.

In 2000 the 9,691 pre-schoolers under age 6 were 8.0% of the overall population: 7.0% of Whites and 9.8% of African Americans.

Figure 1: Population Ages 0-17 in 2000



* In all charts African-American is combined with other races, and often abbreviated as AA&O. Other races comprise 6.6% of children in the county, with "some other race alone" at 3.2% and 'two or more races" at 2.4% as the largest Other groups.

FAMILY

Families have always been the most important influence in a child's life. Children depend on their families for material needs, stimulation and guidance. Family life is different in numerous ways from previous generations, and many families now face exceptional challenges.

Families with children now make up a smaller share of all households. Only 30.4% of all households in 2000, as compared with 52.0% of households in 1960, had children below the age of 18.

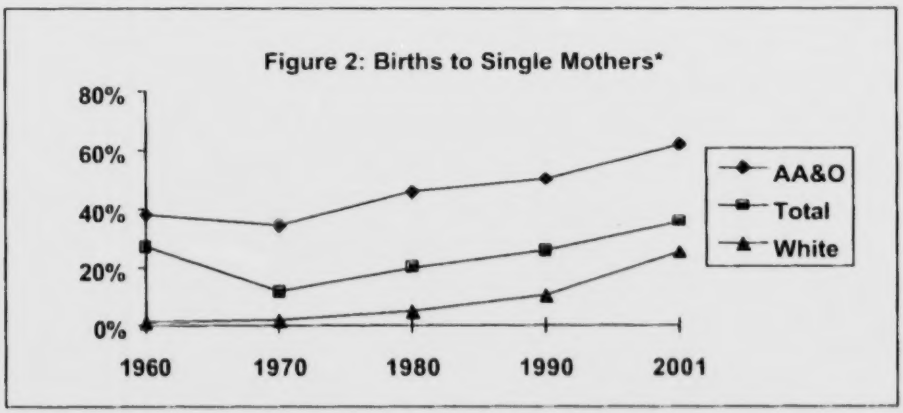
Births to Teen Mothers: In 2001, 74 babies were born to mothers younger than age 18. They were 3.8% of all babies born in the county; 2.4% of all White and 7.3% of all African-American and Other babies were born to teen mothers under the age of 18. Of the babies born to these teens in 2001, 90.5% were born to single mothers, including babies whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers.

In 2001, 247 babies were born to mothers younger than age 20. These babies were 12.7% of all born in the county; 9.5% of all White and 20.9% of all African-American and Other babies were born to mothers under the age of 20. Of the babies born to these mothers in 2001, 78.9% were born to single mothers, including paternity acknowledeged babies.

Education of Mothers Giving Birth: Children's success is strongly influenced by the education of their parents. In 2001, 355 babies, 18.3% of all babies, were born to mothers of all ages who had not completed the 12th grade. In 2001, 18.8% of White and 17.1% of African-American and Other babies were born to mothers who had completed less than the 12th grade. This is a substantial improvement from 28.3% in 1970. In addition, during 2001, 41.2% had completed 12 grades (34.8% of Whites and 57.4% of African Americans and Others) and 40.5% had more than a high school degree (46.4% of Whites and 25.5% of African American and Others).

Births to Single Mothers: Births to single mothers have increased steadily over four decades. In 2001, 394 babies, 20.3% of all babies, were recorded as born to single mothers. A decade earlier in 1990, the percentage was 19.8% and in 1960 it was 26.8%. In 2001, 11.4% of White children and 42.8% of African-American and Other children were born to single mothers. These numbers, however, do not include paternity acknowlegement births.

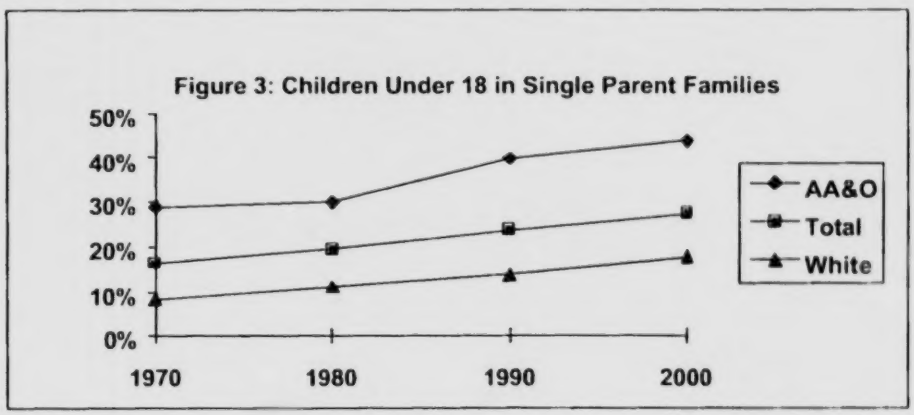
Thus, to these numbers should be added an additional group of 296 babies, 15.2% of all born in 2001, whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers. When the paternity-acknowledged babies are added, the total number born to single mothers in 2001 was 690, constituting 35.5% of all babies, 25.1% of White babies, and 61.9% of African-American and Others.



*Includes paternity acknowleged babies in 1980, 1990 and 2001. Prior to 1979, paternity acknowleged cases were not a statistical category, and thus were included in births to single mothers.

Divorce Rate: In 2001, 1,447 marriage licenses were issued, while 450 divorce decrees involving 374 children were filed. In 1970, only 76 children were in families involved in divorce.

Single-Parent Family: Increasing numbers of children live in single-parent families. In 2000, 6,859 children lived with only one parent. This was 27.4% of all children, up from 23.8% in 1990, 19.4% in 1980, and 16.4% in 1970. In 2000, 17.6% of White and 43.7% of African-American and Other children lived in single-parent families. Also in 2000, 1,861 or 22.1% of children under age 6 lived in single parent families: 13.1% of White and 39.4% of African American and Other pre-schoolers.



Parents Working and Child Care: Increasingly, parents must divide their time between children and employers. In order to meet family financial needs, most parents must work and thus have less time for family life. In 2000, 59.7% of mothers with children under 6 and 71.7% with children 6 - 17 were in the labor force. This has increased substantially from 1960 when 27.9% of mothers with children under 6 were in the labor force. Most fathers also work: 56.9% of children under 6 are in families where the single parent or both parents work. Caring for children is a problem for parents unable to obtain quality, affordable daycare while they are at work.

Overall, there are 4,023 spaces in state-regulated childcare facilities* in the county, 91.1% of these are in licensed programs and 8.9% are in registered programs. Of the spaces, 83.5% are in licensed childcare centers serving more than 12 children, 7.5% are in registered or licensed family childcare homes serving six or fewer children, 2.4% are in licensed group childcare homes serving 7-12 children, and 6.7% are in registered or licensed church programs.

The homes and centers are severely constrained by the limited ability of parents to pay. In the county, the average weekly charge is $ 98.64 for centers and $ 76.32 for homes. Consequently, center wages are low: 14.8% of centers with pre-school staff and 11.1% of centers with assistant pre-school staff report paying these staff under $6 per hour. Paying $6-$8 per hour are 48.1% of centers with pre-school staff and 72.2% of centers with assistants. Low wages attract workers with limited education. In 33.3% of centers, most pre-school staff and in 50% of centers most assistants have only a high school degree. In 48.1% of centers few to none of the pre-school staff have early childhood credentials. In childcare homes, 44% of lead providers have no more education than a high school degree or GED; 12% have less than a high school degree.

Family Violence: In 2000, 943 domestic assaults were recorded by law enforcement officials. These domestic assaults comprised 26.8% of all assaults, which include aggravated assaults, simple assaults, and intimidation. Overall, 53.7% of all domestic assaults involve spouse abuse which constitutes 14.4% of all assaults. Since most family violence is not reported, the true incidence of family disruption is much more widespread than even the large number of reported cases would indicate.

Separation from Parents: Some children do not live with their natural parents. In 2000, 5.8% of all children did not live with their natural parents. Approximately 1,046 or 3.7% of all children lived with relatives, 421 or 1.5% lived with non-relatives, 37 or 0.1% were householders or spouses, and 123 or 0.4% were in institutional facilities.

Abuse and Neglect: In 2000-01, there were 381 investigations into reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children. Through its investigations, the Department of Social Services (DSS) determined that 105 of the investigations were indicated for abuse or neglect: 19.4% for physical abuse, 10.2% for sexual abuse, 1.9% for mental injury, 15.7% for physical neglect, 8.3% for educational neglect, 0.9% for medical neglect, 43.5% for threat of harm for physical/sexual abuse, and 0.0% for other types of abuse.

In the indicated cases of abuse and neglect, DSS determined there were 196 children who were victims of abuse or neglect. Of these, 50.3% were male, 49.7% were female; 42.9% were White, 57.1% were African-American and Other. By age, 27.0% were ages 0 - 5, 51.3% were ages 6 - 12, and 21.7% were ages 13 - 17. In the indicated cases, 39.3% of the children lived in two-parent families, 52.0% in single parent families, 6.6% with unmarried couples, and 2.0% in other circumstances.

Out of Home Placements: As of June 2001, 80 children lived in foster care. The median age at first placement in the county is 9.6 years. The ages of children in foster care were 10.0% 0-2, 2.5% 3-5, 17.5% 6-10, 21.3% 11-13, and 48.8% 14 and above. The foster care population is 45.0% males and 55.0% females. Regarding their future, 22.5% were under a plan for placement in adoptive homes, 41.3% for return to a parent or guardian, 5.0% for placement with a relative, 5.0% for independent living, 26.3% for permanent foster care, and 0.0% for other circumstances.

Adult/Child Ratio: A measure of potential adult attention for children from family and community is the ratio of adults to children and youth. In 2000 there were 3.30 adults for every person below age 18. This was up substantially from 1960, when there were only 1.30 adults for every person under the age 18. This indicates that today there are more adults potentially available to provide attention and care for each child than in the past.

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* This data is the best currently available; however, an effort is being made to check the coverage and improve the accuracy. As soon as more recent and complete data becomes available, it will be posted on the website.

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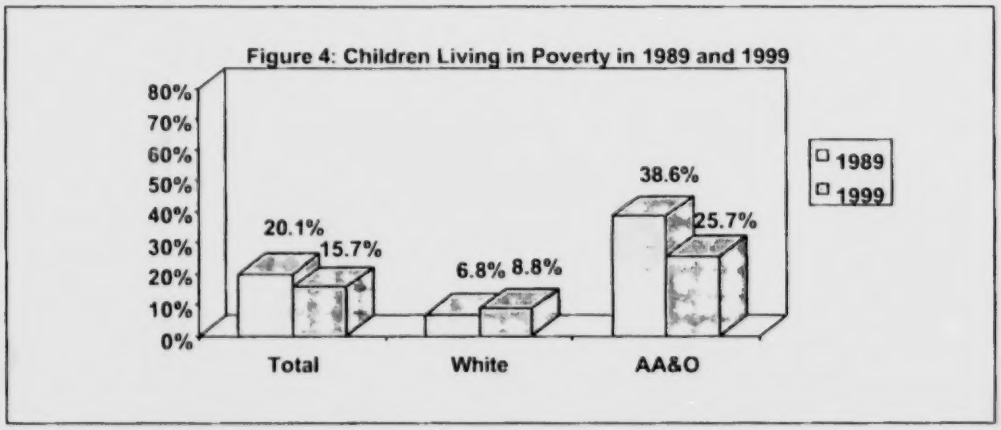
ECONOMIC STATUS

Low income makes it difficult for many families to provide the material and environmental enrichment necessary for healthy child development.

Poverty: In 1999, 4,346 children and youth under the age of 18 lved in 2,150 families with incomes below poverty, comprising 15.7% of all children and youth: 8.8% of Whites and 25.7% of African-Americans and Others. A rough estimate of child poverty in 2001 calculated by the Census Bureau was 23.0%.



Poverty has always been a serious problem. While the rate among children under age 18 in 1989 was 20.1%, it was 23.6% in 1979 and 35.1% in 1969.

Children and the elderly are the age groups most seriously affected by poverty. In 1999, 14.3% of children 0 - 5 (8.0% White, 24.1% African-American and Other), and 15.4% of children 6 - 17 (8.5% White, 25.1% African-American and Other), lived in poverty; 6.7% of persons 65 years and older lived in poverty. Historically, the poverty rate among the elderly was much higher. During the last three decades, federal policy actions have substantially improved the economic status of older persons but have not done so for children.

Single-parent families are most likely to be poor. In 1999, 36.1% of children in single-parent families lived in poverty, but only 7.3% of children in married-couple families were poor. Children in single-parent families made up 72.6% of all the county's children living in poverty.

In 2002, the poverty level was $15,020 for a family of three and $18,100 for a family of four. The poverty threshold is often criticized as an arbitrary number. People can still be poor but may be just above the poverty level. Federal programs utilize varying thresholds. For example, in 1999 there were 11,366 children ages 0-17 who were less than 200 percent of poverty; thus an additional 7,020 children were above the poverty level but could still be considered poor or near-poor with incomes below $30,040 and $36,200 respectively for 3 and 4 person families.

Children Under 18 in Poverty in 1999

Percent of Poverty	Total		White		African American & Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 50%	1,764	6.4%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 100%	4,346	15.7%	1,453	8.8%	2,893	25.7%
Under 125%	6,062	21.9%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 150%	7,935	28.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 175%	10,003	36.1%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 185%	10,421	37.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 200%	11,366	41.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total Children	28,143		16,644		11,499	

Note: Missing data will be released by the Census Bureau later in 2003, and will be posted on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

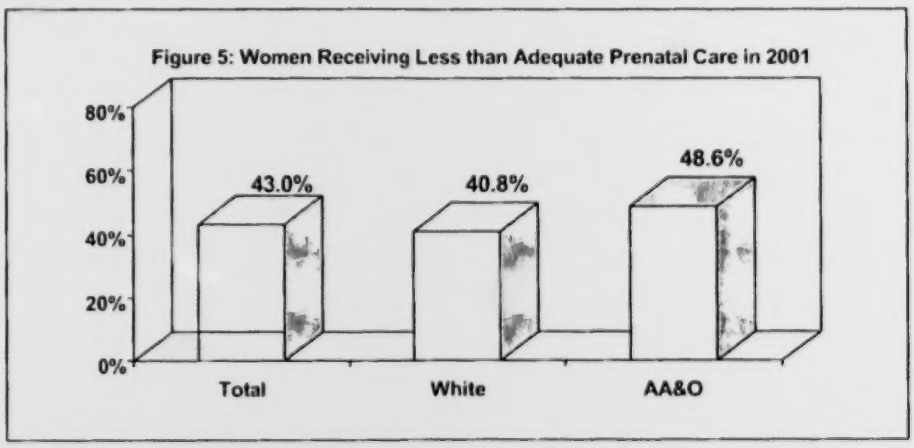
Income: The mean income of families with children in 1999 was $60,353. In 1989 it was $49,068, and 1979, it was $40,746, adjusted for inflation (i.e., in 1999 dollars). The mean income of single-parent families with children was $30,233 for single parents in 1999, as compared with $71,721 in married-couple families with children. From 1999 to 2000, Beaufort County real dollar per capita income (eliminating inflation) decreased by -0.7%.

Child Support Payments: There were 710[7] families receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families in fiscal year 2002, but only 19.6 % had child support court orders. Their average monthly payment of child support was $ 224, including child support receipts and tax refund intercepts. In addition, during fiscal year 2002, an estimated 1,678 parents in non-TANF families were obligated to pay a monthly average of $ 254. Information is not available regarding the amount actually paid.

HEALTH

Good health during a child's formative years helps children to reach their maximum potential. Good health requires healthy lifestyles and effective primary care, starting during the prenatal period and continuing through adolescence into adulthood. Children's health reflects the well-being of the community, as well as how adequately they are protected.

Prenatal Care: Early and continuous prenatal care can make a significant difference in assuring births of healthy babies. Delayed or insufficient prenatal care is associated with low birthweight and other health risks for infants. In 2001, 512, or 26.3% of pregnant women received no prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy. In 2001, 836, or 43.0% of pregnant women received less than adequate prenatal care: 568 or 40.8% of Whites and 268 or 48.6% of African-Americans and Others. In that same year, 12 women received no prenatal care at all.



Low Birthweight: Low birthweight of less than 5.5 pounds and very low birthweight of less than 3.3 pounds are associated with health risks and growth and development problems. In 2001, 146 or 7.5% of all babies in the county were born with low birthweight: 13.1% of African-American and Other babies and 5.3% of White babies. During 1999-2001, approximately 76 or 1.4% of all babies were born with very low birthweight and had the most serious complications: 0.7% of White babies and 3.1% of African-American and Other babies. The cost of hospitalization for each newborn low birthweight baby in the county in 1999 - 2001 was $8,507 and $63,097 for each very low birthweight baby, compared with $1,153 for a baby of normal birthweight. The result was excess cost in the county of $1,470,185 for all low birthweight babies, of which $1,011,756 was for very low birthweight babies.

Infant Mortality: During the decade since 1989-91, the overall infant mortality rate decreased by 42.6% from 10.0 to 5.7 per 1000 live births. For Whites, the rate decreased 58.7% from 7.4 to 3.0 per 1000 live births, while for African-Americans and Others the rate decreased 13.2% from 14.2 to 12.3 per 1000 live births. Over the three-year period 1999-2001, 12 White and 20 African-American and Other infants died before age one. By comparison, 23 White and 28 African-American and Other infants died during 1989-91.

[7] Number is an unduplicated count for the entire fiscal year.

Child Injuries and Deaths: Childhood deaths and injuries reflect whether communities are safe for children. In 2001, children in the Beaufort County went to the emergency room 2,582 times because of injuries. Boys are injured more often than girls. Children visit the emergency room at comparable rates for each age from 0 to 17.

In South Carolina, the major causes of death among young children are unintentional injuries, cancer, homicide, and congenital anomalies. Over the three year period 1999-2001, 6 White and 8 African-American and Other children ages 1-14 died in the county. During 1989-91, 13 White and 7 African-American and Other children died.

Immunization: Immunization rates are an important indication of whether young children are receiving adequate preventive health care. During FY 1989-90, 59.4% of children less than two years old seen in public health clinics were not fully immunized against such preventable diseases as Polio, Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Haemophilus Influenza B and Whooping Cough. After a concerted statewide campaign to increase immunizations, the percentage of children seen in public health clinics who were not fully immunized in January 2001 had declined in the county to 10.4%. The DHEC statewide birth registry survey of all two year old children found that 88.1% were fully immunized in 2001. This success demonstrates the potential to improve the status of children when the leadership of the state and its communities act decisively together.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Children and youth are infected with sexually transmitted diseases through sexual abuse or irresponsible sexual activity. National prevalence rates indicate: a 1 in 8 chance that sexually active 15 year-old girls will develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), the most rapidly increasing cause of infertility; 10% of sexually active adolescent girls and boys are infected with chlamydia, the most common cause of PID; and as many as 15% of teen girls are infected with human papilloma virus, often with strains linked to cervical cancer. Furthermore, research evidence indicates that susceptibility to HIV/AIDS increases by 3 to 8 times through prior infection with various STDs.

According to national studies, approximately 1 in 4 sexually experienced youth aged 13-19 acquires a STD ever year; since two-thirds of all high school students have had sexual intercourse and half engage in intercourse over a thr month period, this would suggest that 10-15% of teens are infected with STDs annually. For 2000, this would indicate th an estimated 1,168 to 1,752 youth ages 13-19 in the county were infected with a STD. Many infections are either n identified for treatment or not reported. In the county, there were 1 reported cases of children under age 15 and 42 you ages 15 - 19 infected with gonorrhea; 6 youth under 15 and 87 ages 15 - 19 were reported infected with chlamyd Youth with undiagnosed and untreated STDs often spread their infections.

Healthy Lifestyles: Although no county data is available, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2001 found that ma high school students are not following good health habits. The YRBS revealed that 26% felt that they were overweight; 42 were trying to lose weight: 27% of boys and 57% of girls. Although during a week 79% of high school students ate fru 59% ate salad, and over 83% ate vegetables, only 17% ate the recommended five or more servings of fruit and vegetabl per day. During a week, 49% did stretching or muscle strengthening exercises, and 59% exercised three or more times f 20 minutes in sports that made them sweat or breathe hard. However, 11% of students engaged in no vigorous or modera activity at all during a week: 8% of boys and 13% of girls.

Tobacco Use:* Cigarette smoking starts at a young age and often becomes habitual. In the county during 2002 among all students 15 and older, 14.5% first smoked by age 11, 34.8% by age 13, and 49.6% by age 15. In a typical month, 15.5% of 7th and 8th graders and 25.4% of high school students smoked cigarettes. White youths were much more likely than African-Americans to smoke: 28.1% of White male and 32.7% of White female 7th to 12th graders used cigarettes, as compared with 16.5% of African-American males and 7.6% of African American females. A smaller but significant group of high school students (1.9%) used smokeless tobacco monthly; it was used primarily by White males (5.5% compared with 0.5% of all other race and sex groups).

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* Data is from the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking.

Disabilities: No data are collected on the true prevalence of disabilities within the county. According to national reported estimates, over 10% of children and youth have developmental disabilities at any point in time, and more than 17 are affected at some time before age 18 by deafness, blindness, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, speech defects, development delays, learning disabilities, and emotional or behavioral problems. For 2000 this suggests that at least 2,814 children ar youth under age 18 in the county are currently affected by disabilities.

Approximately 5% of children and youth nationally have serious disabilities which have lifelong implications f work, social life and community living. Typically among children and youth, there are 1 - 2% who are mentally retarded, - 3% with serious emotional disturbances, over 1% with orthopedic or multiple disabilities, including cerebral palsy an many hereditary conditions, and under 1% with visual or hearing impairments.

Other chronic health problems also affect the lives of many children. Over 3% of children have one or more these limitations. Such serious chronic conditions affect 1 - 2% who have respiratory problems (asthma and chron bronchitis), 0.5 - 1.0% with neurological problems (epilepsy and seizures), and less than 1% with circulatory problen (congenital heart defects and acquired diseases).

Other disabilities are identified primarily in school performance. These would include 1,094 students in grades 12 with learning disabilities and 458 students in grades 1-12 with speech/language deficits.

Disabilities are caused by genetics, disease, poor prenatal conditions, injuries, and environmental factors. For example, lead exposure, primarily from paint dust, was detected in over 1% of all children screened, including 5 in Beaufort County.

Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: While over 20% of 9-17 year olds meet diagnostic criteria for some form of mental disorder, the number with serious emotional disturbance and impaired functioning in family, school, or community activities is: 9-13% for substantial functional impairment and 5-9% for extreme functional impairment. The rates among poor children are at the higher end of these ranges. Based on a federal formula for estimating prevalence, in the county there are 12% or 1,637 seriously emotionally disturbed 9-17 year olds with substantial functional impairment and 8% or 1,091 with extreme functional impairment during the course of a year. Conduct disorders, attention defici depression, and anxiety disorders are the most prevalent, each affecting 3% or more of school-aged children. These disorders may occur simultaneously in a child. The prevalence rates are highest among males, adolescents, and disadvantaged persons in communities under stress and lacking social cohesion; depression, however, is more prevalent among females. On the YRBS, 20% of boys and 33% of girls in high school reported that during the past year they felt so sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that they stopped doing some usual activities. Another indicator of emotional problems is the 8% of high school students in South Carolina who reported that they had "attempted suicide" in the past year: 5% of boys and 10% of girls. Suicide attempts resulted in 4% of high school students reporting that they required treatment by a doctor or nurse for injury, poisoning, or overdose.

Inadequate Healthcare: No county level data is routinely collected regarding the number of children and youth with inadequate healthcare. According to estimates for 2000-02 by the Bureau of the Census through the annual Current Population Survey, the statewide average rate of uninsured children and youth under age 18 in families with incomes under 200% of poverty in South Carolina was 16.6%, and 9.9% above 200% of poverty. If these rates are applied to the county, there are 1,889 children in the county below 200% of poverty with no health insurance, and 1,665 children above 200% of poverty with no health insurance, for a total of 3,554 uninsured children in Beaufort County. The number lacking basic accessible primary care is at least double the number lacking insurance. Those lacking primary care are often dependent on health services at school. The ratio of students to nurses recommended nationally is 750:1. In the county, this would suggest the need for 22 nurses, compared with 20 currently working in the schools.

Medicaid: For several years, the State of South Carolina has emphasized enrolling eligible children into Medicaid. In late 1997, South Carolina implemented its version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, Partners for Healthy Children (PHC), and aggressively pursued outreach enrollment for PHC and Medicaid. As a result, enrollment of children ages 0 through 18 in Beaufort County has increased by 95.6% from June 1997 to June 2001; thus Medicaid and PHC were serving 34.7% of all children in that age range. The total Medicaid expenditures in South Carolina for services provided to children ages 0 through 18 for state fiscal year 2002 were $991 million, at an average statewide expenditure of $2,343 per child enrolled, approximate Medicaid expenditure for children in the county would be $22.9 million.

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In June 2001, the total number of Beaufort County children, birth through 18, enrolled in Medicaid was 9,758. The total can be broken down into the following age and race groupings:

	White	African American	Hispanic	Other	Total
Children under 1	265	407	212	36	920
Children 1 - 5	769	1,660	279	142	2,850
Children 6 - 14	1,016	3,130	139	195	4,480
Children 15 - 18	382	1,055	29	42	1,508
Total	2,432	6,252	659	415	9,758

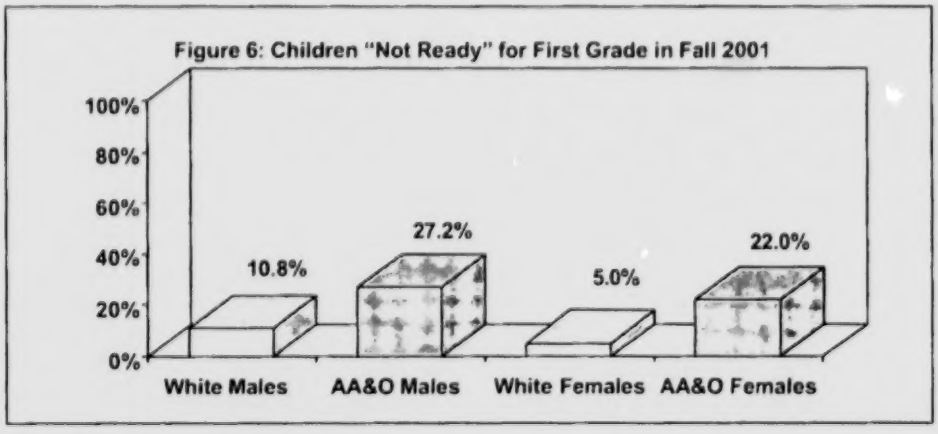
Ambulatory Care: When children lack adequate primary care, whether through lack of insurance, through limite access, or through failing to utilize available care, preventable and treatable conditions become serious and requi hospitalization. A useful indicator of inadequate primary care is the percentage of all hospitalizations that could typicall have been avoided through ambulatory care, especially for pneumonia, asthma, diarrhea and vomiting, dehydration, ar severe ear, nose, and throat infections. The share of hospitalizations for these types of conditions could normally be ke below 20%; for children in the county under the age of 18 during 2001, the share was 22.3% for Whites and 30.2% f African-Americans and Others.

READINESS AND EARLY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Too many children reach school without the readiness skills needed for success in learning, such as language, soci skills, visual and auditory discrimination, memory recall, and knowledge of colors, letters, numbers, names of objects, et Likewise, some schools are not ready to respond appropriately to the varying developmental levels of children in the ear grades. As a result, too many students do not experience the success needed to create the motivation and engagement th sustain learning.

1st Grade "Readiness" on 2001-02 Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB):

206 children not ready 17.1% children not ready



1st Grade Failures in 2002:

50 children failing 3.8% children failing

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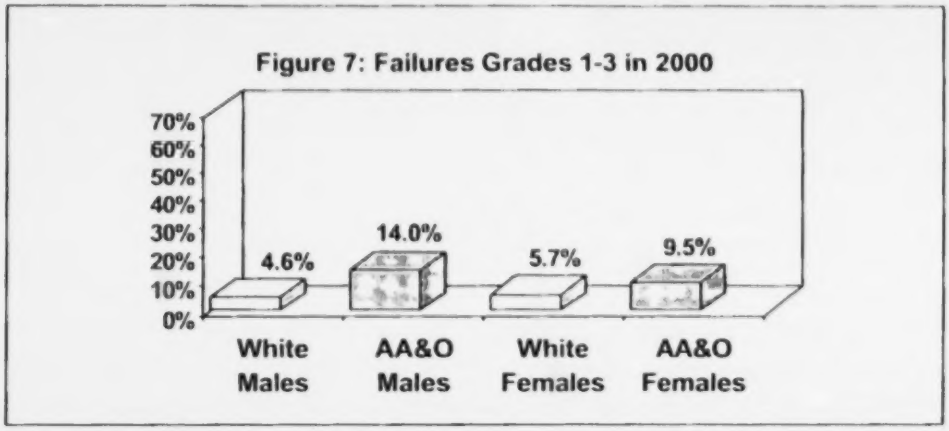
Failures Grades 1-3 in 2002 (approximate cumulative percentage of grades one, two and three):

115 children failing 8.7% children failing



Over-age for Grade 3 in 2001

132 children over-age 11.6% children over-age

Special Education: Large numbers of children are placed in special education classes. In elementary school, 326 six and seven year olds and 337 eight and nine year-olds were enrolled in special education classes during 2001-02, approximately 12.8% and 12.7% of their age groups respectively: 13.1% of White 8 – 9 year olds were in special education and 12.4% of African American and Others.

Readiness Summary: A serious problem exists in terms of student readiness and school success in the early grades. With 17.1% assessed not ready for the 1st grade, 11.6% over age in grade 3, and 12.7% of eight and nine year-olds placed in special education, unacceptably large numbers of students still begin school without good prospects of success in future school achievement and graduation; however, great improvement has occurred since the mid 1990s.

School Achievement

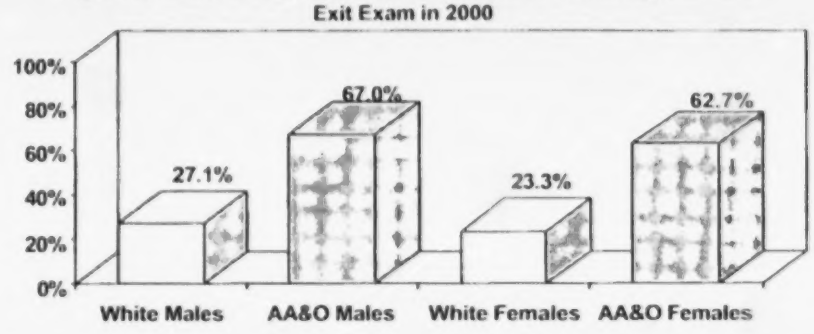
By the end of elementary school, significant numbers of students perform below minimum standards. The following standardized test measures, comparing student performance to state minimum standards, should be used in combination with routine classroom assessments more reflective of real-world performance skills.

Special Education: Special education placements reflect both the significant number of children with serious handicapping conditions and a large number of students with mild learning and behavioral problems that have not been accommodated successfully by the regular educational program. The result is a large system of self-contained, resource, and itinerant services to meet the needs of 458 speech and language impaired, 1,094 learning disabled, 132 emotionally disabled, 171 mentally impaired, and 270 physically handicapped, deaf, blind, and other handicapped students. Special education classes served approximately 12.9% of all students in grades 1 - 12 during 2001-2002.

Exit Exam - not passing all parts of Exit Exam on first attempt in the 10th grade in 2002

487 students did not pass all parts | 45.2% of students did not pass all parts

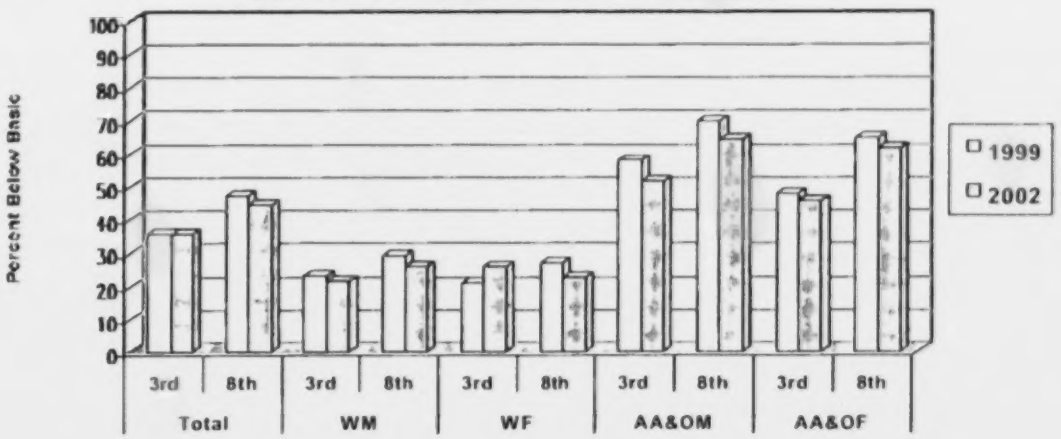
Figure 8: 10th Grade Students Not Passing All Parts of High School Exit Exam in 2000



Achievement Trends: How has performance on standardized achievement tests changed over the past 20 years? During the 1980s, student performance on the BSAP tests improved dramatically. Between 1981 and 1990, the percentage of 8th grade students in Beaufort County who did not meet standards declined from 63% to 37.3% in math and from 62.4% to 29.4% in reading. During the 1990's the BSAP trend changed, with 43.2% not meeting 8th grade math standards in 1998 and 37.2% in reading. On standardized tests, the first year when South Carolina students take the exam is comparable to the challenge encountered by the national norm group which took the test only once. Looking at first year data, the percentage of 4th grade students at or below the 25th percentile of national norms was 34.8% in 1983 on the CTBS, 32.9% in 1990 on the Stanford, and 28.0% in 1995 on the Metropolitan; for 9th graders, the percentage in the bottom quarter was 34.2% in 1990 and 30.2% in 1995. Although not comparable, the percent below basic on the 4th grade PACT in 1999, the first year of administration, was 39.7%, but in 2002 29.7% of 4th graders were below basic in reading and math; the percentage of 8th graders below basic in reading and math averaged 44.5% in 1999 and 40.1% in 2002.

PACT: The Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) was first administered in 1999 for grades 3 - 8 in math and reading/language arts. Math assesses skills in numbers, numerical and algebraic concepts, patterns and functions, geometry, measurement, probability and statistics. The percentage of students scoring below basic in math has decreased by 6.7% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 1,912 students below basic in grades 3-8 but there would have been an additional 138 at 1999 performance rates.

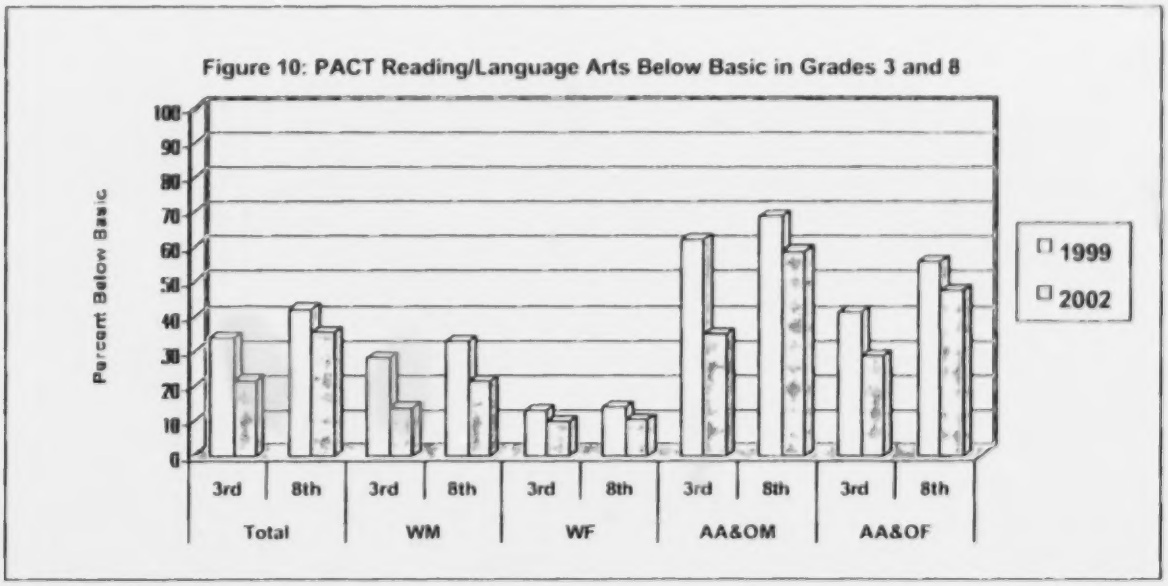
Figure 9: PACT Math Below Basic in Grades 3 and 8



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
		Math (%)				
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	35.9	21.4	25.8	51.4	45.8
	4	33.3	19.5	15.4	49.7	46.9
	5	34.1	21.7	20.4	53.4	39.2
	6	35.5	18.7	13.7	56.0	52.1
	7	49.7	28.9	31.9	73.5	62.4
	8	44.7	25.8	22.8	64.2	61.8
Basic	3	39.4	42.8	41.0	37.5	36.3
	4	35.8	35.9	35.5	36.0	35.9
	5	39.9	43.5	42.6	34.1	39.9
	6	38.1	39.9	45.5	33.8	34.0
	7	28.3	34.7	35.2	20.1	24.0
	8	38.4	44.6	46.4	29.5	34.2
Proficient	3	17.9	24.2	25.5	7.6	14.2
	4	18.3	23.8	26.9	10.3	12.8
	5	17.3	22.0	25.3	8.0	14.9
	6	16.4	24.6	23.2	8.5	9.7
	7	12.2	16.3	20.1	4.3	8.6
	8	11.0	17.8	19.9	4.6	3.4
Advanced	3	6.7	11.6	7.7	3.5	3.7
	4	12.6	20.8	22.2	4.1	4.4
	5	8.7	12.8	11.7	4.5	6.1
	6	10.0	16.8	17.6	1.7	4.2
	7	9.9	20.1	12.8	2.2	5.0
	8	6.0	11.7	10.9	1.7	0.6

Reading/Language Arts assesses reading, listening, speaking, writing, research, and communication with technology. The first PACT assessment found a high percentage of elementary and middle grades students performing below standards and only a modest number above basic. The percentage of students scoring below basic in reading/language arts has decreased by 23.7% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 1,268 students below basic in grades 3 - 8 but there would have been an additional 394 at 1999 performance rates.

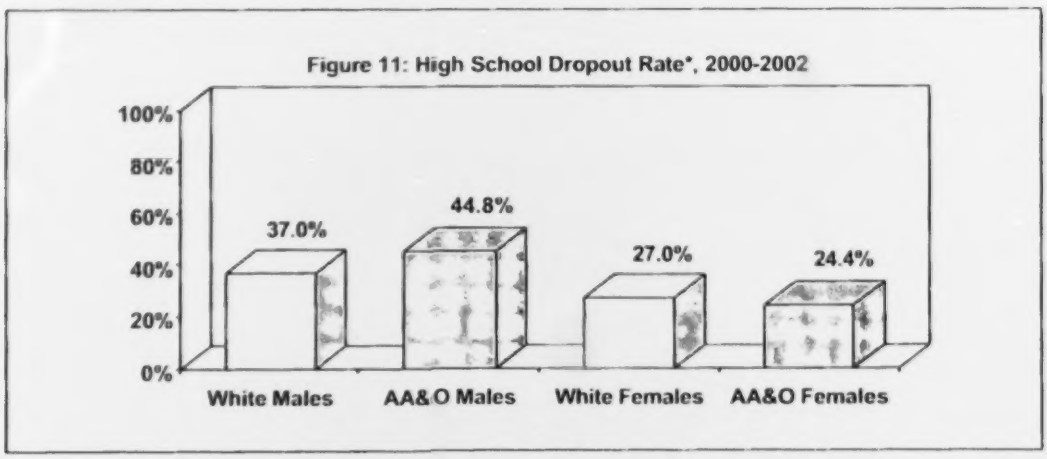
Figure 10: PACT Reading/Language Arts Below Basic in Grades 3 and 8



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
		Reading/Language Arts (%)				
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	21.7	13.9	9.6	34.9	28.6
	4	26.0	17.3	9.3	45.2	31.2
	5	26.4	17.3	11.3	44.1	31.1
	6	30.3	19.2	7.7	58.3	35.8
	7	29.4	19.7	8.1	54.5	34.3
	8	35.5	21.5	10.5	58.7	47.7
Basic	3	34.2	29.7	29.0	39.8	38.4
	4	41.5	44.4	33.7	40.0	47.0
	5	47.5	53.4	43.0	45.8	47.3
	6	38.0	39.2	35.2	31.1	44.8
	7	43.8	47.3	42.1	37.6	47.3
	8	36.7	39.9	34.2	31.3	40.8
Proficient	3	40.3	52.8	51.8	25.0	31.0
	4	30.4	34.6	52.7	14.5	21.5
	5	24.3	28.1	40.4	10.1	20.6
	6	23.9	35.5	36.5	9.8	14.6
	7	24.1	28.9	44.0	7.9	17.2
	8	22.4	29.9	44.0	8.7	10.6
Advanced	3	3.8	3.5	9.6	0.4	2.0
	4	2.1	3.7	4.3	0.3	0.3
	5	1.8	1.3	5.3	0.0	1.0
	6	7.8	6.0	20.6	0.9	4.9
	7	2.7	4.1	5.9	0.0	1.2
	8	5.3	8.7	11.3	1.3	0.9

Dropout Rate - 8th grade students no longer enrolled in grade 12
(average of students for the three years ending 2000-2002)

438 students drop out annually **33.3% students drop out?**



Dropouts: Distressing numbers of students drop out and fail to graduate. An average of 24.6% of 8th graders failed to graduate** from county schools five years later during the period 1980-84, 31.9% during 1985-89, and 31.1% during 1990-94, 35.4% during 1995-97 and 38.5% during 1998-2000***.

During 2001-02, 94.5% of all who did graduate received the State High School Diploma, while the remaining 5.5% received a State Certificate for meeting the required Carnegie units but not passing the Exit Exam.

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*12th grade enrollment compared to 8th grade enrollment four years earlier

** This is calculated by using 8th grade enrollment to graduation data.

*** 2001 data will be available soon and will be posted on the website.

Fortunately, many dropouts enroll in adult education programs and either earn a high school diploma or obtain a GED. During 2001-02, 68 Adult Education high school diplomas were awarded to school completers and in 2001 116 GEDs were awarded in the county. Over time, adult education high school diplomas and GEDs increase the effective school completion rate substantially. In the 2000 Census, 11.6% of county resident 25 - 34 year-olds said they had not completed either high school or a GED.

Achievement Summary: The numbers of students testing below basic on the PACT and dropping out range from 21.7% to 52.1%. Thus, far too many students fail to acquire the knowledge, skills, learning habits, and motivation necessary to compete in the economy or contribute to society in the 21st Century.

ADOLESCENT RISK BEHAVIORS

Academic achievement is greatly influenced by the prevailing youth culture which often promotes popularity with peers and partying rather than studying and doing well in school. The prevalence of adolescent risk-taking and under-achievement is illustrated by the poor grades of substance-abusing teens.

Substance Abuser Rates at Levels of Academic Performance

	Usual School Grades in Past Year					Total
	A Range	B Range	C Range	D Range	F Range	
Smoked Cigarettes (in past 30 days)	15.8%	23.6%	29.7%	42.7%	56.2%	25.4%
Drank 5 or More Drinks on One Occasion (in past 30 days)	20.5%	22.4%	24.4%	28.9%	52.7%	23.2%
Used Any Illicit Drug (in past 30 days)	17.7%	21.1%	26.1%	41.2%	43.3%	23.3%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

As influence from parents and other adults declines during adolescence, significant numbers of students engage in violence, crime, school offenses, depressive emotions and attempted suicide:

Risk Behaviors Participated in During Past 12 Months	White Male		White Female		African American Male		African American Female		Total		Total (Grade 7-12)
	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	
Carried a handgun or knife for self-defense?	17.1%	21.3%	5.0%	6.2%	9.1%	18.9%	3.5%	5.5%	9.0%	12.5%	11.1%
Carried a handgun or knife as a weapon?	4.4%	8.8%	1.1%	1.7%	7.3%	15.4%	2.2%	4.2%	3.6%	6.9%	5.6%
Been in a fight with someone?	41.8%	34.4%	16.7%	19.8%	40.1%	38.3%	27.0%	23.6%	31.4%	28.2%	29.5%
Hit your boyfriend or girlfriend?	1.2%	1.2%	6.4%	12.0%	2.8%	5.0%	17.8%	20.4%	7.1%	9.9%	8.7%
Been hit by your boyfriend or girlfriend?	5.6%	5.2%	5.9%	9.0%	10.5%	11.0%	9.3%	9.0%	7.6%	8.4%	8.1%
Rec'd detention or in-school suspension?	31.0%	32.6%	16.7%	24.2%	39.5%	38.7%	33.8%	32.2%	30.0%	31.2%	30.7%
Been suspended from school?	11.2%	11.1%	3.9%	5.1%	20.4%	23.1%	13.4%	14.8%	11.8%	12.6%	12.3%
Stolen anything worth > $5?	16.5%	27.3%	9.8%	15.6%	13.1%	20.8%	7.0%	7.7%	11.7%	17.8%	15.3%
Had an accident while driving?	NA	13.7%	NA	13.9%	NA	7.5%	NA	7.5%	NA	11.2%	NA
Been arrested and booked?	4.3%	6.8%	1.3%	3.0%	4.3%	9.6%	1.6%	2.1%	2.9%	5.1%	4.2%
Felt hopeless for two weeks or more?	14.5%	16.2%	20.5%	27.1%	12.4%	13.6%	20.9%	22.1%	17.2%	20.4%	19.1%
Seriously considered attempting suicide?	6.9%	7.5%	8.7%	14.2%	6.0%	6.0%	7.5%	8.0%	7.3%	9.3%	8.5%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

Adolescence is often a time of taking risks and asserting independence from adults. When asked whether they would tell an adult about a problem, the following percentages of county students said they would be "not likely" or "very unlikely" to tell if they:

-heard a student threaten to harm someone: 37.4% middle school, 51.0% high school;
-saw a student with a handgun at school: 26.0% middle school, 23.0% high school;
-saw a student with a knife at school: 27.9% middle school, 35.6% high school;
-saw a student with drugs at school: 40.0% middle school, 70.0% high school;

Alcohol Use:* In the county during 2001-02, 24.1% of 7th and 8th graders and 44.7% of high schoolers said they had used alcohol in the past month. Of White males in grades 7 - 12, 44.0% had used it in the past month, compared with 29.4% of African-American males; likewise, 47.3% of White females said they had used alcohol, compared with 27.8% of African-American females. Many youth first used alcohol at an early age: 15.5% had used alcohol by age 11 or younger, 35.2% by age 13, and 65.3% by age 15.

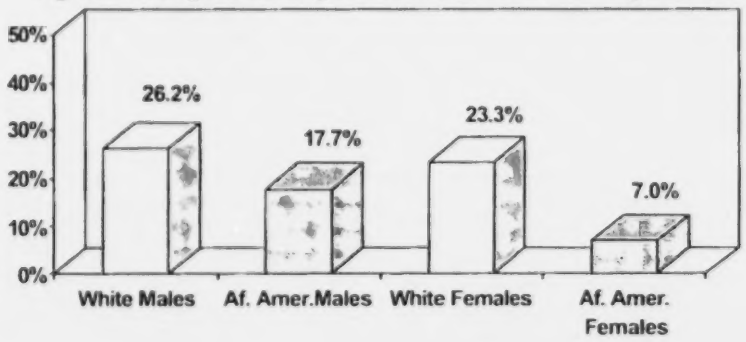
During the previous year, 19.4% of 7th and 8th graders and 31.1% of high schoolers said they had ridden with a drinking driver. Of seniors who drive, 26.9% said they had driven after drinking. Widespread use is encouraged by the ready availability and perceived low risk of alcohol use. Among students who expressed an opinion, 50.0% of eighth graders and 79.4% of seniors felt that beer was easy to get. Also, 73.3% of eighth graders and 73.3% of seniors felt there was not a great risk in drinking two drinks a day, and 50.0% of eighth graders and 54.5% of high schoolers felt there was not a great risk in drinking 5 drinks every weekend.

Heavy Drinking:* In 2001-02, 7.1% of 7th and 8th graders and 23.0% of high school students in the county repor drinking 5 or more drinks in a day during the past month. When asked how many drinks, if any, they usually consur 17.4% of all county students in grades 7 - 12 in 2001-02 responded 3 or more drinks at a time and 8.5% reported usually 5 more drinks. Among high school students, 23.7% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 11.8% 5 or mc Among seniors, 32.5% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 17.2% 5 or more; however 30.4% of seni said that they drank 5 or more drinks in a day once or more during the past month.

Drugs:* In 2001-02, 9.0% of 7th and 8th graders and 23.2% of high schoolers in the county reported using ille drugs during the previous month. Among students in grades 7 - 12, use was reported by 26.2% of White males, 23.3% Wl females, 17.7% of African-American males, and 7.0% of African-American females. Some young people initiated drug u at an early age: 5.8% had experienced their first use by age 11 or sooner; 16.9% had used a drug by age 13, and 37.6% by a 15.

In the past year, 13.1% of all high school students in the county who drive and 21.1% of seniors who drive said that they had driven after using drugs. Such use is encouraged by the ready availability of drugs: 22.8% of 8th graders who had an opinion said it is easy to get marijuana and 7.5% said it is easy to get cocaine or crack; 73.4% of seniors said it is easy to get marijuana and 37.1% said it was easy to get cocaine or crack.

Figure 12: Drug Use among Students Grades 7-12 during 2001-02*



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* Data is from the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking.

Sexual Activity and Pregnancy: Many teenagers now engage in sexual activity. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) administered to a representative sample of high school students throughout South Carolina in 2001 showed that sexual activity begins at an early age: 7% of female and 21% of male students have engaged in intercourse before age 13; by age 15, 38% the females and 49% of males have engaged in sexual intercourse. Statewide, 48% of females and 50% of males in the 11th and 12th grades reported engaging in intercourse during the past three months. Furthermore, 27% of female and 33% of male 12th graders have had intercourse with four or more partners during their lifetimes.

Premature sexual activity often results in pregnancy. In the county, 122 girls between the ages of 14 and 17 became pregnant in 1999, 103 in 2000 and 103 in 2001. This represented 3.3% of all girls ages 14 – 17 in 2001; several times this percentage become pregnant at least once by age 18. The 2001 pregnancy rate for ages 14 - 17 was 2.5% for Whites and 4.5% for African-Americans and Others. Of all pregnancies of 14-17 year olds, 70.9% resulted in live births, with almost all other pregnancies ending in abortions.

Teen pregnancy rates increased substantially across the state during the 1980s; as a result, greater emphasis v devoted to preventing teen pregnancy. Since 1989, the teen pregnancy rate in Beaufort County has decreased by 35.5 Overall, it has decreased by 21.9% for Whites, and decreased by 39.2% for African Americans and Others.

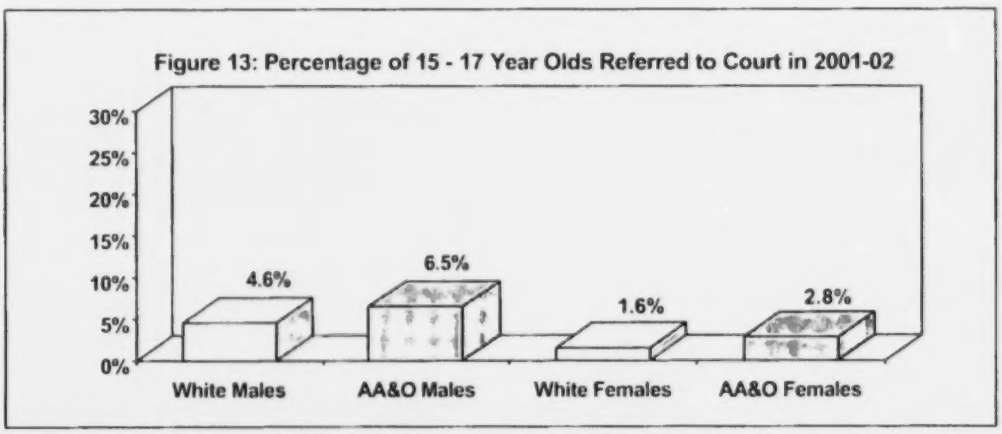
Juvenile Delinquency: In 2001-02, 371 individual juvenile offenders in the county were referred to the Solicitor for delinquency; of these, 13.7% were age 12 or younger, 29.4% were 13 or 14, and 56.9% were 15 or older.

Of the referrals to the family court, 15.0% of all referrals were for violent and serious crimes which include drug trafficking, acts against persons for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and serious property offenses for arson and burglary. Also, 28 juvenile cases constituting 5.1% of all referrals were for status offenses. Status offenses include truancy, running away, incorrigibility, and other offenses that would not be crimes for adults.

Delinquents are likely to live in families with low income: 21.8% lived in families with income under $10,000, 33.1% with $10,000-$19,999 and 45.2% with $20,000 or more. Furthermore, only 26.5% of delinquents lived with both natural parents, while 47.0% lived in a single parent household, 23.3% lived with other relatives, and 3.3% in other situations including parent plus step-parent. Delinquency or criminal activity occurs among many related family members: 20.0% had at least one family member who was delinquent or had some criminal record.

Youth referred to the family courts are likely to have been there before. In 2001-02, 40.2% had at least one prior referral and 10.0% had been referred to court 3 times or more. Many were referred at an early age. For delinquents 15 - 17 years old, 1.3% had been referred by the age of 10, 8.0% by the age of 12, and 21.6% by the age of 14.

During 2001-02, 208 youth ages 15 to 17 were referred to the family courts. In the county, 3.9% of all youth 15 to 17 were referred to court in one year and roughly double that percentage are referred at least once by age 18. Furthermore, the National Youth Survey indicates that typically across the United States the proportion of youth engaging in crime is two or three times the number ever apprehended. In 2001-02, there were 58 juveniles committed from the county to DJJ custody and placed in residential programs.



Not in School or Employed: During 2000, 467 teenagers ages 16-19 were idle, meaning they neither worked any hours nor were enrolled in school, even part-time. Idle teens comprised 6.6% of their age group: 5.1% for White and 8.7% African-American & Other teens. A much larger number, perhaps twice as many, were not engaged in either school full time or work full time. The data reflect a serious failure in both school completion and the critical transition from school to work, significantly affecting their development as future workers. For an in-depth description of the problems of young adults seeking to enter the labor force, visit our website at www.scyoungadults.org for our state and county reports on 18-29 year olds.

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Deaths: During 1997-2001, 27 youth ages 15 to 19 died. Historically, automobile accidents have been the major cause, resulting in 9 deaths between 1996 and 2000; homicides killed 3 youth 15 to 19 years old during the five-year period, and 4 youth committed suicide. Alcohol use is often a significant factor in deaths among teenagers.

Summary

Facing the Scope of Problems: The data on families, economic status, health, readiness, school achievement, and adolescent risk behaviors provide a troublesome picture of the condition of children in Beaufort County. The 27.4% of children in single-parent families, 15.7% in poverty, 38.5% not graduating from school, 44.7% of high school students using alcohol and 23.2% using drugs each month, and other data profiled in this report suggest that too many children are at risk of not growing up to become self-supporting adults, good family members, and responsible community citizens.

Emphasizing the Positive: South Carolina Kids Count reports have been developed to describe the problems of children in each of the counties. Fortunately, the majority of children and youth are doing well, and some very well. One simple description is the percentage of children who do not fall into the problem categories reported. For the county, 87.3% of children are born to non-teen mothers ages 20 or older, 64.5% are born to married parents, and 72.6% lived in two-parent families; 84.3% were not poor and 59.0% lived in families with incomes above twice the poverty level for a family of three, $30,040 in 2002; 92.5% of babies were born with normal birthweights; 82.9% were assessed as ready for the first grade, 55.3% scored basic or better on PACT for 8th grade math and 64.5% for 8th grade reading, 54.8% passed all parts of the Exit Exam in the 10th grade, and 61.5% graduated with their class. In a typical month, 55.3% of high school students do not drink alcohol, 76.8% do not use drugs, and 74.6% do not smoke. Unfortunately, the absence of a problem is not always an indicator of success. Some data is available for exemplary performance: for example, 44.1% of 3rd graders and 27.7% of 8th graders scored proficient or advanced on PACT in reading and 24.6% of 3rd graders and 17.0% of 8th graders in math. Unfortunately, data on success is not generally available.

Despite the limitations of success data, we must emphasize the positive in providing good support and appropriate influences for children and youth. Recent philosophy and publications such as those of the Search Institute (700 South Third Street, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN, 55415-1138, tel. 1-800-888-7828, www.search-institute.org), emphasize the critical importance of "developmental assets" to promote and support positive development. One short book from the Search Institute, (What Kids Need to Succeed, by Peter J. Benson, Judy Gailbraith, and Pamela Espeland, 1995) presents an excellent array of suggestions for promoting developmental assets through families, community, faith congregations, and schools. If each family, school, religious congregation and community organization assertively worked to build such assets, the problems described in this report would be reduced dramatically. Such positive family-school-community efforts could improve South Carolina's national Kids Count ranking from the bottom 10 to the average or even into the top 10 by prevention of unnecessary problems affecting children and youth, as shown on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

All data presented in this report is the most recent available at the date it goes to the printer. This version of the Kids Count report will be revised as more recent and additional data become available. Please send us your corrections and suggestions for improvement. We welcome your ideas for ways to make the state and county reports more useful and accurate. Please utilize local data sources whenever possible to supplement the profile provided through our report.

Data related inquiries should be directed to:

Anne Wilson, Data Manager (awilson@drss.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-4810

Calls for **copies of reports** for other counties and inquiries regarding more recent reports should be made to:

Kim Hazel-Lohr, Project Manager (khazel@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-1295

For **policy questions and general comments**, please contact:

Dr. A. Baron Holmes, Project Director (bholmes@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-2291

Comparable reports for all 46 counties and for the state can also be found on the World Wide Web at

www.sckidscount.org

Our website also provides: links to other websites for indicators in our report; high to low rankings for individual indicators; information on how to improve SC's national rank; and a glossary of definitions.

The national Kids Count Report can be found on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website at

www.aecf.org

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Beaufort County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Indicators		Number					Percent					R	
	Most Recent Year	1980*	1990*	Most Recent Data	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980 Rank	199
Health													
Low Birth Weight	2001	106	127	146	+37.7%	+15.0%	8.0	7.1	7.5	-6.6%	6.2%	15	
White babies	2001	32	43	74	+131.3%	+72.1%	4.1	3.9	5.3	29.3%	37.4%	4	
African American and Other babies	2001	74	84	72	-2.7%	-14.3%	13.7	12.3	13.1	-4.8%	6.2%	39	
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	2001	367	585	836	+127.8%	+42.9%	27.8	32.5	43.0	54.7%	32.2%	5	
White babies	2001	163	293	568	+248.5%	+93.9%	20.9	26.3	40.8	95.2%	55.3%	10	
African American and Other babies	2001	204	292	268	+31.4%	-8.2%	37.9	42.8	48.6	28.3%	13.8%	4	
Infant Mortality	2001	46	51	32	-30.4%	-37.3%	1.2	1.0	0.6	-50.2%	-42.6%	2	
White babies	2001	23	23	12	-47.8%	-47.8%	1.0	0.7	0.3	-68.5%	-58.7%	11	
African American and Other babies	2001	23	28	20	-13.0%	-28.6%	1.4	1.4	1.2	-13.8%	-13.2%	1	
Family													
Births to mothers under 18	2001	71	78	74	+4.2%	-5.1%	5.4	4.3	3.8	-29.4%	-12.4%	2	
White babies	2001	20	28	34	+70.0%	+21.4%	2.6	2.5	2.4	-6.3%	-4.4%	4	
African American and Other babies	2001	51	50	40	-21.6%	-20.0%	9.5	7.3	7.3	-23.3%	-0.8%	5	
Births to mothers under 20	2001	231	236	247	+6.9%	+4.7%	17.5	13.1	12.7	-27.4%	-3.2%	6	
White babies	2001	93	104	132	+41.9%	-26.9%	11.9	9.3	9.5	-20.2%	1.9%	6	
African American and Other babies	2001	138	132	115	-16.7%	+12.9%	25.6	19.3	20.9	-18.5%	8.0%	22	
Births to mothers with less than a high school education	2001	285	259	355	+24.6%	+37.1%	21.6	14.4	18.3	-15.2%	27.1%	3	
White babies	2001	124	120	261	+110.5%	+117.5%	15.9	10.8	18.8	18.4%	74.7%	2	
African American and Other babies	2001	161	139	94	-41.6%	-32.4%	29.9	20.4	17.1	-42.9%	-16.2%	27	
Births to single mothers****	2001	285	458	690	+142.1%	+50.7%	21.6	25.5	35.5	64.4%	39.4%	14	
White babies	2001	39	116	349	+794.9%	+200.9%	5.0	10.4	25.1	402.6%	141.3%	11	
African American and Other babies	2001	246	342	341	+38.6%	-0.3%	45.6	50.1	61.9	35.6%	23.6%	17	
Children in single parent families	2000	3,056	4,646	6,859	+124.4%	+47.6%	19.4	23.8	27.4	41.1%	15.0%	26	
White	2000	1,061	1,645	2,756	+159.8%	+67.5%	11.1	13.7	17.6	58.5%	28.5%	37	
African American and Other	2000	1,970	2,925	4,103	+108.3%	+40.3%	30.0	39.8	43.7	45.6%	9.8%	33	
Education													
Not Ready for Grade 1	2001	181	210	206	+13.8%	-1.9%	26.1	18.6	17.1	-34.5%	-8.1%	1	
White males	2001	22	27	31	+40.9%	+14.8%	15.6	9.7	10.8	-30.8%	11.3%	2	
White females	2001	12	25	13	+8.3%	-48.0%	8.2	8.6	5.0	-39.0%	-41.9%	3	
African American and Other males	2001	89	93	90	+1.1%	-3.2%	39.7	32.3	27.2	-31.5%	-15.8%	4	
African American and Other females	2001	58	63	69	+19.0%	+9.5%	31.9	23.6	22.0	-31.0%	-6.8%	3	
Repeating Grades 1-3	2000	142	134	106	-25.4%	-20.9%	20.3	20.3	8.5	-58.1%	-58.1%	28	
White males	2000	28	21	15	-46.4%	-28.6%	20.9	7.8	4.6	-78.0%	-41.0%	29	
White females	2000	19	19	17	-10.5%	-10.5%	13.1	7.1	5.7	-56.5%	-19.7%	37	
African American and Other males	2000	63	54	44	-30.2%	-18.5%	29.7	19.7	14.0	-52.9%	-28.9%	30	
African American and Other females	2000	32	40	30	-6.3%	-25.0%	15.7	14.1	9.5	-39.5%	-32.6%	19	
Grade 3 Math below standards****	2002	361	223	421	+16.6%	+88.8%	50.1	22.1	35.9	-28.3%	62.4%	37	
White males	2002	52	17	68	+30.8%	+300.0%	36.9	7.2	21.4	-42.0%	197.2%	33	
White females	2002	46	19	70	+52.2%	+268.4%	34.1	8.0	25.8	-24.3%	222.5%	39	
African American and Other males	2002	148	92	148	+0.0%	+60.9%	66.4	35.4	51.4	-22.6%	45.2%	39	
African American and Other females	2002	114	94	135	+18.4%	+43.6%	51.8	34.3	45.8	-11.6%	33.5%	26	
Grade 3 Reading below standards****	2002	276	152	253	-8.3%	+66.4%	38.2	15.1	21.7	-43.2%	43.7%	26	
White males	2002	36	17	44	+22.2%	+158.8%	25.5	7.2	13.9	-45.5%	93.1%	18	
White females	2002	18	8	26	+44.4%	+225.0%	13.3	3.4	9.6	-27.8%	182.4%	10	
African American and Other males	2002	140	76	99	-29.3%	+30.3%	62.8	29.2	34.9	-44.4%	19.5%	36	
African American and Other females	2002	80	51	84	+5.0%	+64.7%	36.2	18.6	28.6	-21.0%	53.8%	12	
Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT Grade 4	1998	235	319	261	+11.1%	-18.2%	34.8	32.9	22.8	-34.5%	-30.7%	27	
White males	1998	30	46	41	+36.7%	-10.9%	20.8	19.6	13.2	-36.5%	-32.7%	15	
White females	1998	18	26	22	+22.2%	-15.4%	11.8	10.7	7.5	-36.4%	-29.9%	13	
African American and Other males	1998	103	136	102	-1.0%	-25.0%	56.6	58.4	42.2	-25.4%	-27.7%	33	
African American and Other females	1998	84	110	93	+10.7%	-15.5%	43.1	42.8	32.4	-24.8%	-24.3%	33	

*Year of data is approximate in many cases.
**1 is best, 46 is worst.
*** Data include paternity acknowledgements.
**** BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Beaufort County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Education (continued)

Indicators		Number					Percent				
	Most Recent Year	1980*	1990*	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres
Grade 8 Math below state standards**	2002	435	295	531	+22.1%	+80.0%	63.0	37.3	44.7	-29.0%	19.8%
White males	*2002*	*53*	*33*	*77*	*+45.3%*	*+133.3%*	*36.8*	*15.6*	*25.8*	*-29.9%*	*65.4%*
White females	*2002*	*53*	*39*	*61*	*+15.1%*	*+56.4%*	*37.6*	*21.7*	*22.8*	*-39.4%*	*5.1%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*157*	*116*	*194*	*+23.6%*	*+67.2%*	*78.9*	*58.3*	*64.2*	*-18.6%*	*10.1%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*169*	*107*	*199*	*+17.8%*	*+86.0%*	*82.8*	*53.5*	*61.8*	*-25.4%*	*15.5%*
Grade 8 Reading below state standards**	2002	437	232	421	-3.7%	+81.5%	62.4	29.4	35.5	-43.1%	20.7%
White males	*2002*	*67*	*41*	*64*	*-4.5%*	*+56.1%*	*45.6*	*19.3*	*21.5*	*-52.9%*	*11.4%*
White females	*2002*	*39*	*30*	*28*	*-28.2%*	*-6.7%*	*27.7*	*16.6*	*10.5*	*-62.1%*	*-36.7%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*164*	*89*	*176*	*+7.3%*	*+97.8%*	*81.2*	*45.6*	*58.7*	*-27.7%*	*28.7%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*164*	*72*	*153*	*-6.7%*	*+112.5%*	*79.2*	*36.2*	*47.7*	*-39.8%*	*31.8%*
Grade 9 Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT	1998	NA	278	347	NA	+24.8%	NA	34.2	30.5	NA	-10.8%
White males	*1998*	*NA*	*49*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*25*	*14.5*	*NA*	*-42.0%*
White females	*1998*	*NA*	*25*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*12.3*	*14.0*	*NA*	*13.8%*
African American and Other males	*1998*	*NA*	*114*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*55.9*	*50.7*	*NA*	*-9.3%*
African American and Other females	*1998*	*NA*	*89*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*43.4*	*42.2*	*NA*	*-2.8%*
Exit Exam (not passing all parts on 1st attempt)	2002	360	269	487	+35.3%	+81.0%	51.3	39.9	45.2	-11.9%	13.3%
White males	*2002*	*49*	*42*	*67*	*+36.7%*	*+59.5%*	*29.2*	*29.0*	*27.1*	*-7.2%*	*-6.6%*
White females	*2002*	*45*	*31*	*64*	*+42.2%*	*+106.5%*	*23.9*	*16.1*	*23.3*	*-2.5%*	*44.7%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*127*	*97*	*156*	*+22.8%*	*+60.8%*	*74.7*	*61.8*	*67.0*	*-10.3%*	*8.4%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*134*	*99*	*185*	*+38.1%*	*+86.9%*	*78.4*	*55.3*	*62.7*	*-20.0%*	*13.4%*
Dropout Rate (8th graders no longer enrolled in 12th grade 4 years later)	2000-02	197	248	438	+122.9%	+77.0%	24.6	27.2	33.3	35.4%	22.6%
White males	*2000-02*	*46*	*62*	*114*	*+151.3%*	*+84.4%*	*23.6*	*27.6*	*37.0*	*56.8%*	*33.8%*
White females	*2000-02*	*37*	*48*	*86*	*+133.3%*	*+79.9%*	*20.6*	*23.2*	*27.0*	*30.9%*	*16.1%*
African American and Other males	*2000-02*	*66*	*77*	*154*	*+135.1%*	*+101.3%*	*30.2*	*32.7*	*44.8*	*48.5%*	*37.1%*
African American and Other females	*2000-02*	*49*	*61*	*83*	*+71.8%*	*+36.6%*	*23.3*	*24.8*	*24.4*	*4.9%*	*-1.8%*
Young Adults Not Completing High School (18-24)	2000	3,408	1,697	1,883	-44.7%	+11.0%	22.2	13.6	11.6	-47.9%	-15.0%
White males	*NA*	*1,431*	*505*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*20.7*	*8.9*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
White females	*NA*	*624*	*399*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*19.3*	*13.7*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other males	*NA*	*894*	*378*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*27.9*	*16.6*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other females	*NA*	*459*	*415*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*22.9*	*24.9*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*

Economics

Poverty Rate	2000	4,108	4,315	4,346	+5.8%	+0.7%	23.6	20.1	15.7	-33.5%	-21.9%
White children	*2000*	*959*	*845*	*1,453*	*+51.5%*	*+72.0%*	*10.1*	*6.8*	*8.8*	*-12.9%*	*29.4%*
African American and Other children	*2000*	*3,073*	*3,470*	*2,893*	*-5.9%*	*-16.6%*	*40.0*	*38.6*	*25.7*	*-35.9%*	*-33.5%*
Income of Families w/children (1999 $)	2000	$ 40,746	$ 49,068	$ 60,353	+48.1%	+23.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
White families	*2000*	*$ 47,664*	*$ 59,612*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other families	*2000*	*$ 28,605*	*$ 29,874*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*

Adolescent Risk Factors

Teenage Pregnancy (ages 14-17)	2001	83	127	103	+24.1%	-18.9%	3.8	5.8	3.3	-12.2%	-43.1%
White	*2001*	*24*	*54*	*46*	*+91.7%*	*-14.8%*	*1.9*	*4.3*	*2.5*	*28.9%*	*-41.9%*
African American and Other	*2001*	*59*	*73*	*57*	*-3.4%*	*-21.9%*	*6.1*	*7.8*	*4.5*	*-26.0%*	*-42.3%*
Delinquency	2002	109	206	208	+90.8%	+1.0%	2.2	5.1	3.9	78.7%	-22.9%
White males	*2002*	*38*	*71*	*85*	*+123.7%*	*+19.7%*	*1.9*	*4.6*	*4.6*	*140.5%*	*-0.7%*
White females	*2002*	*18*	*38*	*20*	*+11.1%*	*-47.4%*	*1.9*	*4.7*	*1.6*	*-17.1%*	*-66.5%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*36*	*77*	*75*	*+108.3%*	*-2.6%*	*3.2*	*8.1*	*6.5*	*103.8%*	*-19.5%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*17*	*20*	*28*	*+64.7%*	*+40.0%*	*2.2*	*2.8*	*2.8*	*26.0%*	*-1.0%*

*Closest available data to this year was used in many cases.
**BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Kids Count 2003

Berkeley County

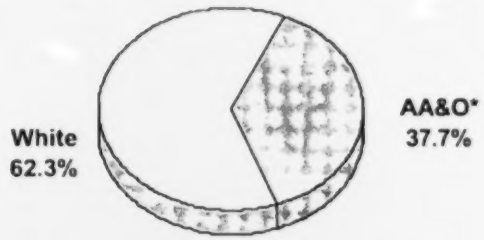
DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2000 there were an estimated 39,925 children under age 18 in the county. Of these, 24,872 were White, 12,693 were African-American, and 2,360 were other races. There were 41,751 children under age 18 in 1990, 33,682 in 1980, 25,656 in 1970, and 18,890 in 1960.

Children represent a shrinking portion of the county's population. Those under 18 constituted 28.0% of the population in 2000, down from 49.5% in 1960, 45.7% in 1970, and 35.6% in 1980.

In 2000 the 12,323 pre-schoolers under age 6 were 8.6% of the overall population: 8.2% of Whites and 9.3% of African Americans.

Figure 1: Population Ages 0-17 in 2000



* In all charts African-American is combined with other races, and often abbreviated as AA&O. Other races comprise 5.9% of children in the county, with "two or more races" at 2.7% and Asian Alone at 1.3% as the largest Other groups.

FAMILY

Families have always been the most important influence in a child's life. Children depend on their families for material needs, stimulation and guidance. Family life is different in numerous ways from previous generations, and many families now face exceptional challenges.

Families with children now make up a smaller share of all households. Only 39.2% of all households in 2000, as compared with 62.0% of households in 1960, had children below the age of 18.

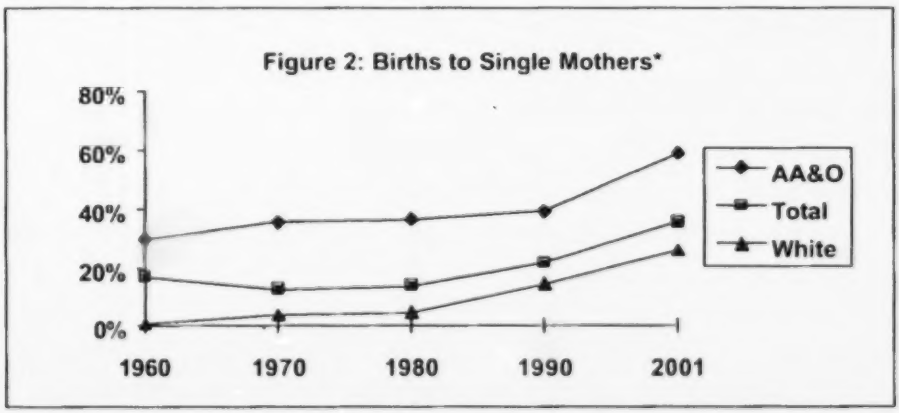
Births to Teen Mothers: In 2001, 101 babies were born to mothers younger than age 18. They were 4.6% of all babies born in the county; 3.3% of all White and 7.7% of all African-American and Other babies were born to teen mothers under the age of 18. Of the babies born to these teens in 2001, 93.1% were born to single mothers, including babies whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers.

In 2001, 317 babies were born to mothers younger than age 20. These babies were 14.5% of all born in the county; 13.1% of all White and 17.8% of all African-American and Other babies were born to mothers under the age of 20. Of the babies born to these mothers in 2001, 76.7% were born to single mothers, including paternity acknowledeged babies.

Education of Mothers Giving Birth: Children's success is strongly influenced by the education of their parents. In 2001, 373 babies, 17.3% of all babies, were born to mothers of all ages who had not completed the 12th grade. In 2001, 18.5% of White and 14.2% of African-American and Other babies were born to mothers who had completed less than the 12th grade. This is a substantial improvement from 40.3% in 1970. In addition, during 2001, 38.9% had completed 12 grades (36.2% of Whites and 45.3% of African Americans and Others) and 43.9% had more than a high school degree (45.3% of Whites and 40.5% of African American and Others).

Births to Single Mothers: Births to single mothers have increased steadily over four decades. In 2001, 467 babies, 21.3% of all babies, were recorded as born to single mothers. A decade earlier in 1990, the percentage was 19.1% and in 1960 it was 16.9%. In 2001, 12.5% of White children and 43.0% of African-American and Other children were born to single mothers. These numbers, however, do not include paternity acknowlegement births.

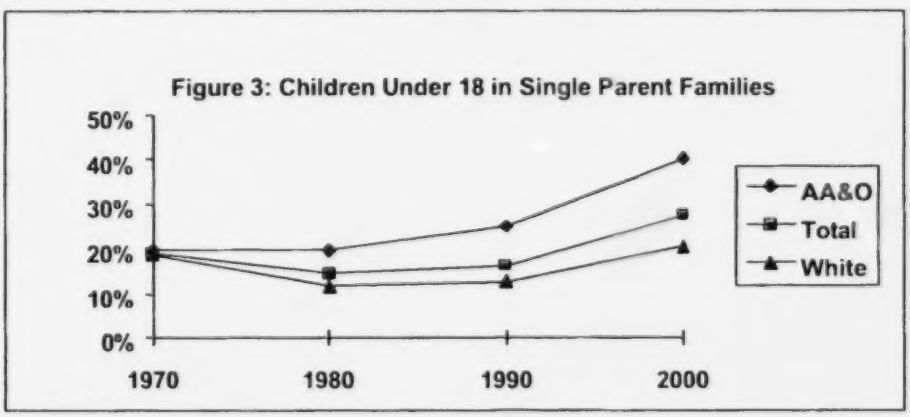
Thus, to these numbers should be added an additional group of 307 babies, 14.0% of all born in 2001, whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers. When the paternity-acknowledged babies are added, the total number born to single mothers in 2001 was 774, constituting 35.4% of all babies, 25.8% of White babies, and 58.9% of African-American and Others.



*Includes paternity acknowleged babies in 1980, 1990 and 2001. Prior to 1979, paternity acknowleged cases were not a statistical category, and thus were included in births to single mothers.

Divorce Rate: In 2001, 798 marriage licenses were issued, while 598 divorce decrees involving 493 children were filed. In 1970, only 153 children were in families involved in divorce.

Single-Parent Family: Increasing numbers of children live in single-parent families. In 2000, 9,712 children lived with only one parent. This was 27.7% of all children, up from 16.3% in 1990, 14.6% in 1980, and 19.2% in 1970. In 2000, 20.7% of White and 40.3% of African-American and Other children lived in single-parent families. Also in 2000, 2,367 or 24.2% of children under age 6 lived in single parent families: 16.8% of White and 39.9% of African American and Other pre-schoolers.



Parents Working and Child Care: Increasingly, parents must divide their time between children and employers. In order to meet family financial needs, most parents must work and thus have less time for family life. In 2000, 65.2% of mothers with children under 6 and 71.8% with children 6 - 17 were in the labor force. This has increased substantially from 1960 when 21.8% of mothers with children under 6 were in the labor force. Most fathers also work: 62.2% of children under 6 are in families where the single parent or both parents work. Caring for children is a problem for parents unable to obtain quality, affordable daycare while they are at work.

Overall, there are 3,731 spaces in state-regulated childcare facilities* in the county, 89.8% of these are in licensed programs and 10.2% are in registered programs. Of the spaces, 83.8% are in licensed childcare centers serving more than 12 children, 8.8% are in registered or licensed family childcare homes serving six or fewer children, 1.9% are in licensed group childcare homes serving 7-12 children, and 5.4% are in registered or licensed church programs.

The homes and centers are severely constrained by the limited ability of parents to pay. In the county, the average weekly charge is $ 84.18 for centers and $ 68.48 for homes. Consequently, center wages are low: 57.1% of centers with pre-school staff and 33.3% of centers with assistant pre-school staff report paying these staff under $6 per hour. Paying $6-$8 per hour are 35.7% of centers with pre-school staff and 66.7% of centers with assistants. Low wages attract workers with limited education. In 64.3% of centers, most pre-school staff and in 33.3% of centers most assistants have only a high school degree. In 53.6% of centers few to none of the pre-school staff have early childhood credentials. In childcare homes, 54.2% of lead providers have no more education than a high school degree or GED; 17.1% have less than a high school degree.

Family Violence: In 2000, 1,277 domestic assaults were recorded by law enforcement officials. These domestic assaults comprised 32.4% of all assaults, which include aggravated assaults, simple assaults, and intimidation. Overall, 55.1% of all domestic assaults involve spouse abuse which constitutes 17.9% of all assaults. Since most family violence is not reported, the true incidence of family disruption is much more widespread than even the large number of reported cases would indicate.

Separation from Parents: Some children do not live with their natural parents. In 2000, 6.8% of all children did not live with their natural parents. Approximately 1,850 or 4.6% of all children lived with relatives, 738 or 1.8% lived with non-relatives, 46 or 0.1% were householders or spouses, and 77 or 0.2% were in institutional facilities.

Abuse and Neglect: In 2000-01, there were 901 investigations into reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children. Through its investigations, the Department of Social Services (DSS) determined that 341 of the investigations were indicated for abuse or neglect: 6.5% for physical abuse, 5.8% for sexual abuse, 0.2% for mental injury, 18.1% for physical neglect, 8.9% for educational neglect, 2.2% for medical neglect, 54.9% for threat of harm for physical/sexual abuse, and 3.4% for other types of abuse.

In the indicated cases of abuse and neglect, DSS determined there were 682 children who were victims of abuse or neglect. Of these, 49.3% were male, 50.7% were female; 70.5% were White, 29.5% were African-American and Other. By age, 31.2% were ages 0 - 5, 46.2% were ages 6 - 12, and 22.6% were ages 13 - 17. In the indicated cases, 45.5% of the children lived in two-parent families, 33.3% in single parent families, 16.4% with unmarried couples, and 4.8% in other circumstances.

Out of Home Placements: As of June 2001, 202 children lived in foster care. The median age at first placement in the county is 8.5 years. The ages of children in foster care were 14.4% 0-2, 10.4% 3-5, 22.3% 6-10, 18.8% 11-13, and 34.2% 14 and above. The foster care population is 45.5% males and 54.5% females. Regarding their future, 20.3% were under a plan for placement in adoptive homes, 55.0% for return to a parent or guardian, 1.5% for placement with a relative, 11.4% for independent living, 10.9% for permanent foster care, and 1.0% for other circumstances.

Adult/Child Ratio: A measure of potential adult attention for children from family and community is the ratio of adults to children and youth. In 2000 there were 2.57 adults for every person below age 18. This was up substantially from 1960, when there were only 1.02 adults for every person under the age 18. This indicates that today there are more adults potentially available to provide attention and care for each child than in the past.

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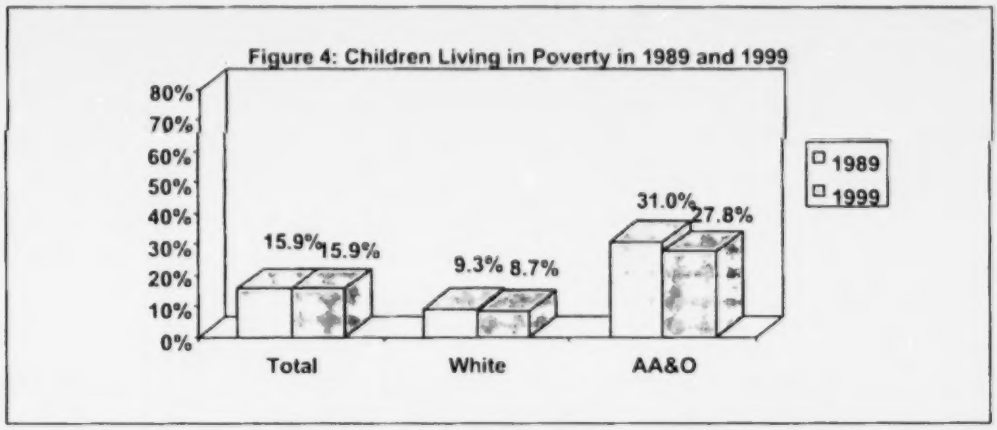
* This data is the best currently available; however, an effort is being made to check the coverage and improve the accuracy. As soon as more recent and complete data becomes available, it will be posted on the website.

ECONOMIC STATUS

Low income makes it difficult for many families to provide the material and environmental enrichment necessary for healthy child development.

Poverty: In 1999, 6,224 children and youth under the age of 18 lved in 2,923 families with incomes below poverty, comprising 15.9% of all children and youth: 8.7% of Whites and 27.8% of African-Americans and Others. A rough estimate of child poverty in 2001 calculated by the Census Bureau was 23.0%.



Poverty has always been a serious problem. While the rate among children under age 18 in 1989 was 15.9%, it was 17.3% in 1979 and 35.3% in 1969.

Children and the elderly are the age groups most seriously affected by poverty. In 1999, 16.5% of children 0 - 5 (11.2% White, 27.2% African-American and Other), and 15.5% of children 6 - 17 (7.1% White, 27.8% African-American and Other), lived in poverty; 12.9% of persons 65 years and older lived in poverty. Historically, the poverty rate among the elderly was much higher. During the last three decades, federal policy actions have substantially improved the economic status of older persons but have not done so for children.

Single-parent families are most likely to be poor. In 1999, 33.1% of children in single-parent families lived in poverty, but only 8.2% of children in married-couple families were poor. Children in single-parent families made up 57.7% of all the county's children living in poverty.

In 2002, the poverty level was $15,020 for a family of three and $18,100 for a family of four. The poverty threshold is often criticized as an arbitrary number. People can still be poor but may be just above the poverty level. Federal programs utilize varying thresholds. For example, in 1999 there were 16,270 children ages 0-17 who were less than 200 percent of poverty; thus an additional 10,046 children were above the poverty level but could still be considered poor or near-poor with incomes below $30,040 and $36,200 respectively for 3 and 4 person families.

Children Under 18 in Poverty in 1999

Percent of Poverty	Total		White		African American & Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 50%	2,787	7.1%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 100%	6,224	15.9%	2,108	8.7%	4,116	27.8%
Under 125%	8,444	21.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 150%	11,257	28.8%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 175%	13,739	35.2%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 185%	14,765	37.8%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 200%	16,270	41.7%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total Children	39,925		24,872		15,053	

Note: Missing data will be released by the Census Bureau later in 2003, and will be posted on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

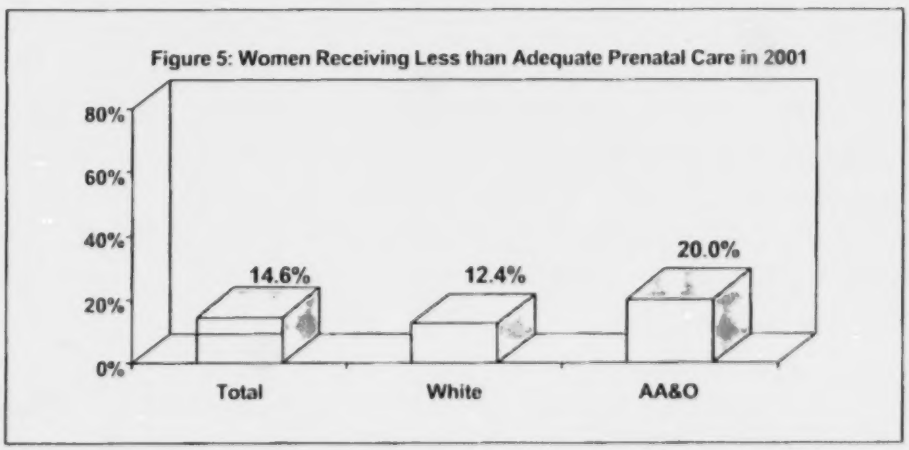
Income: The mean income of families with children in 1999 was $47,053. In 1989 it was $43,033, and 1979, it was $40,417, adjusted for inflation (i.e., in 1999 dollars). The mean income of single-parent families with children was $25,185 for single parents in 1999, as compared with $55,886 in married-couple families with children. From 1999 to 2000, Berkeley County real dollar per capita income (eliminating inflation) increased by 1.3%.

Child Support Payments: There were 755[7] families receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families in fiscal year 2002, but only 20.4 % had child support court orders. Their average monthly payment of child support was $ 305, including child support receipts and tax refund intercepts. In addition, during fiscal year 2002, an estimated 2,186 parents in non-TANF families were obligated to pay a monthly average of $ 267. Information is not available regarding the amount actually paid.

HEALTH

Good health during a child's formative years helps children to reach their maximum potential. Good health requires healthy lifestyles and effective primary care, starting during the prenatal period and continuing through adolescence into adulthood. Children's health reflects the well-being of the community, as well as how adequately they are protected.

Prenatal Care: Early and continuous prenatal care can make a significant difference in assuring births of healthy babies. Delayed or insufficient prenatal care is associated with low birthweight and other health risks for infants. In 2001, 250, or 11.4% of pregnant women received no prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy. In 2001, 320, or 14.6% of pregnant women received less than adequate prenatal care: 193 or 12.4% of Whites and 127 or 20.0% of African-Americans and Others. In that same year, 16 women received no prenatal care at all.



Low Birthweight: Low birthweight of less than 5.5 pounds and very low birthweight of less than 3.3 pounds are associated with health risks and growth and development problems. In 2001, 189 or 8.6% of all babies in the county were born with low birthweight: 12.8% of African-American and Other babies and 7.0% of White babies. During 1999-2001, approximately 108 or 1.7% of all babies were born with very low birthweight and had the most serious complications: 1.1% of White babies and 3.0% of African-American and Other babies. The cost of hospitalization for each newborn low birthweight baby in the county in 1999 - 2001 was $11,262 and $63,260 for each very low birthweight baby, compared with $1,740 for a baby of normal birthweight. The result was excess cost in the county of $2,257,276 for all low birthweight babies, of which $1,476,476 was for very low birthweight babies.

Infant Mortality: During the decade since 1989-91, the overall infant mortality rate decreased by 26.3% from 11.5 to 8.5 per 1000 live births. For Whites, the rate decreased 27.6% from 9.4 to 6.8 per 1000 live births, while for African-Americans and Others the rate decreased 25.5% from 16.7 to 12.4 per 1000 live births. Over the three-year period 1999-2001, 31 White and 24 African-American and Other infants died before age one. By comparison, 51 White and 37 African-American and Other infants died during 1989-91.

[7] Number is an unduplicated count for the entire fiscal year.

Child Injuries and Deaths: Childhood deaths and injuries reflect whether communities are safe for children. In 2001, children in the Berkeley County went to the emergency room 4,405 times because of injuries. Boys are injured more often than girls. Children visit the emergency room at comparable rates for each age from 0 to 17.

In South Carolina, the major causes of death among young children are unintentional injuries, cancer, homicide, and congenital anomalies. Over the three year period 1999-2001, 9 White and 7 African-American and Other children ages 1-14 died in the county. During 1989-91, 27 White and 11 African-American and Other children died.

Immunization: Immunization rates are an important indication of whether young children are receiving adequate preventive health care. During FY 1989-90, 54.9% of children less than two years old seen in public health clinics were not fully immunized against such preventable diseases as Polio, Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Haemophilus Influenza B and Whooping Cough. After a concerted statewide campaign to increase immunizations, the percentage of children seen in public health clinics who were not fully immunized in January 2001 had declined in the county to 8.7%. The DHEC statewide birth registry survey of all two year old children found that 88.1% were fully immunized in 2001. This success demonstrates the potential to improve the status of children when the leadership of the state and its communities act decisively together.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Children and youth are infected with sexually transmitted diseases through sexual abuse or irresponsible sexual activity. National prevalence rates indicate: a 1 in 8 chance that sexually active 15 year-old girls will develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), the most rapidly increasing cause of infertility; 10% of sexually active adolescent girls and boys are infected with chlamydia, the most common cause of PID; and as many as 15% of teen girls are infected with human papilloma virus, often with strains linked to cervical cancer. Furthermore, research evidence indicates that susceptibility to HIV/AIDS increases by 3 to 8 times through prior infection with various STDs.

According to national studies, approximately 1 in 4 sexually experienced youth aged 13-19 acquires a STD ever year; since two-thirds of all high school students have had sexual intercourse and half engage in intercourse over a three month period, this would suggest that 10-15% of teens are infected with STDs annually. For 2000, this would indicate that an estimated 1,738 to 2,607 youth ages 13-19 in the county were infected with a STD. Many infections are either not identified for treatment or not reported. In the county, there were reported cases of children under age 15 and 40 youth ages 15 - 19 infected with gonorrhea; 3 youth under 15 and 67 ages 15 - 19 were reported infected with chlamydia. Youth with undiagnosed and untreated STDs often spread their infections.

Healthy Lifestyles: Although no county data is available, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2001 found that many high school students are not following good health habits. The YRBS revealed that 26% felt that they were overweight; 42% were trying to lose weight: 27% of boys and 57% of girls. Although during a week 79% of high school students ate fruit, 59% ate salad, and over 83% ate vegetables, only 17% ate the recommended five or more servings of fruit and vegetables per day. During a week, 49% did stretching or muscle strengthening exercises, and 59% exercised three or more times for 20 minutes in sports that made them sweat or breathe hard. However, 11% of students engaged in no vigorous or moderate activity at all during a week: 8% of boys and 13% of girls.

Tobacco Use:* Cigarette smoking starts at a young age and often becomes habitual. In the county during 2002 among all students 15 and older, 22.6% first smoked by age 11, 44.7% by age 13, and 57.3% by age 15. In a typical month, 17.2% of 7th and 8th graders and 26.5% of high school students smoked cigarettes. White youths were much more likely than African-Americans to smoke: 25.7% of White male and 30.3% of White female 7th to 12th graders used cigarettes, as compared with 16.7% of African-American males and 9.7% of African American females. A smaller but significant group of high school students (4.4%) used smokeless tobacco monthly; it was used primarily by White males (11.0% compared with 1.6% of all other race and sex groups).

* County participation in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking was not complete but county data is presented to provide the best available picture of teen risk-taking attitudes and behavior in Berkeley County. Grades 6 - 11 participated, and a small number from grade 12.

Disabilities: No data are collected on the true prevalence of disabilities within the county. According to national reported estimates, over 10% of children and youth have developmental disabilities at any point in time, and more than 17 are affected at some time before age 18 by deafness, blindness, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, speech defects, development delays, learning disabilities, and emotional or behavioral problems. For 2000 this suggests that at least 3,993 children ar youth under age 18 in the county are currently affected by disabilities.

Approximately 5% of children and youth nationally have serious disabilities which have lifelong implications fo work, social life and community living. Typically among children and youth, there are 1 - 2% who are mentally retarded, - 3% with serious emotional disturbances, over 1% with orthopedic or multiple disabilities, including cerebral palsy an many hereditary conditions, and under 1% with visual or hearing impairments.

Other chronic health problems also affect the lives of many children. Over 3% of children have one or more these limitations. Such serious chronic conditions affect 1 - 2% who have respiratory problems (asthma and chron bronchitis), 0.5 - 1.0% with neurological problems (epilepsy and seizures), and less than 1% with circulatory problen (congenital heart defects and acquired diseases).

Other disabilities are identified primarily in school performance. These would include 2,018 students in grades 12 with learning disabilities and 778 students in grades 1-12 with speech/language deficits.

Disabilities are caused by genetics, disease, poor prenatal conditions, injuries, and environmental factors. For example, lead exposure, primarily from paint dust, was detected in over 1% of all children screened, including 7 in Berkeley County.

Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: While over 20% of 9-17 year olds meet diagnostic criteria for some form of mental disorder, the number with serious emotional disturbance and impaired functioning in family, school, or community activities is: 9-13% for substantial functional impairment and 5-9% for extreme functional impairment. The rates among poor children are at the higher end of these ranges. Based on a federal formula for estimating prevalence, in the county there are 12% or 2,522 seriously emotionally disturbed 9-17 year olds with substantial functional impairment and 8% or 1,681 with extreme functional impairment during the course of a year. Conduct disorders, attention defici depression, and anxiety disorders are the most prevalent, each affecting 3% or more of school-aged children. These disorders may occur simultaneously in a child. The prevalence rates are highest among males, adolescents, and disadvantaged persons in communities under stress and lacking social cohesion; depression, however, is more prevalent among females. On the YRBS, 20% of boys and 33% of girls in high school reported that during the past year they felt so sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that they stopped doing some usual activities. Another indicator of emotional problems is the 8% of high school students in South Carolina who reported that they had "attempted suicide" in the past year: 5% of boys and 10% of girls. Suicide attempts resulted in 4% of high school students reporting that they required treatment by a doctor or nurse for injury, poisoning, or overdose.

Inadequate Healthcare: No county level data is routinely collected regarding the number of children and youth with inadequate healthcare. According to estimates for 2000-02 by the Bureau of the Census through the annual Current Population Survey, the statewide average rate of uninsured children and youth under age 18 in families with incomes under 200% of poverty in South Carolina was 16.6%, and 9.9% above 200% of poverty. If these rates are applied to the county, there are 2,705 children in the county below 200% of poverty with no health insurance, and 2,347 children above 200% of poverty with no health insurance, for a total of 5,052 uninsured children in Berkeley County. The number lacking basic accessible primary care is at least double the number lacking insurance. Those lacking primary care are often dependent on health services at school. The ratio of students to nurses recommended nationally is 750:1. In the county, this would suggest the need for 35 nurses, compared with 11 currently working in the schools.

Medicaid: For several years, the State of South Carolina has emphasized enrolling eligible children into Medicaid. In late 1997, South Carolina implemented its version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, Partners for Healthy Children (PHC), and aggressively pursued outreach enrollment for PHC and Medicaid. As a result, enrollment of children ages 0 through 18 in Berkeley County has increased by 85.9% from June 1997 to June 2001; thus Medicaid and PHC were serving 38.8% of all children in that age range. The total Medicaid expenditures in South Carolina for services provided to children ages 0 through 18 for state fiscal year 2002 were $991 million, at an average statewide expenditure of $2,343 per child enrolled, approximate Medicaid expenditure for children in the county would be $36.3 million.

In June 2001, the total number of Berkeley County children, birth through 18, enrolled in Medicaid was 15,478. The total can be broken down into the following age and race groupings:

	White	African American	Hispanic	Other	Total
Children under 1	617	458	54	42	1,171
Children 1 - 5	2,294	1,988	88	192	4,562
Children 6 - 14	3,224	3,625	68	303	7,220
Children 15 - 18	1,087	1,344	15	79	2,525
Total	7,222	7,415	225	616	15,478

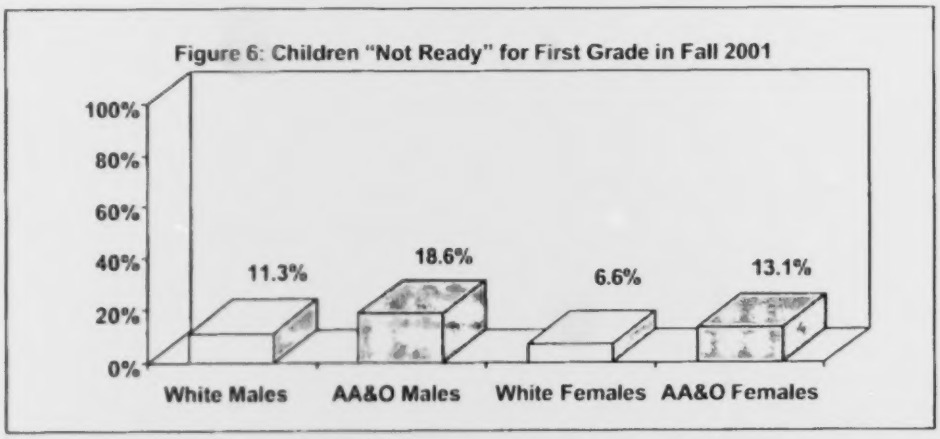
Ambulatory Care: When children lack adequate primary care, whether through lack of insurance, through limite access, or through failing to utilize available care, preventable and treatable conditions become serious and requi hospitalization. A useful indicator of inadequate primary care is the percentage of all hospitalizations that could typicall have been avoided through ambulatory care, especially for pneumonia, asthma, diarrhea and vomiting, dehydration, ar severe ear, nose, and throat infections. The share of hospitalizations for these types of conditions could normally be ke below 20%; for children in the county under the age of 18 during 2001, the share was 27.3% for Whites and 21.4% f African-Americans and Others.

READINESS AND EARLY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Too many children reach school without the readiness skills needed for success in learning, such as language, soci skills, visual and auditory discrimination, memory recall, and knowledge of colors, letters, numbers, names of objects, et Likewise, some schools are not ready to respond appropriately to the varying developmental levels of children in the ear grades. As a result, too many students do not experience the success needed to create the motivation and engagement th sustain learning.

1st Grade "Readiness" on 2001-02 Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB):

244 children not ready 11.8% children not ready



1st Grade Failures in 2002:

183 children failing 8.3% children failing

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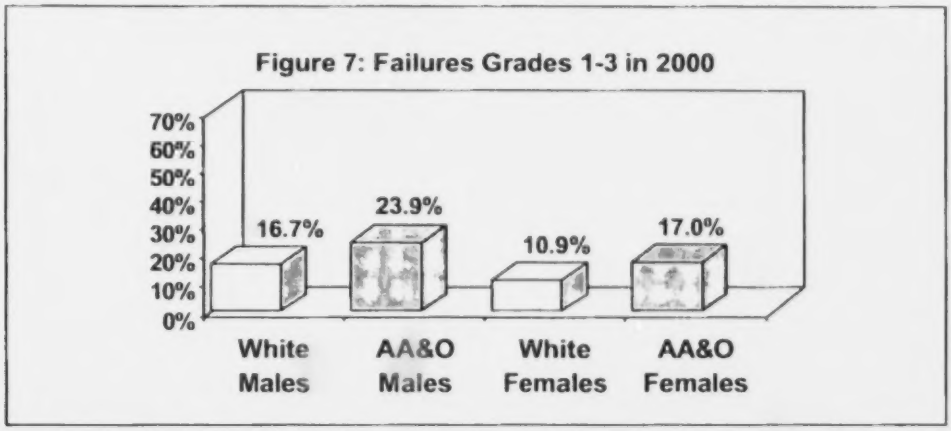
Failures Grades 1-3 in 2002 (approximate cumulative percentage of grades one, two and three):	
306 children failing	14.3% children failing



Over-age for Grade 3 in 2001	
383 children over-age	20.6% children over-age

Special Education: Large numbers of children are placed in special education classes. In elementary school, 589 six and seven year olds and 573 eight and nine year-olds were enrolled in special education classes during 2001-02, approximately 15.2% and 13.8% of their age groups respectively: 14.0% of White 8 – 9 year olds were in special education and 13.3% of African American and Others.

Readiness Summary: A serious problem exists in terms of student readiness and school success in the early grades. With 11.8% assessed not ready for the 1st grade, 20.6% over age in grade 3, and 13.8% of eight and nine year-olds placed in special education, unacceptably large numbers of students still begin school without good prospects of success in future school achievement and graduation; however, great improvement has occurred since the mid 1990s.

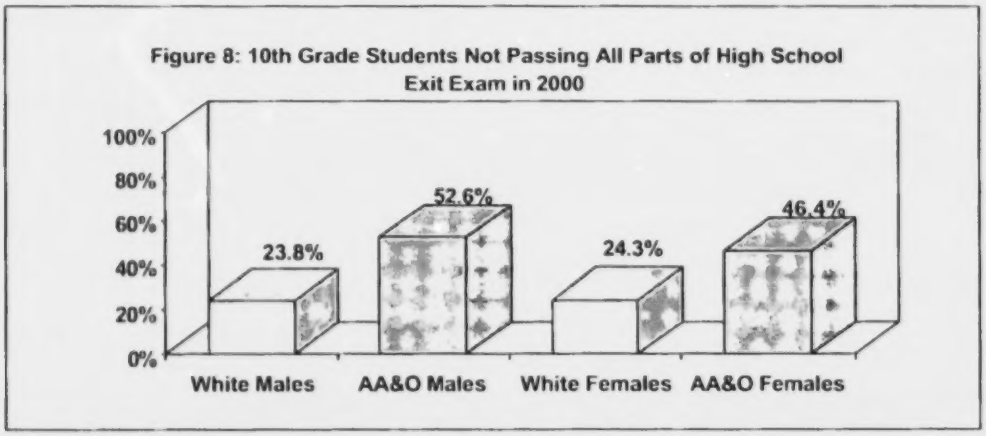
SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

By the end of elementary school, significant numbers of students perform below minimum standards. The following standardized test measures, comparing student performance to state minimum standards, should be used in combination with routine classroom assessments more reflective of real-world performance skills.

Special Education: Special education placements reflect both the significant number of children with serious handicapping conditions and a large number of students with mild learning and behavioral problems that have not been accommodated successfully by the regular educational program. The result is a large system of self-contained, resource, and itinerant services to meet the needs of 778 speech and language impaired, 2,018 learning disabled, 189 emotionally disabled, 364 mentally impaired, and 344 physically handicapped, deaf, blind, and other handicapped students. Special education classes served approximately 14.2% of all students in grades 1 - 12 during 2001-2002.

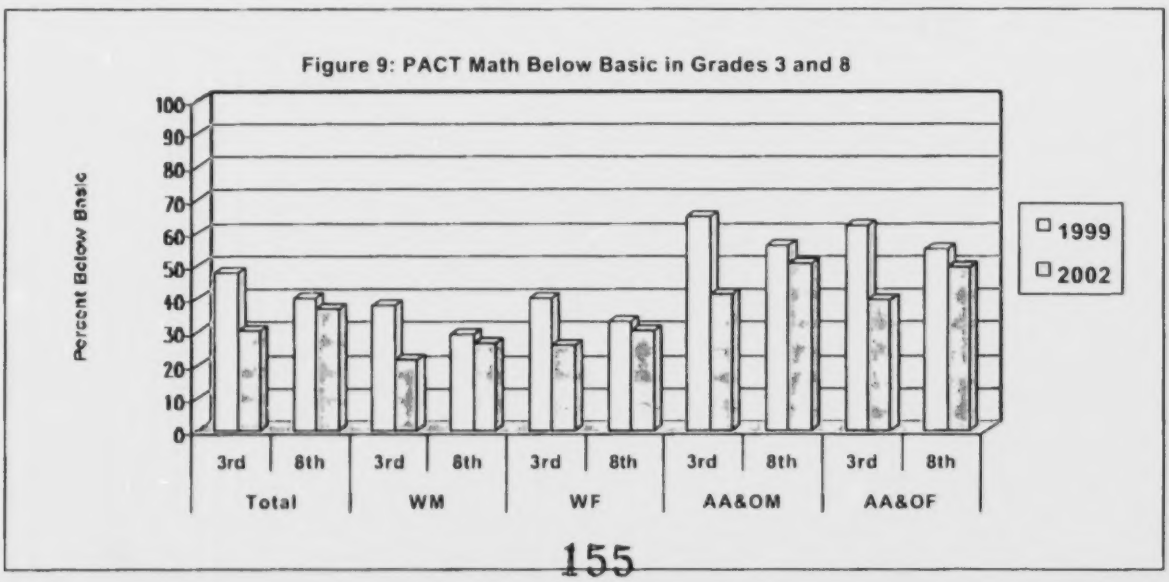
Exit Exam - not passing all parts of Exit Exam on first attempt in the 10th grade in 2002

550 students did not pass all parts — 34.0% of students did not pass all parts



Achievement Trends: How has performance on standardized achievement tests changed over the past 20 years? During the 1980s, student performance on the BSAP tests improved dramatically. Between 1981 and 1990, the percentage of 8th grade students in Berkeley County who did not meet standards declined from 44.1% to 23.3% in math and from 43.5% to 19.2% in reading. During the 1990's the BSAP trend changed, with 30.4% not meeting 8th grade math standards in 1998 and 25.6% in reading. On standardized tests, the first year when South Carolina students take the exam is comparable to the challenge encountered by the national norm group which took the test only once. Looking at first year data, the percentage of 4th grade students at or below the 25th percentile of national norms was 27.5% in 1983 on the CTBS, 28.6% in 1990 on the Stanford, and 31.4% in 1995 on the Metropolitan; for 9th graders, the percentage in the bottom quarter was 27.9% in 1990 and 25.8% in 1995. Although not comparable, the percent below basic on the 4th grade PACT in 1999, the first year of administration, was 40.5%, but in 2002 23.9% of 4th graders were below basic in reading and math; the percentage of 8th graders below basic in reading and math averaged 37.0% in 1999 and 34.2% in 2002.

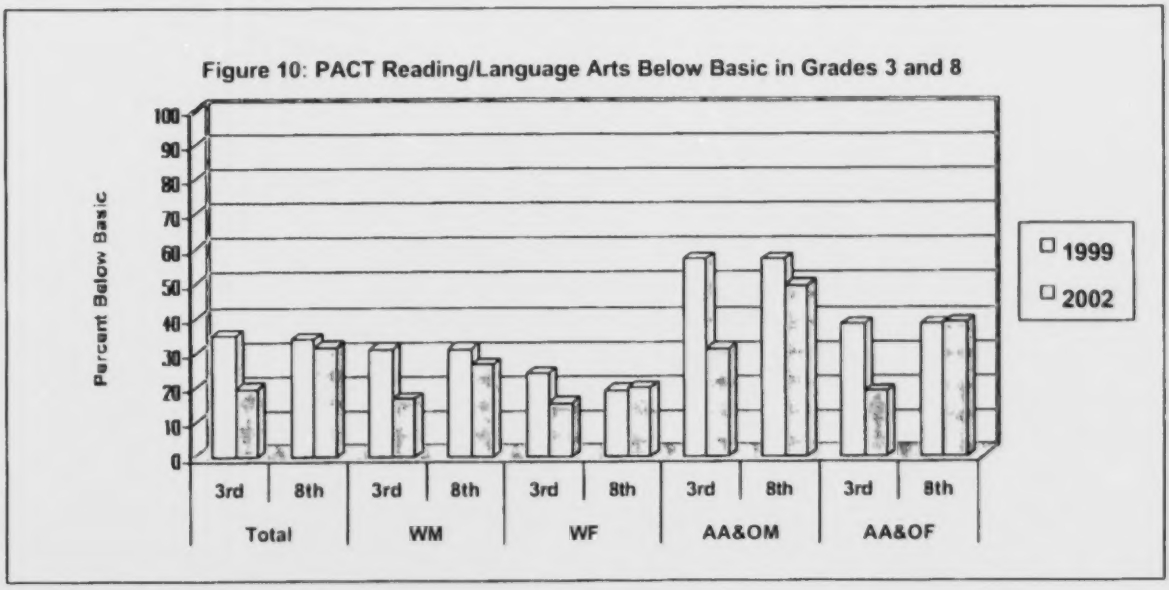
PACT: The Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) was first administered in 1999 for grades 3 - 8 in math and reading/language arts. Math assesses skills in numbers, numerical and algebraic concepts, patterns and functions, geometry, measurement, probability and statistics. The percentage of students scoring below basic in math has decreased by 16.5% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 2,592 students below basic in grades 3-8 but there would have been an additional 511 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
		Math (%)				
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	30.2	21.5	26.0	41.1	39.4
	4	27.0	18.0	18.5	41.5	38.4
	5	34.5	23.3	29.8	46.7	46.0
	6	31.0	23.4	22.2	44.5	42.4
	7	42.1	34.4	30.6	56.9	54.0
	8	37.0	26.3	30.5	50.3	49.5
Basic	3	44.5	44.2	47.6	43.3	42.1
	4	41.1	40.4	44.9	37.0	41.1
	5	42.5	43.6	42.4	40.9	42.6
	6	44.6	44.0	47.5	43.5	42.1
	7	35.1	34.4	40.9	31.5	32.2
	8	46.5	49.8	49.0	43.0	41.7
Proficient	3	18.8	25.4	18.1	11.7	16.0
	4	20.1	24.9	21.7	15.1	15.5
	5	14.9	20.5	18.2	9.1	7.8
	6	18.5	23.9	21.9	10.0	13.6
	7	14.1	18.6	17.0	7.6	9.7
	8	12.2	16.1	15.5	5.9	7.8
Advanced	3	6.5	9.0	8.3	3.9	2.4
	4	11.8	16.8	14.8	6.4	5.0
	5	8.0	12.6	9.6	3.3	3.6
	6	5.9	8.7	8.4	2.0	1.9
	7	8.7	12.6	11.5	4.0	4.0
	8	4.3	7.8	5.0	0.8	1.0

Reading/Language Arts assesses reading, listening, speaking, writing, research, and communication with technology. The first PACT assessment found a high percentage of elementary and middle grades students performing below standards and only a modest number above basic. The percentage of students scoring below basic in reading/language arts has decreased by 23.7% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 1,867 students below basic in grades 3 - 8 but there would have been an additional 579 at 1999 performance rates.

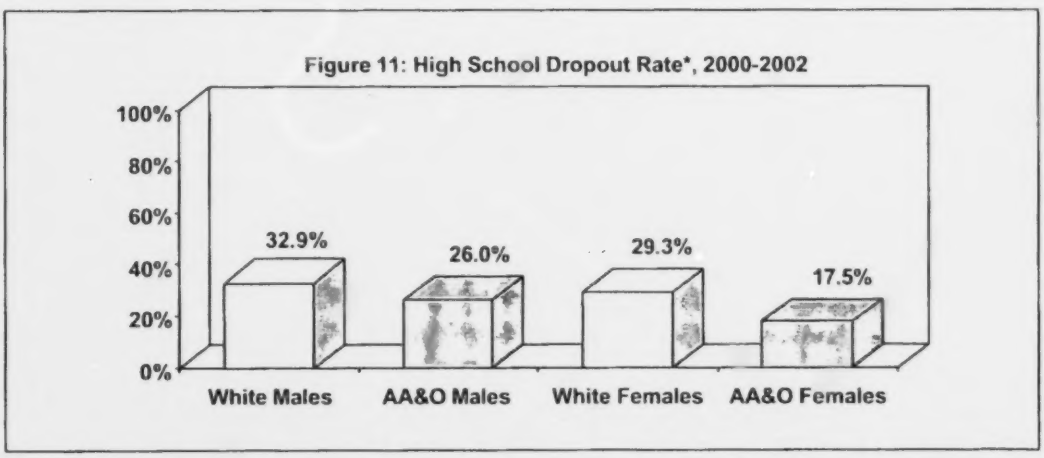
Figure 10: PACT Reading/Language Arts Below Basic in Grades 3 and 8



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
	Reading/Language Arts (%)					
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	19.5	16.6	15.4	31.0	18.8
	4	20.7	19.7	11.8	34.2	21.4
	5	27.1	22.9	14.3	44.7	33.8
	6	29.5	27.5	15.7	48.5	33.2
	7	30.5	30.9	12.6	49.6	35.1
	8	31.5	26.5	19.9	49.4	38.7
Basic	3	39.0	37.7	36.6	36.9	46.7
	4	50.2	49.3	46.9	51.5	55.4
	5	52.2	53.5	54.7	47.7	51.4
	6	38.7	39.4	40.4	36.8	37.2
	7	49.3	47.8	54.9	43.5	50.0
	8	46.4	50.8	44.9	41.9	46.2
Proficient	3	38.4	42.8	42.2	31.3	33.2
	4	27.7	30.1	38.5	13.9	22.4
	5	19.8	23.1	28.7	7.3	14.8
	6	26.0	27.8	34.3	12.4	25.0
	7	17.9	20.0	27.4	6.3	13.5
	8	18.6	19.5	28.3	8.1	13.1
Advanced	3	3.0	2.9	5.8	0.8	1.4
	4	1.4	1.0	2.9	0.5	0.8
	5	0.9	0.5	2.3	0.3	0.0
	6	5.8	5.4	9.6	2.2	4.6
	7	2.3	1.3	5.1	0.7	1.4
	8	3.5	3.2	6.9	0.6	2.0

Dropout Rate - 8th grade students no longer enrolled in grade 12
(average of students for the three years ending 2000-2002)

582 students drop out annually **27.5% students drop out?**



Dropouts: Distressing numbers of students drop out and fail to graduate. An average of 26.0% of 8th graders failed to graduate** from county schools five years later during the period 1980-84, 28.0% during 1985-89, and 27.3% during 1990-94, 33.5% during 1995-97 and 34.5% during 1998-2000***.

During 2001-02, 97.5% of all who did graduate received the State High School Diploma, while the remaining 2.5% received a State Certificate for meeting the required Carnegie units but not passing the Exit Exam.

*12th grade enrollment compared to 8th grade enrollment four years earlier

** This is calculated by using 8th grade enrollment to graduation data.

*** 2001 data will be available soon and will be posted on the website.

Fortunately, many dropouts enroll in adult education programs and either earn a high school diploma or obtain a GED. During 2001-02, 39 Adult Education high school diplomas were awarded to school completers and in 2001 275 GEDs were awarded in the county. Over time, adult education high school diplomas and GEDs increase the effective school completion rate substantially. In the 2000 Census, 13.3% of county resident 25 - 34 year-olds said they had not completed either high school or a GED.

Achievement Summary: The numbers of students testing below basic on the PACT and dropping out range from 19.5% to 42.4%. Thus, far too many students fail to acquire the knowledge, skills, learning habits, and motivation necessary to compete in the economy or contribute to society in the 21st Century.

ADOLESCENT RISK BEHAVIORS

Academic achievement is greatly influenced by the prevailing youth culture which often promotes popularity with peers and partying rather than studying and doing well in school. The prevalence of adolescent risk-taking and under-achievement is illustrated by the poor grades of substance-abusing teens.

Substance Abuser Rates at Levels of Academic Performance

	Usual School Grades in Past Year					Total
	A Range	B Range	C Range	D Range	F Range	
Smoked Cigarettes (in past 30 days)	13.5%	22.9%	33.1%	47.6%	63.7%	26.6%
Drank 5 or More Drinks on One Occasion (in past 30 days)	11.6%	18.2%	24.1%	38.4%	50.0%	20.6%
Used Any Illicit Drug (in past 30 days)	15.2%	20.6%	27.9%	43.0%	60.0%	23.9%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

As influence from parents and other adults declines during adolescence, significant numbers of students engage in violence, crime, school offenses, depressive emotions and attempted suicide:

Risk Behaviors Participated in During Past 12 Months	White Male		White Female		African American Male		African American Female		Total		Total (Grade 7-12)
	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	
Carried a handgun or knife for self-defense?	24.0%	32.8%	6.4%	9.1%	12.6%	21.2%	3.7%	6.3%	12.6%	17.8%	15.0%
Carried a handgun or knife as a weapon?	7.9%	11.8%	1.8%	3.3%	7.7%	16.7%	2.2%	4.2%	4.9%	8.6%	6.6%
Been in a fight with someone?	43.9%	39.8%	21.8%	26.0%	39.6%	35.5%	28.3%	22.6%	33.2%	31.1%	32.3%
Hit your boyfriend or girlfriend?	2.4%	3.3%	8.8%	14.3%	4.6%	6.4%	14.0%	15.1%	7.0%	9.7%	8.2%
Been hit by your boyfriend or girlfriend?	7.9%	10.0%	6.5%	11.6%	8.1%	10.7%	7.1%	6.2%	7.4%	9.7%	8.4%
Rec'd detention or in-school suspension?	44.4%	45.8%	27.0%	40.6%	38.5%	45.3%	31.5%	37.4%	35.4%	42.3%	38.6%
Been suspended from school?	16.4%	23.0%	6.0%	14.3%	22.4%	24.5%	12.1%	14.8%	13.4%	19.0%	15.9%
Stolen anything worth > $5?	15.9%	24.5%	7.2%	16.3%	13.3%	19.6%	6.1%	8.9%	10.8%	17.7%	14.0%
Had an accident while driving?	NA	11.0%	NA	7.7%	NA	6.5%	NA	3.5%	NA	7.6%	NA
Been arrested and booked?	5.0%	12.5%	2.0%	4.7%	6.8%	11.1%	2.6%	3.4%	4.0%	7.9%	5.8%
Felt hopeless for two weeks or more?	14.5%	17.6%	22.4%	29.5%	13.6%	12.2%	17.7%	19.6%	17.5%	20.5%	18.8%
Seriously considered attempting suicide?	7.4%	8.6%	11.2%	16.0%	4.2%	6.2%	4.9%	7.8%	7.6%	10.1%	8.7%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

Adolescence is often a time of taking risks and asserting independence from adults. When asked whether they would tell an adult about a problem, the following percentages of county students said they would be "not likely" or "very unlikely" to tell if they:

-heard a student threaten to harm someone: 36.3% middle school, 51.5% high school;
-saw a student with a handgun at school: 22.9% middle school, 25.6% high school;
-saw a student with a knife at school: 25.7% middle school, 36.7% high school;
-saw a student with drugs at school: 37.1% middle school, 67.8% high school;

Alcohol Use:* In the county during 2001-02, 22.6% of 7th and 8th graders and 38.2% of high schoolers said they had used alcohol in the past month. Of White males in grades 7 - 12, 35.2% had used it in the past month, compared with 23.8% of African-American males; likewise, 36.7% of White females said they had used alcohol, compared with 23.2% of African-American females. Many youth first used alcohol at an early age: 20.7% had used alcohol by age 11 or younger, 43.5% by age 13, and 68.0% by age 15.

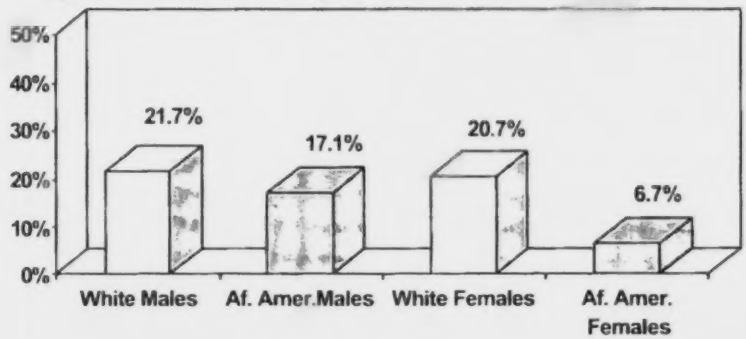
During the previous year, 21.5% of 7th and 8th graders and 31.1% of high schoolers said they had ridden with a drinking driver. Of seniors who drive, 12.5% said they had driven after drinking. Widespread use is encouraged by the ready availability and perceived low risk of alcohol use. Among students who expressed an opinion, 50.8% of eighth graders and 74.1% of seniors felt that beer was easy to get. Also, 72.8% of eighth graders and 71.4% of seniors felt there was not a great risk in drinking two drinks a day, and 47.7% of eighth graders and 52.1% of high schoolers felt there was not a great risk in drinking 5 drinks every weekend.

Heavy Drinking:* In 2001-02, 7.9% of 7th and 8th graders and 20.5% of high school students in the county repor drinking 5 or more drinks in a day during the past month. When asked how many drinks, if any, they usually consur 12.9% of all county students in grades 7 - 12 in 2001-02 responded 3 or more drinks at a time and 6.7% reported usually 5 more drinks. Among high school students, 18.6% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 9.9% 5 or mc Among seniors, 19.2% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 14.1% 5 or more; however 15.4% of seni said that they drank 5 or more drinks in a day once or more during the past month.

Drugs:* In 2001-02, 10.5% of 7th and 8th graders and 23.8% of high schoolers in the county reported using ille drugs during the previous month. Among students in grades 7 - 12, use was reported by 21.7% of White males, 20.7% Wh females, 17.1% of African-American males, and 6.7% of African-American females. Some young people initiated drug u at an early age: 8.2% had experienced their first use by age 11 or sooner; 23.2% had used a drug by age 13, and 42.5% by a 15.

In the past year, 11.5% of all high school students in the county who drive and 14.1% of seniors who drive said that they had driven after using drugs. Such use is encouraged by the ready availability of drugs: 28.9% of 8th graders who had an opinion said it is easy to get marijuana and 10.1% said it is easy to get cocaine or crack; 65.4% of seniors said it is easy to get marijuana and 40.2% said it was easy to get cocaine or crack.

Figure 12: Drug Use among Students Grades 7-12 during 2001-02*



* County participation in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking was not complete but county data is presented to provide the best available picture of teen risk-taking attitudes and behavior in Berkeley County. Grades 6 - 11 participated, and a small number from grade 12.

Sexual Activity and Pregnancy: Many teenagers now engage in sexual activity. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) administered to a representative sample of high school students throughout South Carolina in 2001 showed that sexual activity begins at an early age: 7% of female and 21% of male students have engaged in intercourse before age 13; by age 15, 38% the females and 49% of males have engaged in sexual intercourse. Statewide, 48% of females and 50% of males in the 11th and 12th grades reported engaging in intercourse during the past three months. Furthermore, 27% of female and 33% of male 12th graders have had intercourse with four or more partners during their lifetimes.

Premature sexual activity often results in pregnancy. In the county, 150 girls between the ages of 14 and 17 became pregnant in 1999, 125 in 2000 and 127 in 2001. This represented 2.9% of all girls ages 14 – 17 in 2001; several times this percentage become pregnant at least once by age 18. The 2001 pregnancy rate for ages 14 - 17 was 2.4% for Whites and 3.6% for African-Americans and Others. Of all pregnancies of 14-17 year olds, 77.2% resulted in live births, with almost all other pregnancies ending in abortions.

Teen pregnancy rates increased substantially across the state during the 1980s; as a result, greater emphasis v devoted to preventing teen pregnancy. Since 1989, the teen pregnancy rate in Berkeley County has decreased by 42.1 Overall, it has decreased by 46.7% for Whites, and decreased by 42.9% for African Americans and Others.

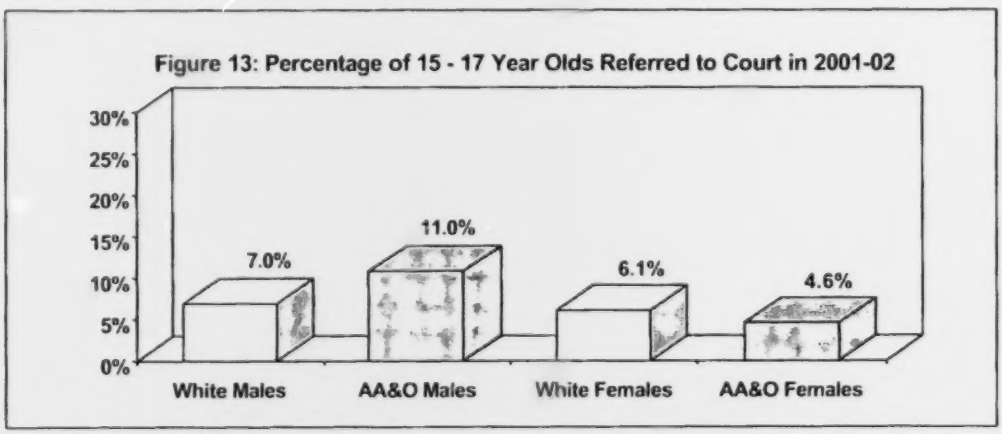
Juvenile Delinquency: In 2001-02, 1,008 individual juvenile offenders in the county were referred to the Solicitor for delinquency; of these, 13.1% were age 12 or younger, 31.3% were 13 or 14, and 55.7% were 15 or older.

Of the referrals to the family court, 4.3% of all referrals were for violent and serious crimes which include drug trafficking, acts against persons for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and serious property offenses for arson and burglary. Also, 211 juvenile cases constituting 14.7% of all referrals were for status offenses. Status offenses include truancy, running away, incorrigibility, and other offenses that would not be crimes for adults.

Delinquents are likely to live in families with low income: 21.7% lived in families with income under $10,000, 25.5% with $10,000-$19,999 and 52.7% with $20,000 or more. Furthermore, only 27.9% of delinquents lived with both natural parents, while 43.5% lived in a single parent household, 24.2% lived with other relatives, and 4.4% in other situations including parent plus step-parent. Delinquency or criminal activity occurs among many related family members: 28.0% had at least one family member who was delinquent or had some criminal record.

Youth referred to the family courts are likely to have been there before. In 2001-02, 54.3% had at least one prior referral and 18.1% had been referred to court 3 times or more. Many were referred at an early age. For delinquents 15 - 17 years old, 1.5% had been referred by the age of 10, 8.3% by the age of 12, and 24.5% by the age of 14.

During 2001-02, 556 youth ages 15 to 17 were referred to the family courts. In the county, 7.1% of all youth 15 to 17 were referred to court in one year and roughly double that percentage are referred at least once by age 18. Furthermore, the National Youth Survey indicates that typically across the United States the proportion of youth engaging in crime is two or three times the number ever apprehended. In 2001-02, there were 25 juveniles committed from the county to DJJ custody and placed in residential programs.



Not in School or Employed: During 2000, 1,088 teenagers ages 16-19 were idle, meaning they neither worked any hours nor were enrolled in school, even part-time. Idle teens comprised 10.5% of their age group: 8.9% for White and 13.5% African-American & Other teens. A much larger number, perhaps twice as many, were not engaged in either school full time or work full time. The data reflect a serious failure in both school completion and the critical transition from school to work, significantly affecting their development as future workers. For an in-depth description of the problems of young adults seeking to enter the labor force, visit our website at www.scyoungadults.org for our state and county reports on 18-29 year olds.

Deaths: During 1997-2001, 52 youth ages 15 to 19 died. Historically, automobile accidents have been the major cause, resulting in 29 deaths between 1996 and 2000; homicides killed 4 youth 15 to 19 years old during the five-year period, and 9 youth committed suicide. Alcohol use is often a significant factor in deaths among teenagers.

Summary

Facing the Scope of Problems: The data on families, economic status, health, readiness, school achievement, and adolescent risk behaviors provide a troublesome picture of the condition of children in Berkeley County. The 27.7% of children in single-parent families, 15.9% in poverty, 34.5% not graduating from school, 38.2% of high school students using alcohol and 23.8% using drugs each month, and other data profiled in this report suggest that too many children are at risk of not growing up to become self-supporting adults, good family members, and responsible community citizens.

Emphasizing the Positive: South Carolina Kids Count reports have been developed to describe the problems of children in each of the counties. Fortunately, the majority of children and youth are doing well, and some very well. One simple description is the percentage of children who do not fall into the problem categories reported. For the county, 85.5% of children are born to non-teen mothers ages 20 or older, 64.6% are born to married parents, and 72.3% lived in two-parent families; 84.1% were not poor and 58.3% lived in families with incomes above twice the poverty level for a family of three, $30,040 in 2002; 91.4% of babies were born with normal birthweights; 88.2% were assessed as ready for the first grade, 63.0% scored basic or better on PACT for 8th grade math and 68.5% for 8th grade reading, 66.0% passed all parts of the Exit Exam in the 10th grade, and 65.5% graduated with their class. In a typical month, 61.8% of high school students do not drink alcohol, 76.2% do not use drugs, and 73.5% do not smoke. Unfortunately, the absence of a problem is not always an indicator of success. Some data is available for exemplary performance: for example, 41.4% of 3rd graders and 22.1% of 8th graders scored proficient or advanced on PACT in reading and 25.3% of 3rd graders and 16.5% of 8th graders in math. Unfortunately, data on success is not generally available.

Despite the limitations of success data, we must emphasize the positive in providing good support and appropriate influences for children and youth. Recent philosophy and publications such as those of the Search Institute (700 South Third Street, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN, 55415-1138, tel. 1-800-888-7828, www.search-institute.org), emphasize the critical importance of "developmental assets" to promote and support positive development. One short book from the Search Institute, (What Kids Need to Succeed, by Peter J. Benson, Judy Gailbraith, and Pamela Espeland, 1995) presents an excellent array of suggestions for promoting developmental assets through families, community, faith congregations, and schools. If each family, school, religious congregation and community organization assertively worked to build such assets, the problems described in this report would be reduced dramatically. Such positive family-school-community efforts could improve South Carolina's national Kids Count ranking from the bottom 10 to the average or even into the top 10 by prevention of unnecessary problems affecting children and youth, as shown on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

All data presented in this report is the most recent available at the date it goes to the printer. This version of the Kids Count report will be revised as more recent and additional data become available. Please send us your corrections and suggestions for improvement. We welcome your ideas for ways to make the state and county reports more useful and accurate. Please utilize local data sources whenever possible to supplement the profile provided through our report.

Data related inquiries should be directed to:

Anne Wilson, Data Manager (awilson@drss.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
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Calls for **copies of reports** for other counties and inquiries regarding more recent reports should be made to:

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Comparable reports for all 46 counties and for the state can also be found on the World Wide Web at

www.sckidscount.org

Our website also provides: links to other websites for indicators in our report; high to low rankings for individual indicators; information on how to improve SC's national rank; and a glossary of definitions.

The national Kids Count Report can be found on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website at

www.aecf.org

Berkeley County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Indicators	Most Recent Year	Number					Percent					R	
		1980*	1990*	Most Recent Data	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980 Rank	199
Health													
Low Birth Weight	2001	149	168	189	+26.8%	+12.5%	7.5	6.5	8.6	14.9%	33.1%	10	
White babies	2001	81	89	108	+33.3%	+21.3%	5.9	4.8	7.0	18.6%	45.8%	25	
African American and Other babies	2001	68	79	81	+19.1%	+2.5%	11.0	10.6	12.8	16.1%	20.5%	16	
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	2001	738	910	320	+56.6%	-64.8%	37.1	35.0	14.6	-60.6%	-58.3%	16	
White babies	2001	396	565	193	-51.3%	-65.8%	28.9	30.5	12.4	-57.1%	-59.3%	31	
African American and Other babies	2001	342	345	127	-62.9%	-63.2%	55.3	46.2	20.0	-63.8%	-56.8%	26	
Infant Mortality	2001	90	88	55	-38.9%	-37.5%	1.6	1.2	0.8	-45.4%	-26.3%	18	
White babies	2001	43	51	31	-27.9%	-39.2%	1.1	0.9	0.7	-38.4%	-27.6%	22	
African American and Other babies	2001	47	37	24	-48.9%	-35.1%	2.5	1.7	1.2	-49.7%	-25.5%	30	
Family													
Births to mothers under 18	2001	111	117	101	-9.0%	-13.7%	5.6	4.5	4.6	-17.5%	2.2%	3	
White babies	2001	63	82	52	-17.5%	-36.6%	4.6	4.4	3.3	-28.2%	-25.4%	16	
African American and Other babies	2001	48	35	49	+2.1%	+40.0%	7.8	4.7	7.7	-0.5%	64.5%	3	
Births to mothers under 20	2001	326	355	317	-2.8%	-10.7%	16.4	13.7	14.5	-11.5%	6.2%	4	
White babies	2001	205	238	204	-0.5%	+14.3%	15.0	12.8	13.1	-12.4%	2.0%	17	
African American and Other babies	2001	121	117	113	-6.6%	+3.4%	19.5	15.7	17.8	-9.0%	13.5%	1	
Births to mothers with less than a high school education	2001	488	498	373	-23.6%	-25.1%	24.5	19.2	17.0	-30.7%	-11.2%	5	
White babies	2001	313	373	284	-9.3%	-23.9%	22.8	20.1	18.3	-19.8%	-9.0%	11	
African American and Other babies	2001	175	125	89	-49.1%	-28.8%	28.3	16.8	14.0	-50.4%	-16.4%	34	
Births to single mothers***	2001	289	557	774	+167.8%	+39.0%	14.5	21.4	35.4	143.8%	65.2%	5	
White babies	2001	64	265	400	+525.0%	+50.9%	4.7	14.3	25.8	452.7%	80.5%	8	
African American and Other babies	2001	225	292	374	+66.2%	+28.1%	36.3	39.1	58.9	62.0%	50.5%	2	
Children in single parent families	2000	4,568	6,207	9,712	+112.6%	+56.5%	14.6	16.3	27.7	89.4%	69.7%	5	
White	2000	2,747	3,490	4,681	+70.4%	+34.1%	11.8	12.8	20.7	75.3%	61.6%	43	
African American and Other	2000	1,694	2,609	5,031	+197.0%	+92.8%	19.9	25.2	40.3	102.5%	59.9%	29	
Education													
Not Ready for Grade 1	2001	606	627	244	-59.7%	-61.1%	36.9	24.5	11.8	-68.0%	-51.8%	22	
White males	2001	203	209	72	-64.5%	-65.6%	36.6	23.2	11.3	-69.1%	-51.3%	37	
White females	2001	121	139	40	-66.9%	-71.2%	23.1	16.9	5.6	-71.4%	-60.9%	28	
African American and Other males	2001	166	152	81	-51.2%	-46.7%	53.0	35.7	18.6	-64.9%	-47.9%	22	
African American and Other females	2001	116	127	51	-56.0%	-59.8%	46.4	31.1	13.1	-71.8%	-57.9%	22	
Repeating Grades 1-3	2000	200	344	339	+69.5%	-1.5%	11.6	14.1	16.4	41.4%	16.3%	5	
White males	2000	85	139	108	+27.1%	-22.3%	14.8	16.3	16.7	12.8%	2.5%	19	
White females	2000	56	72	67	+19.6%	-6.9%	10.1	9.5	10.9	7.9%	14.7%	22	
African American and Other males	2000	39	86	96	+146.2%	+11.6%	13.1	20.8	23.9	82.4%	14.9%	4	
African American and Other females	2000	18	47	63	+250.0%	+34.0%	6.8	12.0	17.0	150.0%	41.7%	4	
Grade 3 Math below standards****	2002	618	316	554	-10.4%	+75.3%	34.8	13.9	30.2	-13.2%	117.3%	13	
White males	2002	151	66	127	-15.9%	+92.4%	25.9	8.5	21.5	-17.0%	152.9%	14	
White females	2002	147	75	134	-8.8%	+78.7%	24.1	10.3	26.0	7.9%	152.4%	11	
African American and Other males	2002	166	98	148	-10.8%	+51.0%	60.4	25.2	41.1	-32.0%	63.1%	26	
African American and Other females	2002	148	77	145	-2.0%	+88.3%	49.7	20.3	39.4	-20.7%	94.1%	21	
Grade 3 Reading below standards****	2002	481	225	357	-25.8%	+58.7%	27.1	9.9	19.5	-28.0%	97.0%	9	
White males	2002	129	47	98	-24.0%	+108.5%	22.1	6.1	16.6	-24.9%	172.1%	7	
White females	2002	93	39	79	-15.1%	+102.6%	15.3	5.3	15.4	0.7%	190.6%	17	
African American and Other males	2002	149	86	111	-25.5%	+29.1%	54.0	22.2	31.0	-42.6%	39.6%	18	
African American and Other females	2002	105	53	69	-34.3%	+30.2%	35.1	14.0	18.8	-46.4%	34.3%	9	
Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT Grade 4	1998	493	617	491	-0.4%	-20.4%	27.5	28.6	25.9	-5.8%	-9.4%	16	
White males	1998	153	183	122	-20.3%	-33.3%	24.6	24.3	20.7	-15.9%	-14.8%	22	
White females	1998	93	136	110	+18.3%	-19.1%	16.2	19.7	18.3	13.0%	-7.1%	27	
African American and Other males	1998	156	175	120	-23.1%	-31.4%	49.5	46.9	39.9	-19.4%	-14.9%	17	
African American and Other females	1998	89	123	139	+56.2%	+13.0%	33.8	36.3	38.2	13.0%	5.2%	17	

*Year of data is approximate in many cases.
**1 is best, 46 is worst.
*** Data include paternity acknowledgements.
**** BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Berkeley County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Education (continued)

Indicators		Number					Percent				
	Most Recent Year	1980*	1990*	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres
Grade 8 Math below state standards**	2002	680	453	694	+2.1%	+53.2%	44.1	23.3	37.0	-16.1%	58.8%
White males	*2002*	*167*	*123*	*149*	*-10.8%*	*+21.1%*	*31.8*	*18.6*	*26.3*	*-17.3%*	*41.4%*
White females	*2002*	*168*	*117*	*169*	*+0.6%*	*+44.4%*	*33.1*	*18.5*	*30.5*	*-7.9%*	*64.9%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*179*	*120*	*179*	*+0.0%*	*+49.2%*	*69.9*	*35.1*	*50.3*	*-28.0%*	*43.3%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*162*	*93*	*197*	*+21.6%*	*+111.8%*	*65.8*	*30.3*	*49.5*	*-24.8%*	*63.4%*
Grade 8 Reading below state standards**	2002	673	374	590	-12.3%	+57.8%	43.5	19.2	31.5	-27.6%	64.1%
White males	*2002*	*197*	*111*	*150*	*-23.9%*	*+35.1%*	*37.1*	*16.7*	*26.5*	*-28.6%*	*58.7%*
White females	*2002*	*133*	*87*	*110*	*-17.3%*	*+26.4%*	*26.1*	*13.7*	*19.9*	*-23.8%*	*45.3%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*187*	*111*	*176*	*-5.9%*	*+58.6%*	*73.0*	*32.5*	*49.4*	*-32.3%*	*52.0%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*152*	*65*	*154*	*+1.3%*	*+136.9%*	*62.0*	*21.1*	*38.7*	*-37.6%*	*83.4%*
Grade 9 Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT	1998	NA	527	506	NA	-4.0%	NA	27.9	25.0	NA	-10.4%
White males	*1998*	*NA*	*144*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*23.1*	*15.2*	*NA*	*-34.2%*
White females	*1998*	*NA*	*99*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*15.9*	*14.1*	*NA*	*-11.3%*
African American and Other males	*1998*	*NA*	*146*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*47*	*44.5*	*NA*	*-5.3%*
African American and Other females	*1998*	*NA*	*135*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*40.9*	*34.3*	*NA*	*-16.1%*
Exit Exam (not passing all parts on 1st attempt)	2002	760	406	550	-27.6%	+35.5%	43.8	27.4	34.0	-22.4%	24.1%
White males	*2002*	*219*	*111*	*120*	*-45.2%*	*+8.1%*	*36.8*	*22.7*	*23.8*	*-35.3%*	*4.8%*
White females	*2002*	*173*	*88*	*116*	*-32.9%*	*+31.8%*	*30.6*	*17.4*	*24.3*	*-20.6%*	*39.7%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*202*	*120*	*152*	*-24.8%*	*+26.7%*	*69.4*	*48.2*	*52.6*	*-24.2%*	*9.1%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*163*	*84*	*159*	*-2.5%*	*+89.3%*	*58.4*	*35.4*	*46.4*	*-20.5%*	*31.1%*
Dropout Rate (8th graders no longer enrolled in 12th grade 4 years later)	2000-02	445	651	582	+30.7%	-10.6%	23.6	29.9	27.5	16.4%	-8.1%
White males	*2000-02*	*203*	*281*	*218*	*+7.6%*	*-22.2%*	*31.5*	*37.4*	*32.9*	*4.3%*	*-12.1%*
White females	*2000-02*	*159*	*236*	*182*	*+14.7%*	*-22.6%*	*25.3*	*32.8*	*29.3*	*15.7%*	*-10.8%*
African American and Other males	*2000-02*	*47*	*88*	*108*	*+133.0%*	*+23.1%*	*14.5*	*23.4*	*26.0*	*79.1%*	*11.2%*
African American and Other females	*2000-02*	*37*	*47*	*73*	*+99.1%*	*+56.3%*	*12.5*	*13.9*	*17.5*	*40.3%*	*25.8%*
Young Adults Not Completing High School (18-24)	2000	3,853	3,246	2,727	-29.2%	-16.0%	28.5	23.2	13.3	-53.4%	-42.8%
White males	*NA*	*1,448*	*1,152*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*27.5*	*22.3*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
White females	*NA*	*1,185*	*1,086*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*25.6*	*22.0*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other males	*NA*	*695*	*535*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*37.7*	*29.7*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other females	*NA*	*525*	*473*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*29.2*	*22.9*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*

Economics

Poverty Rate	2000	5,804	6,598	6,224	+7.2%	-5.7%	17.3	15.9	15.9	-8.1%	0.0%
White children	*2000*	*2,492*	*2,675*	*2,108*	*-15.4%*	*-21.2%*	*10.6*	*9.3*	*8.7*	*-17.9%*	*-6.5%*
African American and Other children	*2000*	*3,203*	*3,923*	*4,116*	*+28.5%*	*+4.9%*	*32.8*	*31.0*	*27.8*	*-15.2%*	*-10.3%*
Income of Families w/children (1999 $)	2000	$ 40,417	$ 43,033	$ 47,053	+16.4%	+9.3%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
White families	*2000*	*$ 43,012*	*$ 45,863*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other families	*2000*	*$ 31,962*	*$ 34,502*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*

Adolescent Risk Factors

Teenage Pregnancy (ages 14-17)	2001	184	176	127	-31.0%	-27.8%	5.1	4.4	2.9	-42.9%	-34.1%
White	*2001*	*124*	*124*	*69*	*-44.4%*	*-44.4%*	*4.9*	*4.5*	*2.4*	*-51.2%*	*-46.7%*
African American and Other	*2001*	*60*	*52*	*58*	*-3.3%*	*+11.5%*	*5.5*	*4.3*	*3.6*	*-33.9%*	*-16.3%*
Delinquency	2002	178	293	556	+212.4%	+89.8%	3.1	4.5	7.1	130.5%	58.8%
White males	*2002*	*92*	*153*	*207*	*+125.0%*	*+35.3%*	*4.6*	*7.0*	*7.0*	*52.0%*	*-0.1%*
White females	*2002*	*55*	*76*	*121*	*+120.0%*	*+59.2%*	*2.8*	*3.3*	*6.1*	*117.2%*	*84.3%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*22*	*52*	*169*	*+668.2%*	*+225.0%*	*2.4*	*4.8*	*11.0*	*357.3%*	*128.6%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*9*	*12*	*59*	*+555.6%*	*+391.7%*	*1.1*	*1.4*	*4.6*	*315.8%*	*226.7%*

*Closest available data to this year was used in many cases.

**BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Kids Count 2003

Calhoun County

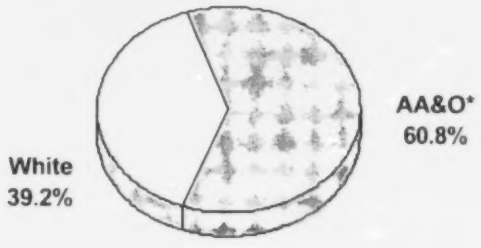
DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2000 there were an estimated 3,804 children under age 18 in the county. Of these, 1,491 were White, 2,242 were African-American, and 71 were other races. There were 3,471 children under age 18 in 1990, 3,929 in 1980, 4,402 in 1970, and 5,789 in 1960.

Children represent a shrinking portion of the county's population. Those under 18 constituted 25.1% of the population in 2000, down from 47.2% in 1960, 40.8% in 1970, and 32.2% in 1980.

In 2000 the 1,147 pre-schoolers under age 6 were 7.6% of the overall population: 6.3% of Whites and 8.7% of African Americans.

Figure 1: Population Ages 0-17 in 2000



* In all charts African-American is combined with other races, and often abbreviated as AA&O. Other races comprise 1.9% of children in the county, with "two or more races" at 1.2% and "some other race alone" at 0.4% as the largest Other groups.

FAMILY

Families have always been the most important influence in a child's life. Children depend on their families for material needs, stimulation and guidance. Family life is different in numerous ways from previous generations, and many families now face exceptional challenges.

Families with children now make up a smaller share of all households. Only 30.2% of all households in 2000, as compared with 44.0% of households in 1960, had children below the age of 18.

Births to Teen Mothers: In 2001, 6 babies were born to mothers younger than age 18. They were 3.7% of all babies born in the county; 1.2% of all White and 6.5% of all African-American and Other babies were born to teen mothers under the age of 18. Of the babies born to these teens in 2001, 100.0% were born to single mothers, including babies whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers.

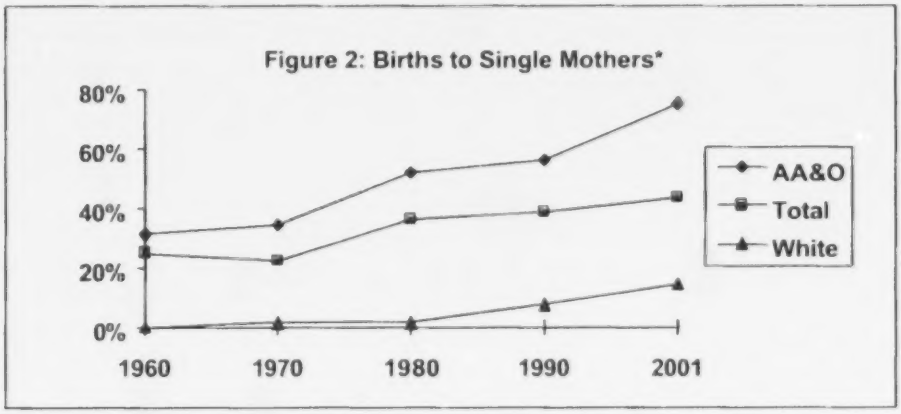
In 2001, 16 babies were born to mothers younger than age 20. These babies were 9.9% of all born in the county; 3.6% of all White and 16.9% of all African-American and Other babies were born to mothers under the age of 20. Of the babies born to these mothers in 2001, 100.0% were born to single mothers, including paternity acknowledeged babies.

Education of Mothers Giving Birth: Children's success is strongly influenced by the education of their parents. In 2001, 29 babies, 18.0% of all babies, were born to mothers of all ages who had not completed the 12th grade. In 2001,

15.5% of White and 20.8% of African-American and Other babies were born to mothers who had completed less than the 12th grade. This is a substantial improvement from 45.3% in 1970. In addition, during 2001, 35.4% had completed 12 grades (33.3% of Whites and 37.7% of African Americans and Others) and 46.6% had more than a high school degree (51.2% of Whites and 41.6% of African American and Others).

Births to Single Mothers: Births to single mothers have increased steadily over four decades. In 2001, 49 babies, 30.4% of all babies, were recorded as born to single mothers. A decade earlier in 1990, the percentage was 34.4% and in 1960 it was 25.1%. In 2001, 4.8% of White children and 58.4% of African-American and Other children were born to single mothers. These numbers, however, do not include paternity acknowlegement births.

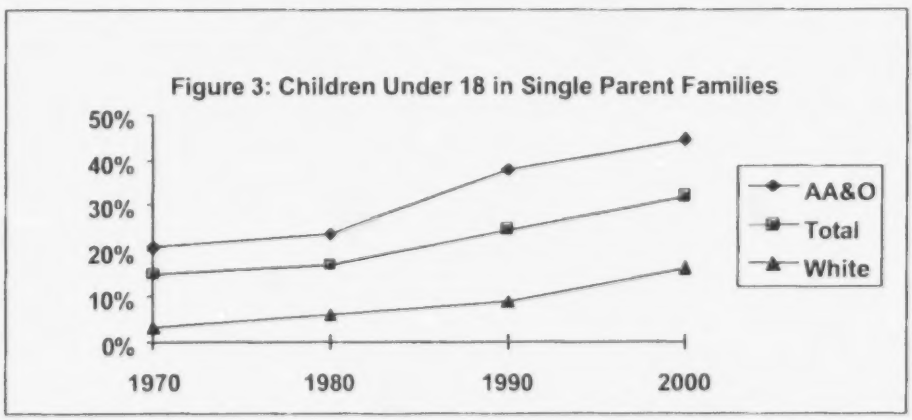
Thus, to these numbers should be added an additional group of 21 babies, 13.0% of all born in 2001, whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers. When the paternity-acknowledged babies are added, the total number born to single mothers in 2001 was 70, constituting 43.5% of all babies, 14.3% of White babies, and 75.3% of African-American and Others.



*Includes paternity acknowleged babies in 1980, 1990 and 2001. Prior to 1979, paternity acknowleged cases were not a statistical category, and thus were included in births to single mothers.

Divorce Rate: In 2001, 97 marriage licenses were issued, while 44 divorce decrees involving 27 children were filed. In 1970, only 15 children were in families involved in divorce.

Single-Parent Family: Increasing numbers of children live in single-parent families. In 2000, 1,012 children lived with only one parent. This was 32.0% of all children, up from 24.8% in 1990, 16.9% in 1980, and 14.9% in 1970. In 2000, 16.2% of White and 44.5% of African-American and Other children lived in single-parent families. Also in 2000, 229 or 29.5% of children under age 6 lived in single parent families: 13.7% of White and 44.3% of African American and Other pre-schoolers.



Parents Working and Child Care: Increasingly, parents must divide their time between children and employers. In order to meet family financial needs, most parents must work and thus have less time for family life. In 2000, 69.9% of mothers with children under 6 and 73.8% with children 6 - 17 were in the labor force. This has increased substantially from 1960 when 33.1% of mothers with children under 6 were in the labor force. Most fathers also work: 63.4% of children under 6 are in families where the single parent or both parents work. Caring for children is a problem for parents unable to obtain quality, affordable daycare while they are at work.

Overall, there are 479 spaces in state-regulated childcare facilities* in the county, 98.7% of these are in licensed programs and 1.3% are in registered programs. Of the spaces, 98.7% are in licensed childcare centers serving more than 12 children, 1.3% are in registered or licensed family childcare homes serving six or fewer children, 0.0% are in licensed group childcare homes serving 7-12 children, and 0.0% are in registered or licensed church programs.

The homes and centers are severely constrained by the limited ability of parents to pay. In the area, the average weekly charge is $ 65.00 for centers and $ 59.25 for homes. Consequently, center wages are low: 100% of centers with pre-school staff and 0% of centers with assistant pre-school staff report paying these staff under $6 per hour. Paying $6-$8 per hour are 0% of centers with pre-school staff and 0% of centers with assistants. Low wages attract workers with limited education. In 100% of centers, most pre-school staff and in 0% of centers most assistants have only a high school degree. In 100% of centers few to none of the pre-school staff have early childhood credentials. In childcare homes, 50% of lead providers have no more education than a high school degree or GED; 50% have less than a high school degree.

Family Violence: In 2000, 72 domestic assaults were recorded by law enforcement officials. These domestic assaults comprised 30.0% of all assaults, which include aggravated assaults, simple assaults, and intimidation. Overall, 62.5% of all domestic assaults involve spouse abuse which constitutes 18.8% of all assaults. Since most family violence is not reported, the true incidence of family disruption is much more widespread than even the large number of reported cases would indicate.

Separation from Parents: Some children do not live with their natural parents. In 2000, 10.0% of all children did not live with their natural parents. Approximately 346 or 9.1% of all children lived with relatives, 35 or 0.9% lived with non-relatives, or 0.0% were householders or spouses, and or 0.0% were in institutional facilities.

Abuse and Neglect: In 2000-01, there were 40 investigations into reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children. Through its investigations, the Department of Social Services (DSS) determined that 13 of the investigations were indicated for abuse or neglect: 15.8% for physical abuse, 5.3% for sexual abuse, 0.0% for mental injury, 26.3% for physical neglect, 5.3% for educational neglect, 0.0% for medical neglect, 42.1% for threat of harm for physical/sexual abuse, and 5.3% for other types of abuse.

In the indicated cases of abuse and neglect, DSS determined there were 22 children who were victims of abuse or neglect. Of these, 45.5% were male, 54.5% were female; 31.8% were White, 68.2% were African-American and Other. By age, 18.2% were ages 0 - 5, 36.4% were ages 6 - 12, and 45.5% were ages 13 - 17. In the indicated cases, 13.6% of the children lived in two-parent families, 22.7% in single parent families, 50.0% with unmarried couples, and 13.6% in other circumstances.

Out of Home Placements: As of June 2001, 16 children lived in foster care. The median age at first placement in the county is 9.7 years. The ages of children in foster care were 6.3% 0-2, 12.5% 3-5, 18.8% 6-10, 18.8% 11-13, and 43.8% 14 and above. The foster care population is 37.5% males and 62.5% females. Regarding their future, 25.0% were under a plan for placement in adoptive homes, 18.8% for return to a parent or guardian, 25.0% for placement with a relative, 6.3% for independent living, 18.8% for permanent foster care, and 6.3% for other circumstances.

Adult/Child Ratio: A measure of potential adult attention for children from family and community is the ratio of adults to children and youth. In 2000 there were 2.99 adults for every person below age 18. This was up substantially from 1960, when there were only 1.12 adults for every person under the age 18. This indicates that today there are more adults potentially available to provide attention and care for each child than in the past.

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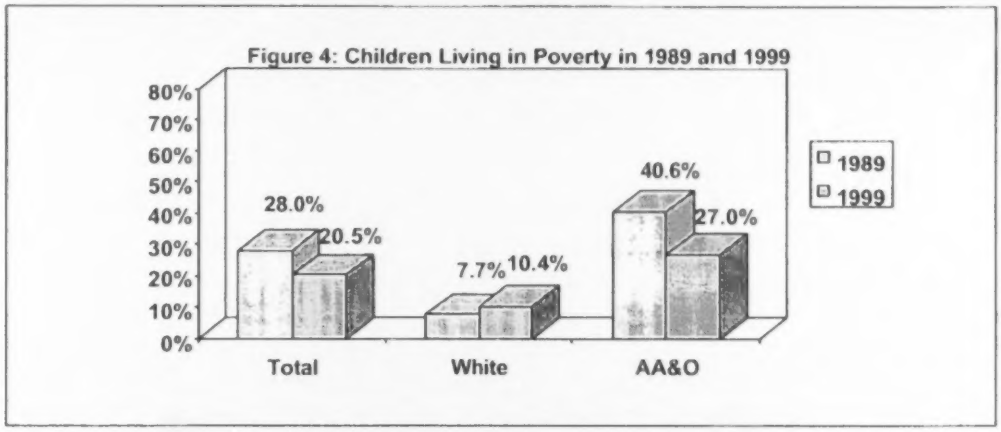
* This data is the best currently available; however, an effort is being made to check the coverage and improve the accuracy. As soon as more recent and complete data becomes available, it will be posted on the website.

ECONOMIC STATUS

Low income makes it difficult for many families to provide the material and environmental enrichment necessary for healthy child development.

Poverty: In 1999, 769 children and youth under the age of 18 lived in 382 families with incomes below poverty, comprising 20.5% of all children and youth: 10.4% of Whites and 27.0% of African-Americans and Others. A rough estimate of child poverty in 2001 calculated by the Census Bureau was 23.0%.



Poverty has always been a serious problem. While the rate among children under age 18 in 1989 was 28.0%, it was 27.8% in 1979 and 45.5% in 1969.

Children and the elderly are the age groups most seriously affected by poverty. In 1999, 19.7% of children 0 - 5 (8.5% White, 27.6% African-American and Other), and 21.1% of children 6 - 17 (11.6% White, 27.0% African-American and Other), lived in poverty; 18.3% of persons 65 years and older lived in poverty. Historically, the poverty rate among the elderly was much higher. During the last three decades, federal policy actions have substantially improved the economic status of older persons but have not done so for children.

Single-parent families are most likely to be poor. In 1999, 40.6% of children in single-parent families lived in poverty, but only 8.7% of children in married-couple families were poor. Children in single-parent families made up 54.6% of all the county's children living in poverty.

In 2002, the poverty level was $15,020 for a family of three and $18,100 for a family of four. The poverty threshold is often criticized as an arbitrary number. People can still be poor but may be just above the poverty level. Federal programs utilize varying thresholds. For example, in 1999 there were 1,884 children ages 0-17 who were less than 200 percent of poverty; thus an additional 1,115 children were above the poverty level but could still be considered poor or near-poor with incomes below $30,040 and $36,200 respectively for 3 and 4 person families.

Children Under 18 in Poverty in 1999

Percent of Poverty	Total		White		African American & Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 50%	326	8.7%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 100%	769	20.5%	153	10.4%	616	27.0%
Under 125%	1,100	29.3%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 150%	1,393	37.1%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 175%	1,643	43.8%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 185%	1,748	46.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 200%	1,884	50.2%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total Children	3,804		1,491		2,313	

Note: Missing data will be released by the Census Bureau later in 2003, and will be posted on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

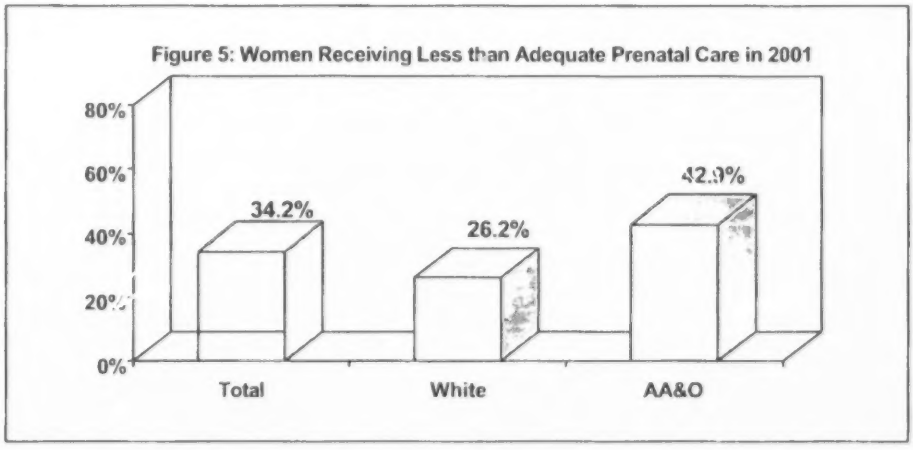
Income: The mean income of families with children in 1999 was $47,063. In 1989 it was $42,313, and 1979, it was $36,618, adjusted for inflation (i.e., in 1999 dollars). The mean income of single-parent families with children was $27,763 for single parents in 1999, as compared with $55,578 in married-couple families with children. From 1999 to 2000, Calhoun County real dollar per capita income (eliminating inflation) increased by 2.1%.

Child Support Payments: There were 166[7] families receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families in fiscal year 2002, but only 37.3 % had child support court orders. Their average monthly payment of child support was $ 263, including child support receipts and tax refund intercepts. In addition, during fiscal year 2002, an estimated 236 parents in non-TANF families were obligated to pay a monthly average of $ 241. Information is not available regarding the amount actually paid.

HEALTH

Good health during a child's formative years helps children to reach their maximum potential. Good health requires healthy lifestyles and effective primary care, starting during the prenatal period and continuing through adolescence into adulthood. Children's health reflects the well-being of the community, as well as how adequately they are protected.

Prenatal Care: Early and continuous prenatal care can make a significant difference in assuring births of healthy babies. Delayed or insufficient prenatal care is associated with low birthweight and other health risks for infants. In 2001, 40, or 24.8% of pregnant women received no prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy. In 2001, 55, or 34.2% of pregnant women received less than adequate prenatal care: 22 or 26.2% of Whites and 33 or 42.9% of African-Americans and Others. In that same year, 1 women received no prenatal care at all.



Low Birthweight: Low birthweight of less than 5.5 pounds and very low birthweight of less than 3.3 pounds are associated with health risks and growth and development problems. In 2001, 22 or 13.7% of all babies in the county were born with low birthweight: 19.5% of African-American and Other babies and 8.3% of White babies. During 1999-2001, approximately 10 or 1.9% of all babies were born with very low birthweight and had the most serious complications: 1.7% of White babies and 2.1% of African-American and Other babies. The cost of hospitalization for each newborn low birthweight baby in the county in 1999 - 2001 was $22,067 and $94,669 for each very low birthweight baby, compared with $1,368 for a baby of normal birthweight. The result was excess cost in the county of $511,196 for all low birthweight babies, of which $373,202 was for very low birthweight babies.

Infant Mortality: During the decade since 1989-91, the overall infant mortality rate decreased by 37.1% from 15.3 to 9.6 per 1000 live births. For Whites, the rate decreased 70.8% from 14.3 to 4.2 per 1000 live births, while for African-Americans and Others the rate decreased 9.8% from 15.8 to 14.3 per 1000 live births. Over the three-year period 1999-2001, 1 White and 4 African-American and Other infants died before age one. By comparison, 3 White and 6 African-American and Other infants died during 1989-91.

[7] Number is an unduplicated count for the entire fiscal year.

Child Injuries and Deaths: Childhood deaths and injuries reflect whether communities are safe for children. In 2001, children in the Calhoun County went to the emergency room 284 times because of injuries. Boys are injured more often than girls. Children visit the emergency room at comparable rates for each age from 0 to 17.

In South Carolina, the major causes of death among young children are unintentional injuries, cancer, homicide, and congenital anomalies. Over the three year period 1999-2001, 4 White and 2 African-American and Other children ages 1-14 died in the county. During 1989-91, White and 3 African-American and Other children died.

Immunization: Immunization rates are an important indication of whether young children are receiving adequate preventive health care. During FY 1989-90, 48.3% of children less than two years old seen in public health clinics were not fully immunized against such preventable diseases as Polio, Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Haemophilus Influenza B and Whooping Cough. After a concerted statewide campaign to increase immunizations, the percentage of children seen in public health clinics who were not fully immunized in January 2001 had declined in the county to 0.8%. The DHEC statewide birth registry survey of all two year old children found that 88.1% were fully immunized in 2001. This success demonstrates the potential to improve the status of children when the leadership of the state and its communities act decisively together.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Children and youth are infected with sexually transmitted diseases through sexual abuse or irresponsible sexual activity. National prevalence rates indicate: a 1 in 8 chance that sexually active 15 year-old girls will develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), the most rapidly increasing cause of infertility; 10% of sexually active adolescent girls and boys are infected with chlamydia, the most common cause of PID; and as many as 15% of teen girls are infected with human papilloma virus, often with strains linked to cervical cancer. Furthermore, research evidence indicates that susceptibility to HIV/AIDS increases by 3 to 8 times through prior infection with various STDs.

According to national studies, approximately 1 in 4 sexually experienced youth aged 13-19 acquires a STD ever year; since two-thirds of all high school students have had sexual intercourse and half engage in intercourse over a thr month period, this would suggest that 10-15% of teens are infected with STDs annually. For 2000, this would indicate th an estimated 147 to 220 youth ages 13-19 in the county were infected with a STD. Many infections are either not identifi for treatment or not reported. In the county, there were reported cases of children under age 15 and 7 youth ages 15 - infected with gonorrhea; youth under 15 and 24 ages 15 - 19 were reported infected with chlamydia. Youth wi undiagnosed and untreated STDs often spread their infections.

Healthy Lifestyles: Although no county data is available, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2001 found that mar high school students are not following good health habits. The YRBS revealed that 26% felt that they were overweight; 42 were trying to lose weight: 27% of boys and 57% of girls. Although during a week 79% of high school students ate fru 59% ate salad, and over 83% ate vegetables, only 17% ate the recommended five or more servings of fruit and vegetabl per day. During a week, 49% did stretching or muscle strengthening exercises, and 59% exercised three or more times f 20 minutes in sports that made them sweat or breathe hard. However, 11% of students engaged in no vigorous or modera activity at all during a week: 8% of boys and 13% of girls.

Tobacco Use:* Cigarette smoking starts at a young age and often becomes habitual. In the state during 2002 among all students 15 and older, 15.1% first smoked by age 11, 34.0% by age 13, and 48.9% by age 15. In a typical month, 21.3% of 7th and 8th graders and 26.6% of high school students smoked cigarettes. White youths were much more likely than African-Americans to smoke: 30.2% of White male and 28.6% of White female 7th to 12th graders used cigarettes, as compared with 9.5% of African-American males and 13.3% of African American females. A smaller but significant group of high school students (7.6%) used smokeless tobacco monthly; it was used primarily by White males (19.5% compared with 1.6% of all other race and sex groups).

* Schools in the county elected not to participate in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking. Therefore, data for all of South Carolina is presented here.

Disabilities: No data are collected on the true prevalence of disabilities within the county. According to national reported estimates, over 10% of children and youth have developmental disabilities at any point in time, and more than 17 are affected at some time before age 18 by deafness, blindness, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, speech defects, development delays, learning disabilities, and emotional or behavioral problems. For 2000 this suggests that at least 380 children a youth under age 18 in the county are currently affected by disabilities.

Approximately 5% of children and youth nationally have serious disabilities which have lifelong implications f work, social life and community living. Typically among children and youth, there are 1 - 2% who are mentally retarded, - 3% with serious emotional disturbances, over 1% with orthopedic or multiple disabilities, including cerebral palsy a many hereditary conditions, and under 1% with visual or hearing impairments.

Other chronic health problems also affect the lives of many children. Over 3% of children have one or more these limitations. Such serious chronic conditions affect 1 - 2% who have respiratory problems (asthma and chron bronchitis), 0.5 - 1.0% with neurological problems (epilepsy and seizures), and less than 1% with circulatory proble (congenital heart defects and acquired diseases).

Other disabilities are identified primarily in school performance. These would include 90 students in grades 1- with learning disabilities and 99 students in grades 1-12 with speech/language deficits.

Disabilities are caused by genetics, disease, poor prenatal conditions, injuries, and environmental factors. For example, lead exposure, primarily from paint dust, was detected in over 1% of all children screened, including 1 in Calhoun County.

Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: While over 20% of 9-17 year olds meet diagnostic criteria for some form of mental disorder, the number with serious emotional disturbance and impaired functioning in family, school, o community activities is: 9-13% for substantial functional impairment and 5-9% for extreme functional impairment. The rates among poor children are at the higher end of these ranges. Based on a federal formula for estimating prevalence, in the county there are 12% or 246 seriously emotionally disturbed 9-17 year olds with substantial functional impairment and 8% or 164 with extreme functional impairment during the course of a year. Conduct disorders, attention defici depression, and anxiety disorders are the most prevalent, each affecting 3% or more of school-aged children. These disorders may occur simultaneously in a child. The prevalence rates are highest among males, adolescents, and disadvantaged persons in communities under stress and lacking social cohesion; depression, however, is more prevalent among females. On the YRBS, 20% of boys and 33% of girls in high school reported that during the past year they felt so sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that they stopped doing some usual activities. Another indicato of emotional problems is the 8% of high school students in South Carolina who reported that they had "attempted suicide" in the past year: 5% of boys and 10% of girls. Suicide attempts resulted in 4% of high school students reporting that they required treatment by a doctor or nurse for injury, poisoning, or overdose.

Inadequate Healthcare: No county level data is routinely collected regarding the number of children and youth with inadequate healthcare. According to estimates for 2000-02 by the Bureau of the Census through the annual Current Population Survey, the statewide average rate of uninsured children and youth under age 18 in families with incomes under 200% of poverty in South Carolina was 16.6%, and 9.9% above 200% of poverty. If these rates are applied to the county, there are 313 children in the county below 200% of poverty with no health insurance, and 191 children above 200% of poverty with no health insurance, for a total of 504 uninsured children in Calhoun County. The number lacking basic accessible primary care is at least double the number lacking insurance. Those lacking primary care are often dependent on health services at school. The ratio of students to nurses recommended nationally is 750:1. In the county this would suggest the need for 3 nurses, compared with 3 currently working in the schools.

Medicaid: For several years, the State of South Carolina has emphasized enrolling eligible children into Medicaid. In late 1997, South Carolina implemented its version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program Partners for Healthy Children (PHC), and aggressively pursued outreach enrollment for PHC and Medicaid. As a result enrollment of children ages 0 through 18 in Calhoun County has increased by 76.7% from June 1997 to June 2001; thus Medicaid and PHC were serving 49.5% of all children in that age range. The total Medicaid expenditures in South Carolina for services provided to children ages 0 through 18 for state fiscal year 2002 were $991 million, at an average statewide expenditure of $2,343 per child enrolled, approximate Medicaid expenditure for children in the county would be $4.4 million.

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In June 2001, the total number of Calhoun County children, birth through 18, enrolled in Medicaid was 1,884. The total can be broken down into the following age and race groupings:

	White	African American	Hispanic	Other	Total
Children under 1	28	75	2	1	106
Children 1 - 5	116	372	14	13	515
Children 6 - 14	172	706	8	17	903
Children 15 - 18	58	297	3	2	360
Total	374	1,450	27	33	1,884

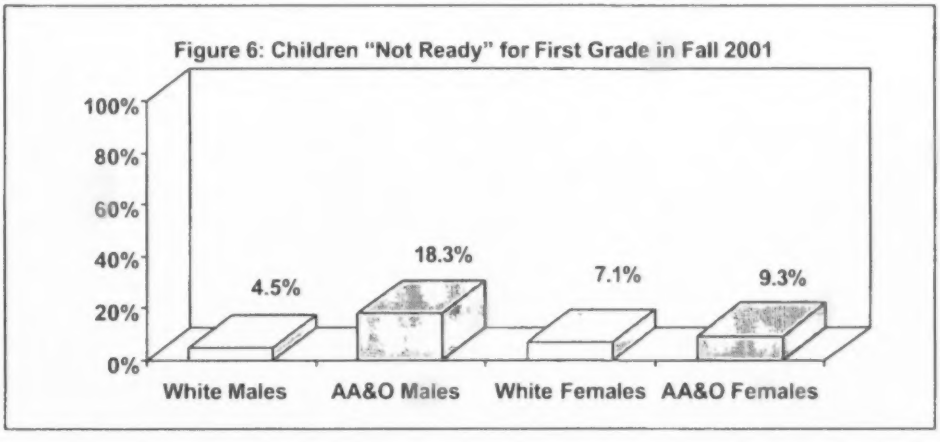
Ambulatory Care: When children lack adequate primary care, whether through lack of insurance, through limit access, or through failing to utilize available care, preventable and treatable conditions become serious and requi hospitalization. A useful indicator of inadequate primary care is the percentage of all hospitalizations that could typical have been avoided through ambulatory care, especially for pneumonia, asthma, diarrhea and vomiting, dehydration, a severe ear, nose, and throat infections. The share of hospitalizations for these types of conditions could normally be ke below 20%; for children in the county under the age of 18 during 2001, the share was 30.2% for Whites and 38.8% f African-Americans and Others.

READINESS AND EARLY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Too many children reach school without the readiness skills needed for success in learning, such as language, soc skills, visual and auditory discrimination, memory recall, and knowledge of colors, letters, numbers, names of objects, e Likewise, some schools are not ready to respond appropriately to the varying developmental levels of children in the ea grades. As a result, too many students do not experience the success needed to create the motivation and engagement th sustain learning.

1st Grade "Readiness" on 2001-02 Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB):

17 children not ready 12.1% children not ready



1st Grade Failures in 2002:

10 children failing 6.8% children failing

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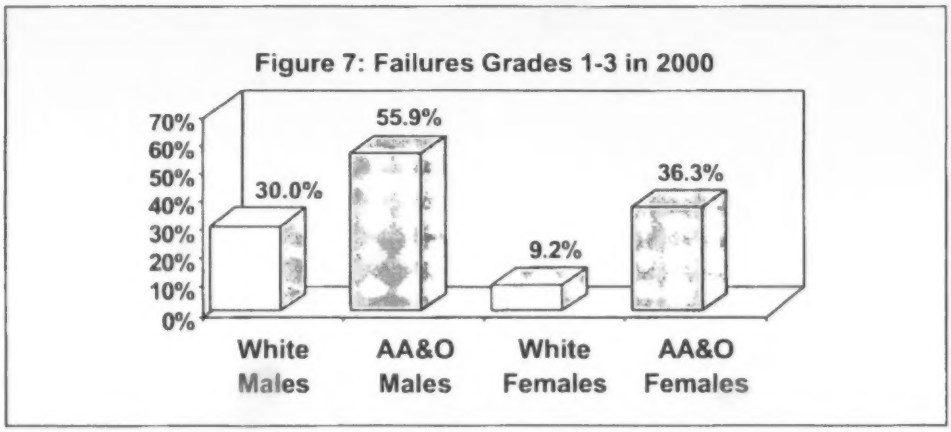
Failures Grades 1-3 in 2002 (approximate cumulative percentage of grades one, two and three):	
20 children failing	12.3% children failing



Over-age for Grade 3 in 2001	
50 children over-age	32.9% children over-age

Special Education: Large numbers of children are placed in special education classes. In elementary school 80 six and seven year olds and 42 eight and nine year-olds were enrolled in special education classes during 2001-02 approximately 26.4% and 11.6% of their age groups respectively: 16.5% of White 8 – 9 year olds were in special education and 10.1% of African American and Others.

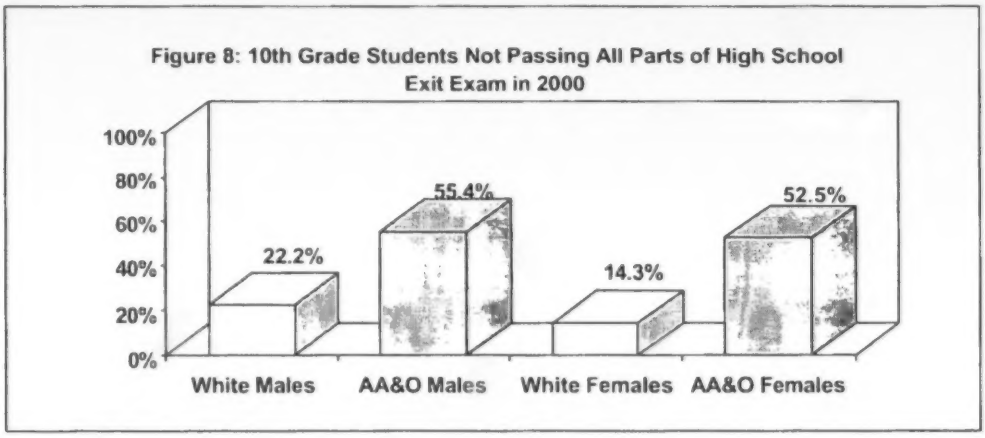
Readiness Summary: A serious problem exists in terms of student readiness and school success in the early grades. With 12.1% assessed not ready for the 1st grade, 32.9% over age in grade 3, and 11.6% of eight and nine year olds placed in special education, unacceptably large numbers of students still begin school without good prospects of success in future school achievement and graduation; however, great improvement has occurred since the mid 1990s.

SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

By the end of elementary school, significant numbers of students perform below minimum standards. The following standardized test measures, comparing student performance to state minimum standards, should be used in combination with routine classroom assessments more reflective of real-world performance skills.

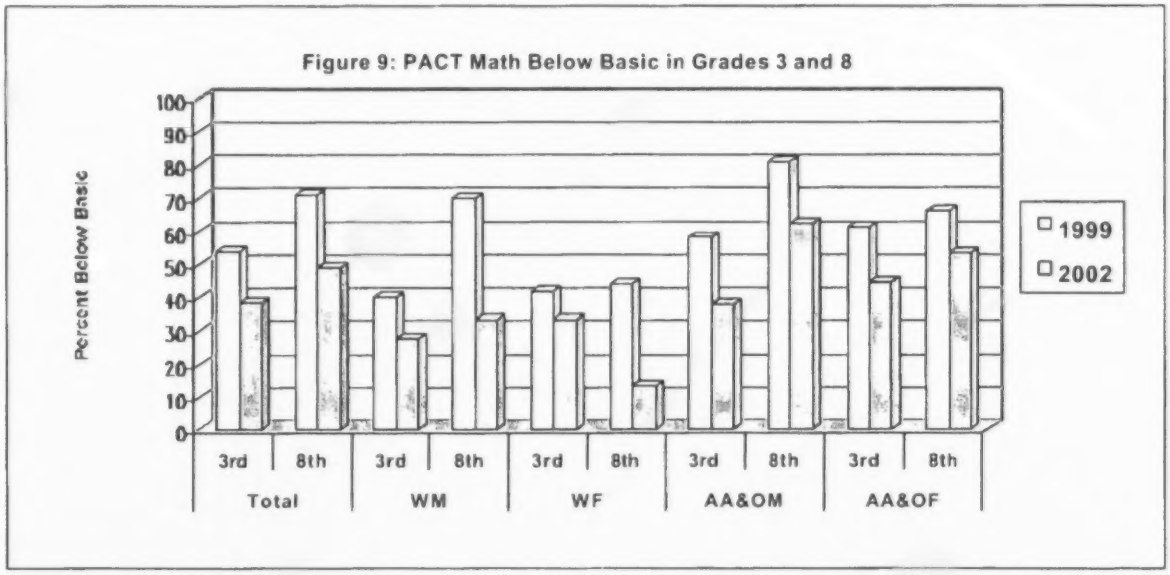
Special Education: Special education placements reflect both the significant number of children with serious handicapping conditions and a large number of students with mild learning and behavioral problems that have not been accommodated successfully by the regular educational program. The result is a large system of self-contained, resource and itinerant services to meet the needs of 99 speech and language impaired, 90 learning disabled, 3 emotionally disabled, 62 mentally impaired, and 10 physically handicapped, deaf, blind, and other handicapped students. Special education classes served approximately 13.4% of all students in grades 1 - 12 during 2001-2002.

Exit Exam - not passing all parts of Exit Exam on first attempt in the 10th grade in 2002	
65 students did not pass all parts	49.6% of students did not pass all parts



Achievement Trends: How has performance on standardized achievement tests changed over the past 20 years? During the 1980s, student performance on the BSAP tests improved dramatically. Between 1981 and 1990, the percentage of 8th grade students in Calhoun County who did not meet standards declined from 80.1% to 44.4% in math and from 71.4% to 29.6% in reading. During the 1990's the BSAP trend changed, with 51% not meeting 8th grade math standards in 1998 and 48.7% in reading. On standardized tests, the first year when South Carolina students take the exam is comparable to the challenge encountered by the national norm group which took the test only once. Looking at first year data, the percentage of 4th grade students at or below the 25th percentile of national norms was 36.4% in 1983 on the CTBS, 32.6% in 1990 on the Stanford, and 39.3% in 1995 on the Metropolitan; for 9th graders, the percentage in the bottom quarter was 36.4% in 1990 and 52.7% in 1995. Although not comparable, the percent below basic on the 4th grade PACT in 1999, the first year of administration, was 50.7%, but in 2002 35.7% of 4th graders were below basic in reading and math; the percentage of 8th graders below basic in reading and math averaged 63.3% in 1999 and 47.9% in 2002.

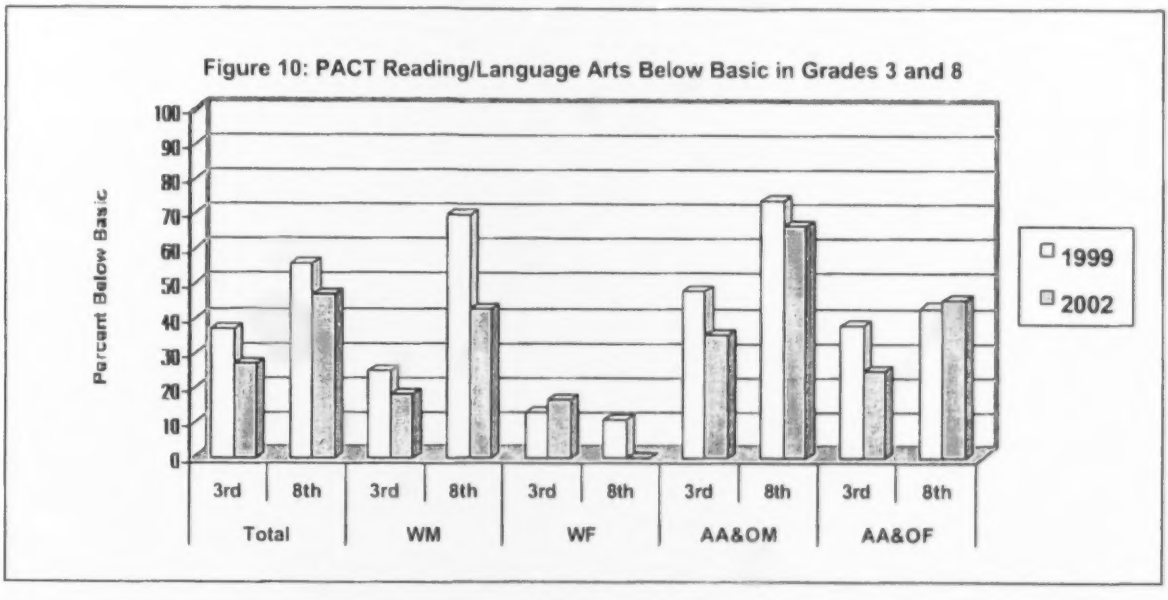
PACT: The Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) was first administered in 1999 for grades 3 - 8 in math and reading/language arts. Math assesses skills in numbers, numerical and algebraic concepts, patterns and functions, geometry, measurement, probability and statistics. The percentage of students scoring below basic in math has decreased by 27.6% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 284 students below basic in grades 3-8 but there would have been an additional 108 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
		Math (%)				
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	38.4	27.3	33.3	38.1	44.3
	4	41.3	9.1	26.7	34.4	60.4
	5	36.7	37.5	7.1	51.0	28.6
	6	33.8	10.5	14.3	30.6	52.7
	7	45.2	33.3	42.9	55.7	37.1
	8	49.0	33.3	13.3	62.2	53.2
Basic	3	44.5	36.4	22.2	54.0	44.3
	4	37.1	45.5	20.0	46.9	28.3
	5	51.1	50.0	50.0	47.1	57.1
	6	46.5	36.8	42.9	54.8	41.8
	7	38.7	46.7	47.6	30.0	43.5
	8	35.7	47.6	46.7	24.4	37.1
Proficient	3	11.6	27.3	22.2	4.8	9.8
	4	16.1	45.5	33.3	12.5	9.4
	5	9.4	6.3	35.7	2.0	10.7
	6	14.6	42.1	28.6	11.3	3.6
	7	10.7	13.3	9.5	7.1	14.5
	8	11.2	14.3	33.3	13.3	3.2
Advanced	3	5.5	9.1	22.2	3.2	1.6
	4	5.6	0.0	20.0	6.3	1.9
	5	2.9	6.3	7.1	0.0	3.6
	6	5.1	10.5	14.3	3.2	1.8
	7	5.4	6.7	0.0	7.1	4.8
	8	4.2	4.8	6.7	0.0	6.5

Reading/Language Arts assesses reading, listening, speaking, writing, research, and communication wit technology. The first PACT assessment found a high percentage of elementary and middle grades students performing below standards and only a modest number above basic. The percentage of students scoring below basic i reading/language arts has decreased by 28.3% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 21 students below basic in grades 3 - 8 but there would have been an additional 85 at 1999 performance rates.

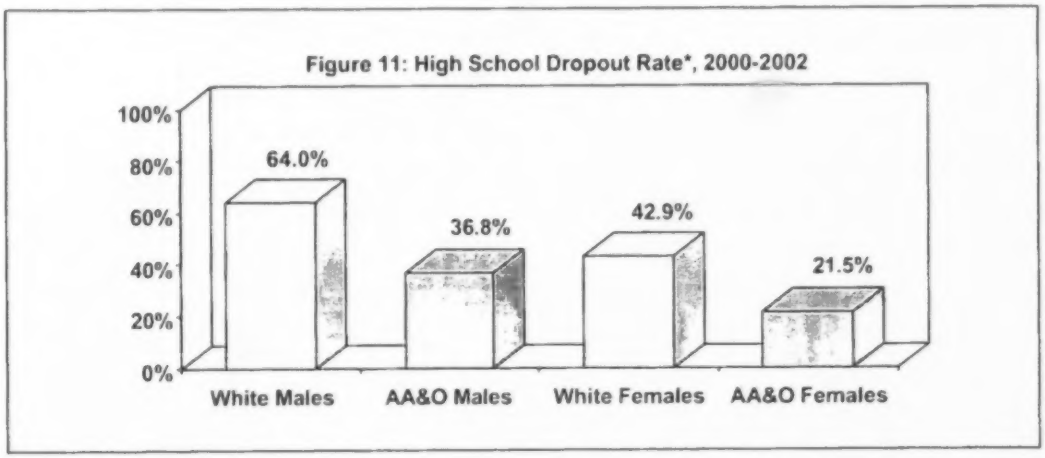
Figure 10: PACT Reading/Language Arts Below Basic in Grades 3 and 8



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
	Reading/Language Arts (%)					
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	27.2	18.2	16.7	35.5	25.0
	4	30.1	18.2	26.7	34.4	28.3
	5	32.4	25.0	7.1	51.0	21.4
	6	40.1	31.6	14.3	58.1	32.7
	7	39.9	26.7	33.3	55.7	27.4
	8	46.9	42.9	0.0	66.7	45.2
Basic	3	51.2	45.5	38.9	53.2	55.0
	4	58.0	72.7	33.3	53.1	67.9
	5	56.1	68.8	71.4	43.1	62.5
	6	39.5	31.6	47.6	27.4	52.7
	7	50.6	66.7	52.4	38.6	59.7
	8	37.8	42.9	60.0	26.7	38.7
Proficient	3	20.4	36.4	38.9	11.3	18.3
	4	11.9	9.1	40.0	12.5	3.8
	5	10.8	6.3	21.4	5.9	14.3
	6	19.7	36.8	33.3	14.5	14.5
	7	8.9	6.7	14.3	5.7	11.3
	8	13.3	9.5	26.7	6.7	16.1
Advanced	3	1.2	0.0	5.6	0.0	1.7
	4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	5	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.8
	6	0.6	0.0	4.8	0.0	0.0
	7	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.6
	8	2.1	4.8	13.3	0.0	0.0

Dropout Rate - 8th grade students no longer enrolled in grade 12
(average of students for the three years ending 2000-2002)

55 students drop out annually **33.1% students drop out?**



Dropouts: Distressing numbers of students drop out and fail to graduate. An average of 24.5% of 8th grader failed to graduate** from county schools five years later during the period 1980-84, 29.6% during 1985-89, and 40.5% during 1990-94, 33.1% during 1995-97 and 41.5% during 1998-2000***.

During 2001-02, 94.9% of all who did graduate received the State High School Diploma, while the remaining 5.1% received a State Certificate for meeting the required Carnegie units but not passing the Exit Exam.

*12th grade enrollment compared to 8th grade enrollment four years earlier
** This is calculated by using 8th grade enrollment to graduation data.
*** 2001 data will be available soon and will be posted on the website.

Fortunately, many dropouts enroll in adult education programs and either earn a high school diploma or obtain a GED. During 2001-02, 20 Adult Education high school diplomas were awarded to school completers and in 2001 14 GEDs were awarded in the county. Over time, adult education high school diplomas and GEDs increase the effective school completion rate substantially. In the 2000 Census, 17.5% of county resident 25 - 34 year-olds said they had no completed either high school or a GED.

Achievement Summary: The numbers of students testing below basic on the PACT and dropping out range from 27.2% to 52.7%. Thus, far too many students fail to acquire the knowledge, skills, learning habits, and motivation necessary to compete in the economy or contribute to society in the 21st Century.

ADOLESCENT RISK BEHAVIORS

Academic achievement is greatly influenced by the prevailing youth culture which often promotes popularity with peers and partying rather than studying and doing well in school. The prevalence of adolescent risk-taking and under-achievement is illustrated by the poor grades of substance-abusing teens.

Substance Abuser Rates at Levels of Academic Performance

	Usual School Grades in Past Year					
	A Range	B Range	C Range	D Range	F Range	Total
Smoked Cigarettes (in past 30 days)	13.3%	22.4%	31.7%	42.8%	63.6%	25.3%
Drank 5 or More Drinks on One Occasion (in past 30 days)	12.4%	17.3%	22.6%	26.8%	43.5%	18.9%
Used Any Illicit Drug (in past 30 days)	11.5%	17.1%	25.1%	34.1%	53.0%	20.0%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

As influence from parents and other adults declines during adolescence, significant numbers of students engage in violence, crime, school offenses, depressive emotions and attempted suicide:

Risk Behaviors Participated in During Past 12 Months	White Male		White Female		African American Male		African American Female		Total		Total (Grade 7-12)
	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	
Carried a handgun or knife for self-defense?	22.5%	26.1%	5.3%	6.3%	14.6%	20.2%	5.0%	7.6%	12.2%	14.9%	13.7%
Carried a handgun or knife as a weapon?	6.8%	9.4%	1.3%	1.6%	9.0%	13.9%	3.0%	5.0%	4.8%	6.9%	5.9%
Been in a fight with someone?	40.1%	31.3%	18.5%	16.2%	41.4%	31.9%	29.4%	22.4%	31.7%	24.9%	28.0%
Hit your boyfriend or girlfriend?	2.0%	1.6%	6.9%	10.0%	5.7%	4.9%	17.7%	24.2%	7.4%	9.7%	8.7%
Been hit by your boyfriend or girlfriend?	7.1%	6.1%	6.1%	8.5%	11.5%	9.7%	9.5%	10.6%	8.1%	8.5%	8.3%
Rec'd detention or in-school suspension?	38.1%	37.3%	22.4%	25.0%	41.6%	37.6%	34.3%	30.7%	33.3%	32.1%	32.7%
Been suspended from school?	12.9%	13.9%	5.2%	7.2%	24.0%	22.6%	14.8%	15.4%	13.1%	13.8%	13.5%
Stolen anything worth > $5?	12.9%	17.6%	6.9%	10.7%	14.2%	15.6%	8.5%	8.4%	10.4%	13.1%	11.9%
Had an accident while driving?	NA	14.3%	NA	12.6%	NA	7.7%	NA	6.3%	NA	11.0%	NA
Been arrested and booked?	3.9%	6.1%	1.5%	2.7%	5.7%	8.1%	2.2%	2.9%	3.2%	4.7%	4.0%
Felt hopeless for two weeks or more?	14.8%	15.9%	21.8%	29.0%	14.0%	13.3%	22.0%	24.8%	18.2%	21.4%	19.9%
Seriously considered attempting suicide?	6.9%	8.4%	9.6%	14.3%	5.5%	5.4%	6.8%	8.7%	7.4%	9.7%	8.7%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

Adolescence is often a time of taking risks and asserting independence from adults. When asked whether they would tell an adult about a problem, the following percentages of state students said they would be "not likely" or "very unlikely" to tell if they:

-heard a student threaten to harm someone: 33.2% middle school, 47.0% high school;
-saw a student with a handgun at school: 22.7% middle school, 20.5% high school;
-saw a student with a knife at school: 24.7% middle school, 31.6% high school;
-saw a student with drugs at school: 33.7% middle school, 61.9% high school;

Alcohol Use:* In the state during 2001-02, 21.0% of 7th and 8th graders and 37.1% of high schoolers said they had used alcohol in the past month. Of White males in grades 7 - 12, 33.8% had used it in the past month, compared with 26.0% of African-American males; likewise, 34.5% of White females said they had used alcohol, compared with 26.4% of African-American females. Many youth first used alcohol at an early age: 14.2% had used alcohol by age 11 or younger, 33.0% by age 13, and 61.1% by age 15.

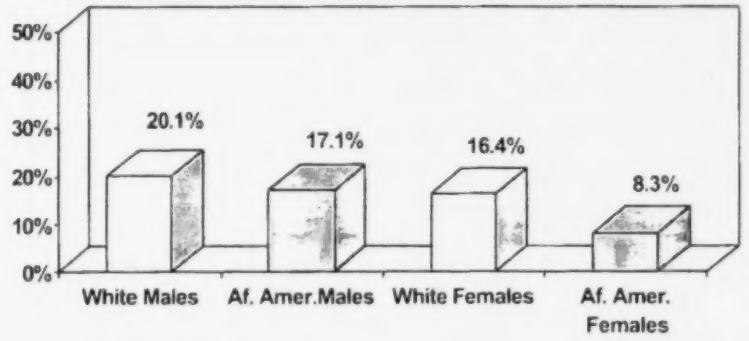
During the previous year, 21.0% of 7th and 8th graders and 30.4% of high schoolers said they had ridden with a drinking driver. Of seniors who drive, 19.4% said they had driven after drinking. Widespread use is encouraged by the ready availability and perceived low risk of alcohol use. Among students who expressed an opinion, 43.6% of eighth graders and 75.4% of seniors felt that beer was easy to get. Also, 71.6% of eighth graders and 70.7% of seniors felt there was not a great risk in drinking two drinks a day, and 47.3% of eighth graders and 53.1% of high schoolers felt there was not a great risk in drinking 5 drinks every weekend.

Heavy Drinking:* In 2001-02, 7.7% of 7th and 8th graders and 18.9% of high school students in the state repor drinking 5 or more drinks in a day during the past month. When asked how many drinks, if any, they usually consur 13.7% of all state students in grades 7 - 12 in 2001-02 responded 3 or more drinks at a time and 7.1% reported usually 5 more drinks. Among high school students, 18.6% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 10.0% 5 or mc Among seniors, 24.7% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 13.7% 5 or more; however 22.9% of seni said that they drank 5 or more drinks in a day once or more during the past month.

Drugs:* In 2001-02, 9.5% of 7th and 8th graders and 20.1% of high schoolers in the state reported using ille drugs during the previous month. Among students in grades 7 - 12, use was reported by 20.1% of White males, 16.4% Wl females, 17.1% of African-American males, and 8.3% of African-American females. Some young people initiated drug at an early age: 5.3% had experienced their first use by age 11 or sooner; 16.3% had used a drug by age 13, and 34.7% by 15.

In the past year, 10.3% of all high school students in the state who drive and 15.4% of seniors who drive said that they had driven after using drugs. Such use is encouraged by the ready availability of drugs: 22.3% of 8th graders who had an opinion said it is easy to get marijuana and 8.4% said it is easy to get cocaine or crack; 65.0% of seniors said it is easy to get marijuana and 29.5% said it was easy to get cocaine or crack.

Figure 12: Drug Use among Students Grades 7-12 during 2001-02*



* Schools in the county elected not to participate in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking. Therefore, data for all of South Carolina is presented here. The latest Calhoun County data, for 1992-93, is available on the Kids Count website at www.sckidscount.org.

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Sexual Activity and Pregnancy: Many teenagers now engage in sexual activity. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) administered to a representative sample of high school students throughout South Carolina in 2001 showed that sexual activity begins at an early age: 7% of female and 21% of male students have engaged in intercourse before age 13; by age 15, 38% the females and 49% of males have engaged in sexual intercourse. Statewide, 48% of females and 50% of males in the 11th and 12th grades reported engaging in intercourse during the past three months. Furthermore, 27% of female and 33% of male 12th graders have had intercourse with four or more partners during their lifetimes.

Premature sexual activity often results in pregnancy. In the county, 10 girls between the ages of 14 and 17 became pregnant in 1999, 20 in 2000 and 9 in 2001. This represented 2.1% of all girls ages 14 – 17 in 2001; several times this percentage become pregnant at least once by age 18. The 2001 pregnancy rate for ages 14 - 17 was 1.9% for Whites and 2.2% for African-Americans and Others. Of all pregnancies of 14-17 year olds, 66.7% resulted in live births, with almost all other pregnancies ending in abortions.

Teen pregnancy rates increased substantially across the state during the 1980s; as a result, greater emphasis v devoted to preventing teen pregnancy. Since 1989, the teen pregnancy rate in Calhoun County has decreased by 58.0 Overall, it has increased by 46.2% for Whites, and decreased by 72.5% for African Americans and Others.

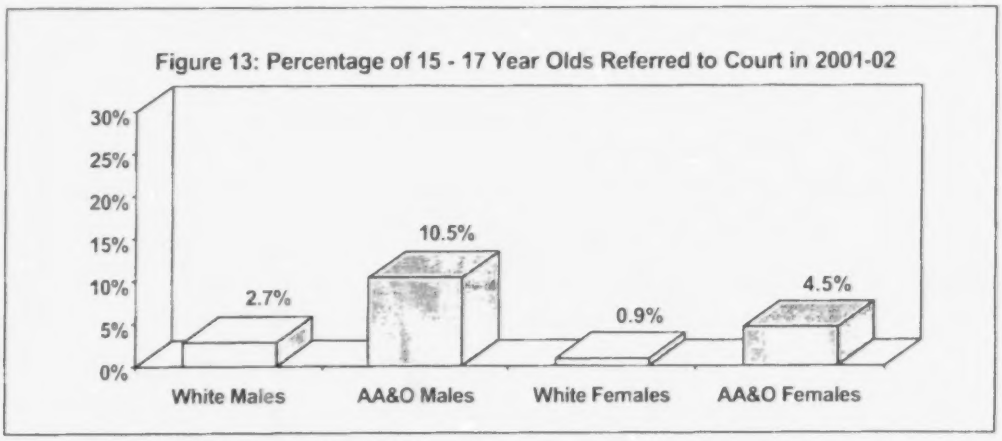
Juvenile Delinquency: In 2001-02, 50 individual juvenile offenders in the county were referred to the Solicitor for delinquency; of these, 12.0% were age 12 or younger, 20.0% were 13 or 14, and 68.0% were 15 or older.

Of the referrals to the family court, 7.0% of all referrals were for violent and serious crimes which include drug trafficking, acts against persons for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and serious property offenses for arson and burglary. Also, 4 juvenile cases constituting 5.6% of all referrals were for status offenses. Status offenses include truancy, running away, incorrigibility, and other offenses that would not be crimes for adults.

Delinquents are likely to live in families with low income: 46.2% lived in families with income under $10,000, 7.7% with $10,000-$19,999 and 46.2% with $20,000 or more. Furthermore, only 34.8% of delinquents lived with both natural parents, while 26.1% lived in a single parent household, 30.4% lived with other relatives, and 8.7% in other situations including parent plus step-parent. Delinquency or criminal activity occurs among many related family members: 30.0% had at least one family member who was delinquent or had some criminal record.

Youth referred to the family courts are likely to have been there before. In 2001-02, 52.0% had at least one prior referral and 20.0% had been referred to court 3 times or more. Many were referred at an early age. For delinquents 15 - 17 years old, 0.0% had been referred by the age of 10, 6.4% by the age of 12, and 21.3% by the age of 14.

During 2001-02, 34 youth ages 15 to 17 were referred to the family courts. In the county, 5.5% of all youth 15 to 17 were referred to court in one year and roughly double that percentage are referred at least once by age 18. Furthermore, the National Youth Survey indicates that typically across the United States the proportion of youth engaging in crime is two or three times the number ever apprehended. In 2001-02, there were 10 juveniles committed from the county to DJJ custody and placed in residential programs.



Not in School or Employed: During 2000, 83 teenagers ages 16-19 were idle, meaning they neither worked any hours nor were enrolled in school, even part-time. Idle teens comprised 10.5% of their age group: 7.8% for White and 11.9% African-American & Other teens. A much larger number, perhaps twice as many, were not engaged in either school full time or work full time. The data reflect a serious failure in both school completion and the critical transition from school to work, significantly affecting their development as future workers. For an in-depth description of the problems of young adults seeking to enter the labor force, visit our website at www.scyoungadults.org for our state and county reports on 18-29 year olds.

Deaths: During 1997-2001, 2 youth ages 15 to 19 died. Historically, automobile accidents have been the major cause, resulting in 1 deaths between 1996 and 2000; homicides killed 1 youth 15 to 19 years old during the five-year period, and 0 youth committed suicide. Alcohol use is often a significant factor in deaths among teenagers.

SUMMARY

Facing the Scope of Problems: The data on families, economic status, health, readiness, school achievement, and adolescent risk behaviors provide a troublesome picture of the condition of children in Calhoun County. The 32.0% of children in single-parent families, 20.5% in poverty, 41.5% not graduating from school, 37.1% of high school students using alcohol and 20.1% using drugs each month, and other data profiled in this report suggest that too many children are at risk of not growing up to become self-supporting adults, good family members, and responsible community citizens.

Emphasizing the Positive: South Carolina Kids Count reports have been developed to describe the problems of children in each of the counties. Fortunately, the majority of children and youth are doing well, and some very well. One simple description is the percentage of children who do not fall into the problem categories reported. For the county, 90.1% of children are born to non-teen mothers ages 20 or older, 56.5% are born to married parents, and 68.0% lived in two-parent families; 79.5% were not poor and 49.8% lived in families with incomes above twice the poverty level for a family of three, $30,040 in 2002; 86.3% of babies were born with normal birthweights; 87.9% were assessed as ready for the first grade, 51.0% scored basic or better on PACT for 8th grade math and 53.1% for 8th grade reading, 50.4% passed all parts of the Exit Exam in the 10th grade, and 58.5% graduated with their class. In a typical month, 62.9% of high school students do not drink alcohol, 79.9% do not use drugs, and 73.4% do not smoke. Unfortunately, the absence of a problem is not always an indicator of success. Some data is available for exemplary performance: for example, 21.6% of 3rd graders and 15.4% of 8th graders scored proficient or advanced on PACT in reading and 17.1% of 3rd graders and 15.4% of 8th graders in math. Unfortunately, data on success is not generally available.

Despite the limitations of success data, we must emphasize the positive in providing good support and appropriate influences for children and youth. Recent philosophy and publications such as those of the Search Institute (700 South Third Street, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN, 55415-1138, tel. 1-800-888-7828, www.search-institute.org), emphasize the critical importance of "developmental assets" to promote and support positive development. One short book from the Search Institute, (What Kids Need to Succeed, by Peter J. Benson, Judy Gailbraith, and Pamela Espeland, 1995) presents an excellent array of suggestions for promoting developmental assets through families, community, faith congregations, and schools. If each family, school, religious congregation and community organization assertively worked to build such assets, the problems described in this report would be reduced dramatically. Such positive family-school-community efforts could improve South Carolina's national Kids Count ranking from the bottom 10 to the average or even into the top 10 by prevention of unnecessary problems affecting children and youth, as shown on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

All data presented in this report is the most recent available at the date it goes to the printer. This version of the Kids Count report will be revised as more recent and additional data become available. Please send us your corrections and suggestions for improvement. We welcome your ideas for ways to make the state and county reports more useful and accurate. Please utilize local data sources whenever possible to supplement the profile provided through our report.

Data related inquiries should be directed to:

Anne Wilson, Data Manager (awilson@drss.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-4810

Calls for **copies of reports** for other counties and inquiries regarding more recent reports should be made to:

Kim Hazel-Lohr, Project Manager (khazel@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-1295

For **policy questions and general comments**, please contact:

Dr. A. Baron Holmes, Project Director (bholmes@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-2291

Comparable reports for all 46 counties and for the state can also be found on the World Wide Web at

www.sckidscount.org

Our website also provides: links to other websites for indicators in our report; high to low rankings for individual indicators; information on how to improve SC's national rank; and a glossary of definitions.

The national Kids Count Report can be found on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website at

www.aecf.org

Calhoun County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Indicators	Most Recent Year	Number					Percent					R
		1980*	1990*	Most Recent Data	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980 Rank	199
Health													
Low Birth Weight	2001	16	23	22	+37.5%	-4.3%	7.4	12.6	13.7	84.1%	9.0%	8	
White babies	*2001*	*3*	*6*	*7*	*+133.3%*	*+16.7%*	*4.5*	*9.1*	*8.3*	*84.4%*	*-8.7%*	*8*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*13*	*17*	*15*	*+15.4%*	*-11.8%*	*8.7*	*14.5*	*19.5*	*123.3%*	*34.1%*	*6*	
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	2001	57	77	55	+3.5%	-28.6%	26.5	42.1	34.2	29.1%	-18.7%	3	
White babies	*2001*	*6*	*14*	*22*	*+266.7%*	*+57.1%*	*9.1*	*21.2*	*26.2*	*187.9%*	*23.5%*	*1*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*51*	*63*	*33*	*-35.3%*	*-47.6%*	*34.2*	*53.8*	*42.9*	*25.3%*	*-20.4%*	*3*	
Infant Mortality	2001	8	9	5	-37.5%	-44.4%	1.3	1.5	1.0	26.4%	-37.1%	5	
White babies	*2001*	*2*	*3*	*1*	*-50.0%*	*-66.7%*	*1.0*	*1.4*	*0.4*	*-58.3%*	*-70.8%*	*14*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*6*	*6*	*4*	*-33.3%*	*-33.3%*	*1.5*	*1.6*	*1.4*	*-1.9%*	*-9.8%*	*2*	
Family													
Births to mothers under 18	2001	26	17	6	-76.9%	-64.7%	12.1	9.3	3.7	-69.4%	-60.2%	42	
White babies	*2001*	*4*	*1*	*1*	*-75.0%*	*+0.0%*	*6.1*	*1.5*	*1.2*	*-80.2%*	*-20.8%*	*27*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*22*	*16*	*5*	*-77.3%*	*-68.8%*	*14.8*	*13.7*	*6.5*	*-56.0%*	*-52.5%*	*36*	
Births to mothers under 20	2001	55	34	16	-70.9%	-52.9%	25.6	18.6	9.9	-61.3%	-46.7%	42	
White babies	*2001*	*11*	*4*	*3*	*-72.7%*	*+25.0%*	*16.7*	*6.1*	*3.6*	*-78.4%*	*-40.6%*	*26*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*44*	*30*	*13*	*-70.5%*	*+56.7%*	*29.5*	*25.6*	*16.9*	*-42.8%*	*-34.2%*	*35*	
Births to mothers with less than a high school education	2001	64	34	29	-54.7%	-14.7%	29.8	18.6	18.0	-39.5%	-3.1%	10	
White babies	*2001*	*15*	*6*	*13*	*-13.3%*	*+116.7%*	*22.7*	*9.1*	*15.5*	*-31.8%*	*70.5%*	*10*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*49*	*28*	*16*	*-67.3%*	*-42.9%*	*32.9*	*23.9*	*20.8*	*-36.8%*	*-13.2%*	*3*	
Births to single mothers****	2001	79	71	70	-11.4%	-1.4%	36.7	38.8	43.5	18.4%	12.1%	41	
White babies	*2001*	*1*	*5*	*12*	*+1100.0%*	*+140.0%*	*1.5*	*7.6*	*14.3*	*843.8%*	*88.8%*	*2*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*78*	*66*	*58*	*-25.6%*	*-12.1%*	*52.3*	*56.4*	*75.3*	*43.9%*	*33.5%*	*39*	
Children in single parent families	2000	597	710	1,012	+69.5%	+42.5%	16.9	24.8	32.0	89.3%	29.0%	12	
White	*2000*	*85*	*115*	*227*	*+167.1%*	*+97.4%*	*6.0*	*8.9*	*16.2*	*170.2%*	*82.2%*	*1*	
African American and Other	*2000*	*511*	*591*	*785*	*+53.6%*	*+32.8%*	*23.8*	*37.8*	*44.5*	*87.0%*	*17.7%*	*4*	
Education													
Not Ready for Grade 1	2001	78	51	17	-78.2%	-66.7%	46.7	26.3	12.1	-74.1%	-54.0%	38	
White males	*2001*	*4*	*4*	*1*	*-75.0%*	*-75.0%*	*36.4*	*20.0*	*4.5*	*-87.6%*	*-77.5%*	*35*	
White females	*2001*	*4*	*2*	*1*	*-75.0%*	*-50.0%*	*50.0*	*28.6*	*7.1*	*-85.8%*	*-75.2%*	*46*	
African American and Other males	*2001*	*42*	*24*	*11*	*-73.8%*	*-54.2%*	*54.6*	*27.3*	*18.3*	*-66.5%*	*-33.0%*	*26*	
African American and Other females	*2001*	*28*	*21*	*4*	*-85.7%*	*-81.0%*	*39.4*	*26.6*	*9.3*	*-76.4%*	*-65.0%*	*6*	
Repeating Grades 1-3	2000	45	89	70	+55.6%	-21.3%	28.2	52.1	39.2	39.0%	-24.8%	39	
White males	*2000*	*5*	*7*	*7*	*+40.0%*	*+0.0%*	*42.8*	*48.8*	*30.0*	*-29.9%*	*-38.5%*	*46*	
White females	*2000*	-	*5*	*2*	*NA*	*-60.0%*	-	*42.3*	*9.2*	*NA*	*-78.3%*	*1*	
African American and Other males	*2000*	*27*	*40*	*39*	*+44.4%*	*-2.5%*	*41.1*	*54.8*	*55.9*	*36.0%*	*2.0%*	*39*	
African American and Other females	*2000*	*13*	*36*	*22*	*+69.2%*	*-38.9%*	*17.6*	*51.6*	*36.3*	*106.3%*	*-29.7%*	*23*	
Grade 3 Math below standards****	2002	73	29	63	-13.7%	+117.2%	45.6	17.9	38.4	-15.8%	114.5%	30	
White males	*2002*	*2*	-	*6*	*+200.0%*	*NA*	*16.7*	-	*27.3*	*63.5%*	*NA*	*2*	
White females	*2002*	*3*	*1*	*6*	*+100.0%*	*+500.0%*	*23.1*	*9.1*	*33.3*	*44.2%*	*265.9%*	*9*	
African American and Other males	*2002*	*34*	*12*	*24*	*-29.4%*	*+100.0%*	*61.8*	*17.9*	*38.1*	*-38.3%*	*112.8%*	*28*	
African American and Other females	*2002*	*34*	*16*	*27*	*-20.6%*	*+68.8%*	*42.5*	*22.9*	*44.3*	*4.2%*	*93.4%*	*8*	
Grade 3 Reading below standards****	2002	68	16	44	-35.3%	+175.0%	42.2	10.1	27.2	-35.5%	169.3%	34	
White males	*2002*	*3*	*1*	*4*	*+33.3%*	*+300.0%*	*25.0*	*7.7*	*18.2*	*-27.2%*	*136.4%*	*14*	
White females	*2002*	*2*	-	*3*	*+50.0%*	*NA*	*14.3*	-	*16.7*	*16.8%*	*NA*	*12*	
African American and Other males	*2002*	*35*	*8*	*22*	*-37.1%*	*+175.0%*	*63.6*	*12.7*	*35.5*	*-44.2%*	*179.5%*	*38*	
African American and Other females	*2002*	*28*	*6*	*15*	*-46.4%*	*+150.0%*	*35.0*	*8.6*	*25.0*	*-28.6%*	*190.7%*	*8*	
Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT Grade 4	1998	52	47	50	-3.8%	+6.4%	36.4	32.6	31.4	-13.7%	-3.7%	30	
White males	*1998*	*2*	*5*	*4*	*+100.0%*	*-20.0%*	*22.2*	*41.7*	*23.5*	*5.9%*	*-43.6%*	*17*	
White females	*1998*	*2*	*3*	*1*	*-50.0%*	*-66.7%*	*28.6*	*23.1*	*6.3*	*-78.0%*	*-72.7%*	*42*	
African American and Other males	*1998*	*29*	*19*	*23*	*-20.7%*	*+21.1%*	*43.3*	*28.4*	*43.4*	*0.2%*	*52.8%*	*10*	
African American and Other females	*1998*	*19*	*20*	*22*	*+15.8%*	*+10.0%*	*31.7*	*38.5*	*30.1*	*-5.0%*	*-21.8%*	*11*	

*Year of data is approximate in many cases.
**1 is best, 46 is worst.
*** Data include paternity acknowledgements.
**** BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Calhoun County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Education (continued)

Indicators	Most Recent Year	Number 1980*	Number 1990*	Number Most Recent	Number Percent Change 80-pres	Number Percent Change 90-pres	Percent 1980	Percent 1990	Percent Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres
Grade 8 Math below state standards**	2002	129	60	70	-45.7%	+16.7%	80.1	44.4	49.0	-38.8%	10.4%
White males	*2002*	*4*	*5*	*7*	*+75.0%*	*+40.0%*	*36.4*	*41.7*	*33.3*	*-8.5%*	*-20.1%*
White females	*2002*	*4*	*4*	*2*	*-50.0%*	*-50.0%*	*50.0*	*25.0*	*13.3*	*-73.4%*	*-46.8%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*68*	*26*	*28*	*-58.8%*	*+7.7%*	*86.1*	*52.0*	*62.2*	*-27.8%*	*19.6%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*53*	*24*	*33*	*-37.7%*	*+37.5%*	*84.1*	*42.9*	*53.2*	*-36.7%*	*24.0%*
Grade 8 Reading below state standards**	2002	115	39	67	-41.7%	+71.8%	71.4	29.6	46.9	-34.3%	58.4%
White males	*2002*	*3*	*2*	*9*	*+200.0%*	*+350.0%*	*27.3*	*16.7*	*42.9*	*57.1%*	*156.9%*
White females	*2002*	*5*	*1*	*-*	*-100.0%*	*-100.0%*	*62.5*	*6.2*	*-*	*-100.0%*	*-100.0%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*66*	*17*	*30*	*-54.5%*	*+76.5%*	*83.5*	*35.4*	*66.7*	*-20.1%*	*88.4%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*41*	*18*	*28*	*-31.7%*	*+55.6%*	*65.1*	*32.7*	*45.2*	*-30.6%*	*38.2%*
Grade 9 Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT	1998	NA	47	91	NA	+93.6%	NA	36.4	46.4	NA	27.5%
White males	*1998*	*NA*	*8*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*38.1*	*23.5*	*NA*	*-38.3%*
White females	*1998*	*NA*	*1*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*8.3*	*22.2*	*NA*	*167.5%*
African American and Other males	*1998*	*NA*	*21*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*40.4*	*58.1*	*NA*	*43.8%*
African American and Other females	*1998*	*NA*	*17*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*38.6*	*41.7*	*NA*	*8.0%*
Exit Exam (not passing all parts on 1st attempt)	2002	79	70	65	-17.7%	-7.1%	67.5	52.2	49.6	-26.5%	-5.0%
White males	*2002*	*1*	*5*	*2*	*+100.0%*	*-60.0%*	*12.5*	*41.7*	*22.2*	*77.6%*	*-46.8%*
White females	*2002*	*7*	*4*	*1*	*-85.7%*	*-75.0%*	*63.6*	*30.8*	*14.3*	*-77.5%*	*-53.6%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*36*	*31*	*31*	*-13.9%*	*+0.0%*	*65.5*	*54.4*	*55.4*	*-15.4%*	*1.8%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*35*	*30*	*31*	*-11.4%*	*+3.3%*	*81.4*	*57.7*	*52.5*	*-35.5%*	*-9.0%*
Dropout Rate (8th graders no longer enrolled in 12th grade 4 years later)	2000-02	37	42	55	+49.5%	+33.3%	23.3	26.9	33.1	41.9%	22.7%
White males	*2000-02*	*5*	*10*	*11*	*+113.3%*	*+12.3%*	*38.5*	*70.4*	*64.0*	*66.4%*	*-9.1%*
White females	*2000-02*	*5*	*3*	*4*	*-20.0%*	*+60.0%*	*58.8*	*26.3*	*42.9*	*-27.1%*	*62.9%*
African American and Other males	*2000-02*	*16*	*20*	*25*	*+59.1%*	*+23.3%*	*22.8*	*32.5*	*36.8*	*61.5%*	*13.2%*
African American and Other females	*2000-02*	*12*	*10*	*16*	*+39.1%*	*+68.4%*	*16.5*	*13.7*	*21.5*	*30.1%*	*57.5%*
Young Adults Not Completing High School (18-24)	2000	564	297	310	-45.0%	+4.4%	36.6	27.2	17.5	-52.3%	-35.8%
White males	*NA*	*68*	*81*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*26.2*	*33.6*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
White females	*NA*	*71*	*55*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*24.8*	*24.1*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other males	*NA*	*237*	*67*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*48.3*	*23.7*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other females	*NA*	*188*	*94*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*37.5*	*27.8*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*

Economics

Poverty Rate	2000	1,082	975	769	-28.9%	-21.1%	27.8	28.0	20.5	-26.3%	-26.8%
White children	*2000*	*86*	*102*	*153*	*+77.9%*	*+50.0%*	*6.2*	*7.7*	*10.4*	*67.7%*	*35.1%*
African American and Other children	*2000*	*996*	*873*	*616*	*-38.2%*	*-29.4%*	*39.9*	*40.6*	*27.0*	*-32.4%*	*-33.5%*
Income of Families w/children (1999 $)	2000	$ 36,618	$ 42,313	$ 47,063	+28.5%	+11.2%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
White families	*2000*	*$ 46,392*	*$ 54,666*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other families	*2000*	*$ 27,269*	*$ 30,453*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*

Adolescent Risk Factors

Teenage Pregnancy (ages 14-17)	2001	31	19	9	-71.0%	-52.6%	6.3	4.8	2.1	-66.8%	-56.3%
White	*2001*	*7*	*2*	*3*	*-57.1%*	*+50.0%*	*4.7*	*1.3*	*1.9*	*-59.3%*	*46.2%*
African American and Other	*2001*	*24*	*17*	*6*	*-75.0%*	*-64.7%*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*2.2*	*-68.8%*	*-69.0%*
Delinquency	2002	6	22	34	+466.7%	+54.5%	0.9	4.0	5.5	509.3%	37.1%
White males	*2002*	*1*	*6*	*3*	*+200.0%*	*-50.0%*	*0.8*	*5.0*	*2.7*	*240.9%*	*-45.5%*
White females	*2002*	*-*	*3*	*1*	*NA*	*-66.7%*	*0.0*	*2.5*	*0.9*	*NA*	*-63.6%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*5*	*8*	*21*	*+320.0%*	*+162.5%*	*2.2*	*5.2*	*10.5*	*377.3%*	*101.9%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*-*	*5*	*9*	*NA*	*+80.0%*	*0.0*	*3.4*	*4.5*	*NA*	*32.4%*

*Closest available data to this year was used in many cases.
**BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Kids Count 2003

Charleston County

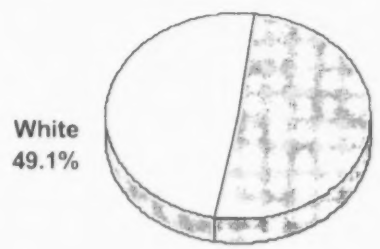
DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2000 there were an estimated 73,574 children under age 18 in the county. Of these, 36,091 were White, 34,262 were African-American, and 3,221 were other races. There were 73,605 children under age 18 in 1990, 77,551 in 1980, 91,324 in 1970, and 90,845 in 1960.

Children represent a shrinking portion of the county's population. Those under 18 constituted 23.7% of the population in 2000, down from 42.0% in 1960, 36.9% in 1970, and 28.0% in 1980.

In 2000 the 23,657 pre-schoolers under age 6 were 7.6% of the overall population: 6.6% of Whites and 9.1% of African Americans.

Figure 1: Population Ages 0-17 in 2000



* In all charts African-American is combined with other races, and often abbreviated as AA&O. Other races comprise 4.4% of children in the county, with "two or more races" at 1.9% and "some other race alone" at 1.2% as the largest Other groups.

FAMILY

Families have always been the most important influence in a child's life. Children depend on their families for material needs, stimulation and guidance. Family life is different in numerous ways from previous generations, and many families now face exceptional challenges.

Families with children now make up a smaller share of all households. Only 28.7% of all households in 2000, as compared with 50.0% of households in 1960, had children below the age of 18.

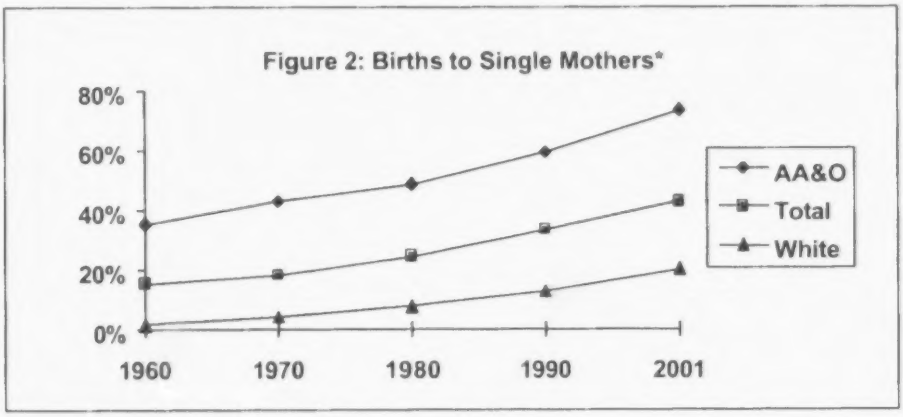
Births to Teen Mothers: In 2001, 219 babies were born to mothers younger than age 18. They were 4.8% of all babies born in the county; 2.1% of all White and 8.5% of all African-American and Other babies were born to teen mothers under the age of 18. Of the babies born to these teens in 2001, 96.3% were born to single mothers, including babies whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers.

In 2001, 588 babies were born to mothers younger than age 20. These babies were 12.9% of all born in the county; 7.3% of all White and 20.4% of all African-American and Other babies were born to mothers under the age of 20. Of the babies born to these mothers in 2001, 91.2% were born to single mothers, including paternity acknowledeged babies.

Education of Mothers Giving Birth: Children's success is strongly influenced by the education of their parents. In 2001, 853 babies, 19.0% of all babies, were born to mothers of all ages who had not completed the 12th grade. In 2001, 12.0% of White and 28.5% of African-American and Other babies were born to mothers who had completed less than the 12th grade. This is a substantial improvement from 36.5% in 1970. In addition, during 2001, 28.6% had completed 12 grades (20.2% of Whites and 40.0% of African Americans and Others) and 52.5% had more than a high school degree (67.8% of Whites and 31.6% of African American and Others).

Births to Single Mothers: Births to single mothers have increased steadily over four decades. In 2001, 1,500 babies, 32.8% of all babies, were recorded as born to single mothers. A decade earlier in 1990, the percentage was 30.7% and in 1960 it was 15.3%. In 2001, 12.5% of White children and 60.4% of African-American and Other children were born to single mothers. These numbers, however, do not include paternity acknowlegement births.

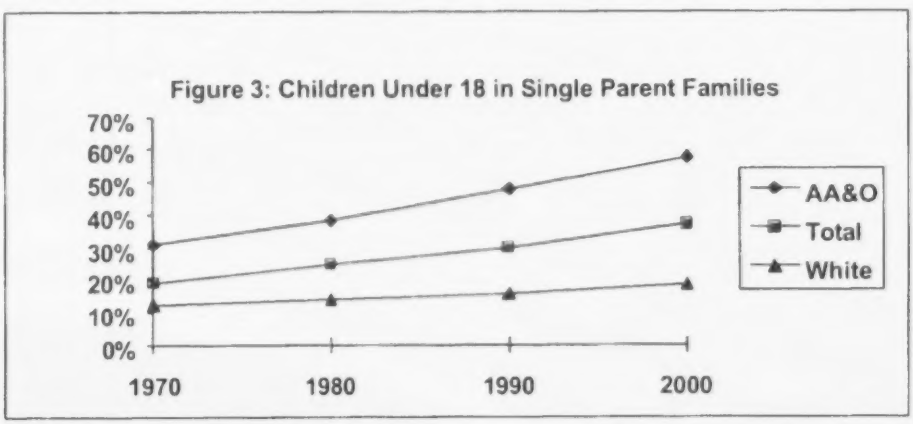
Thus, to these numbers should be added an additional group of 457 babies, 10.0% of all born in 2001, whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers. When the paternity-acknowledged babies are added, the total number born to single mothers in 2001 was 1,957, constituting 42.8% of all babies, 20.1% of White babies, and 73.6% of African-American and Others.



*Includes paternity acknowleged babies in 1980, 1990 and 2001. Prior to 1979, paternity acknowleged cases were not a statistical category, and thus were included in births to single mothers.

Divorce Rate: In 2001, 4,088 marriage licenses were issued, while 1,137 divorce decrees involving 802 children were filed. In 1970, only 830 children were in families involved in divorce.

Single-Parent Family: Increasing numbers of children live in single-parent families. In 2000, 23,388 children lived with only one parent. This was 37.0% of all children, up from 30.0% in 1990, 24.9% in 1980, and 19.3% in 1970. In 2000, 18.8% of White and 57.7% of African-American and Other children lived in single-parent families. Also in 2000, 6,432 or 32.0% of children under age 6 lived in single parent families: 13.7% of White and 58.4% of African American and Other pre-schoolers.



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Parents Working and Child Care: Increasingly, parents must divide their time between children and employers. In order to meet family financial needs, most parents must work and thus have less time for family life. In 2000, 64.4% of mothers with children under 6 and 69.6% with children 6 - 17 were in the labor force. This has increased substantially from 1960 when 27.2% of mothers with children under 6 were in the labor force. Most fathers also work: 60.8% of children under 6 are in families where the single parent or both parents work. Caring for children is a problem for parents unable to obtain quality, affordable daycare while they are at work.

Overall, there are 15,515 spaces in state-regulated childcare facilities* in the county, 96.6% of these are in licensed programs and 3.4% are in registered programs. Of the spaces, 91.6% are in licensed childcare centers serving more than 12 children, 2.9% are in registered or licensed family childcare homes serving six or fewer children, 1.2% are in licensed group childcare homes serving 7-12 children, and 4.3% are in registered or licensed church programs.

The homes and centers are severely constrained by the limited ability of parents to pay. In the county, the average weekly charge is $ 91.47 for centers and $ 76.61 for homes. Consequently, center wages are low: 28.8% of centers with pre-school staff and 40.5% of centers with assistant pre-school staff report paying these staff under $6 per hour. Paying $6-$8 per hour are 57.5% of centers with pre-school staff and 45.9% of centers with assistants. Low wages attract workers with limited education. In 47.9% of centers, most pre-school staff and in 62.2% of centers most assistants have only a high school degree. In 37% of centers few to none of the pre-school staff have early childhood credentials. In childcare homes, 40% of lead providers have no more education than a high school degree or GED; 15.6% have less than a high school degree.

Family Violence: In 2000, 2,549 domestic assaults were recorded by law enforcement officials. These domestic assaults comprised 24.2% of all assaults, which include aggravated assaults, simple assaults, and intimidation. Overall, 50.8% of all domestic assaults involve spouse abuse which constitutes 12.3% of all assaults. Since most family violence is not reported, the true incidence of family disruption is much more widespread than even the large number of reported cases would indicate.

Separation from Parents: Some children do not live with their natural parents. In 2000, 6.9% of all children did not live with their natural parents. Approximately 3,724 or 5.1% of all children lived with relatives, 980 or 1.3% lived with non-relatives, 92 or 0.1% were householders or spouses, and 297 or 0.4% were in institutional facilities.

Abuse and Neglect: In 2000-01, there were 1,109 investigations into reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children. Through its investigations, the Department of Social Services (DSS) determined that 451 of the investigations were indicated for abuse or neglect: 14.2% for physical abuse, 4.2% for sexual abuse, 0.0% for mental injury, 32.2% for physical neglect, 6.8% for educational neglect, 2.5% for medical neglect, 39.6% for threat of harm for physical/sexual abuse, and 0.4% for other types of abuse.

In the indicated cases of abuse and neglect, DSS determined there were 786 children who were victims of abuse or neglect. Of these, 50.4% were male, 49.6% were female; 33.3% were White, 66.7% were African-American and Other. By age, 35.0% were ages 0 - 5, 38.5% were ages 6 - 12, and 26.5% were ages 13 - 17. In the indicated cases, 26.6% of the children lived in two-parent families, 55.2% in single parent families, 12.0% with unmarried couples, and 6.2% in other circumstances.

Out of Home Placements: As of June 2001, 504 children lived in foster care. The median age at first placement in the county is 7.3 years. The ages of children in foster care were 13.1% 0-2, 10.3% 3-5, 23.8% 6-10, 18.3% 11-13, and 34.5% 14 and above. The foster care population is 49.8% males and 50.2% females. Regarding their future, 38.9% were under a plan for placement in adoptive homes, 26.8% for return to a parent or guardian, 5.0% for placement with a relative, 12.7% for independent living, 16.5% for permanent foster care, and 0.2% for other circumstances.

Adult/Child Ratio: A measure of potential adult attention for children from family and community is the ratio of adults to children and youth. In 2000 there were 3.21 adults for every person below age 18. This was up substantially from 1960, when there were only 1.38 adults for every person under the age 18. This indicates that today there are more adults potentially available to provide attention and care for each child than in the past.

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* This data is the best currently available; however, an effort is being made to check the coverage and improve the accuracy. As soon as more recent and complete data becomes available, it will be posted on the website.

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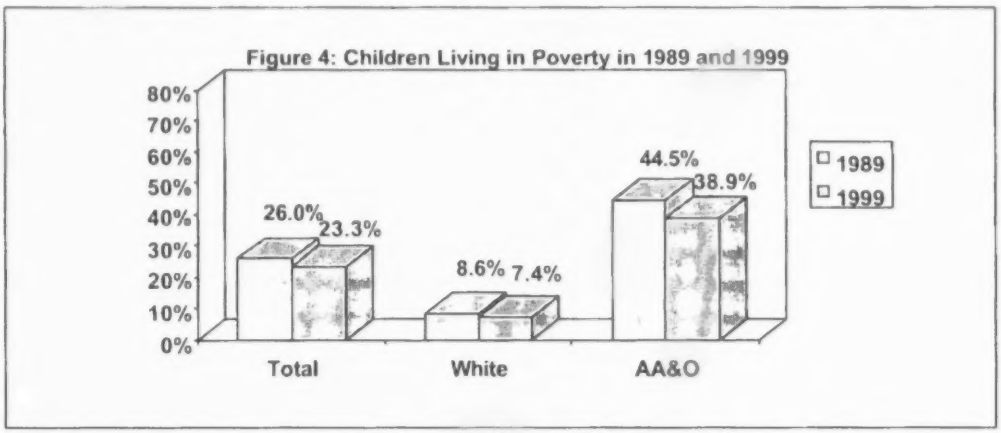
ECONOMIC STATUS

Low income makes it difficult for many families to provide the material and environmental enrichment necessary for healthy child development.

Poverty: In 1999, 16,932 children and youth under the age of 18 lived in 7,534 families with incomes below poverty, comprising 23.3% of all children and youth: 7.4% of Whites and 38.9% of African-Americans and Others. A rough estimate of child poverty in 2001 calculated by the Census Bureau was 23.0%.



Poverty has always been a serious problem. While the rate among children under age 18 in 1989 was 26.0%, it was 24.0% in 1979 and 30.0% in 1969.

Children and the elderly are the age groups most seriously affected by poverty. In 1999, 24.6% of children 0 - 5 (7.1% White, 45.3% African-American and Other), and 22.6% of children 6 - 17 (7.0% White, 36.8% African-American and Other), lived in poverty; 12.7% of persons 65 years and older lived in poverty. Historically, the poverty rate among the elderly was much higher. During the last three decades, federal policy actions have substantially improved the economic status of older persons but have not done so for children.

Single-parent families are most likely to be poor. In 1999, 47.3% of children in single-parent families lived in poverty, but only 7.1% of children in married-couple families were poor. Children in single-parent families made up 61.8% of all the county's children living in poverty.

In 2002, the poverty level was $15,020 for a family of three and $18,100 for a family of four. The poverty threshold is often criticized as an arbitrary number. People can still be poor but may be just above the poverty level. Federal programs utilize varying thresholds. For example, in 1999 there were 32,727 children ages 0-17 who were less than 200 percent of poverty; thus an additional 15,795 children were above the poverty level but could still be considered poor or near-poor with incomes below $30,040 and $36,200 respectively for 3 and 4 person families.

Children Under 18 in Poverty in 1999

Percent of Poverty	Total		White		African American & Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 50%	8,466	11.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 100%	16,932	23.3%	2,699	7.4%	14,233	38.9%
Under 125%	21,461	29.5%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 150%	25,675	35.3%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 175%	29,472	40.5%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 185%	30,991	42.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 200%	32,727	44.9%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total Children	73,574		36,091		37,483	

Note: Missing data will be released by the Census Bureau later in 2003, and will be posted on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

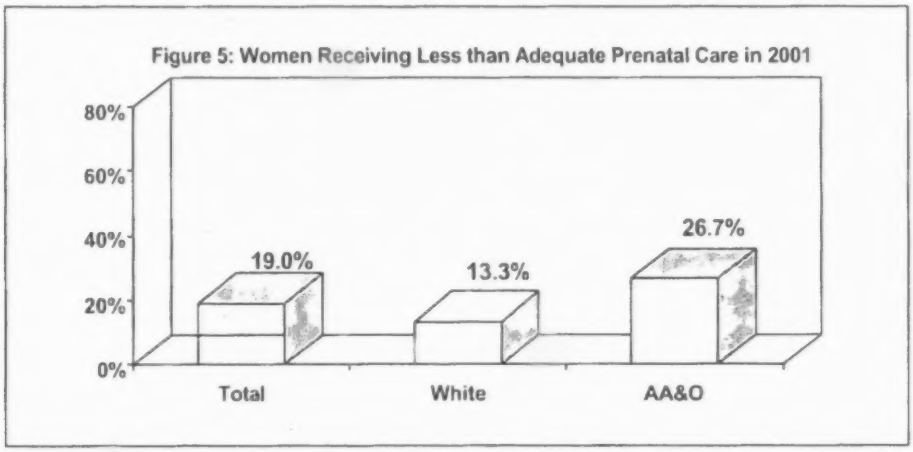
Income: The mean income of families with children in 1999 was $58,171. In 1989 it was $47,098, and 1979, it was $42,354, adjusted for inflation (i.e., in 1999 dollars). The mean income of single-parent families with children was $23,418 for single parents in 1999, as compared with $77,293 in married-couple families with children. From 1999 to 2000, Charleston County real dollar per capita income (eliminating inflation) increased by 2.0%.

Child Support Payments: There were 2,311[7] families receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families in fiscal year 2002, but only 22.9 % had child support court orders. Their average monthly payment of child support was $ 295, including child support receipts and tax refund intercepts. In addition, during fiscal year 2002, an estimated 5,330 parents in non-TANF families were obligated to pay a monthly average of $ 244. Information is not available regarding the amount actually paid.

HEALTH

Good health during a child's formative years helps children to reach their maximum potential. Good health requires healthy lifestyles and effective primary care, starting during the prenatal period and continuing through adolescence into adulthood. Children's health reflects the well-being of the community, as well as how adequately they are protected.

Prenatal Care: Early and continuous prenatal care can make a significant difference in assuring births of healthy babies. Delayed or insufficient prenatal care is associated with low birthweight and other health risks for infants. In 2001, 644, or 14.1% of pregnant women received no prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy. In 2001, 868, or 19.0% of pregnant women received less than adequate prenatal care: 351 or 13.3% of Whites and 517 or 26.7% of African-Americans and Others. In that same year, 39 women received no prenatal care at all.



Low Birthweight: Low birthweight of less than 5.5 pounds and very low birthweight of less than 3.3 pounds are associated with health risks and growth and development problems. In 2001, 481 or 10.5% of all babies in the county were born with low birthweight: 14.0% of African-American and Other babies and 8.0% of White babies. During 1999-2001, approximately 297 or 2.2% of all babies were born with very low birthweight and had the most serious complications: 1.2% of White babies and 3.5% of African-American and Other babies. The cost of hospitalization for each newborn low birthweight baby in the county in 1999 - 2001 was $10,915 and $72,637 for each very low birthweight baby, compared with $1,828 for a baby of normal birthweight. The result was excess cost in the county of $7,201,556 for all low birthweight babies, of which $5,051,025 was for very low birthweight babies.

Infant Mortality: During the decade since 1989-91, the overall infant mortality rate decreased by 19.4% from 12.4 to 10.0 per 1000 live births. For Whites, the rate decreased 21.5% from 6.5 to 5.1 per 1000 live births, while for African-Americans and Others the rate decreased 15.8% from 19.5 to 16.4 per 1000 live births. Over the three-year period 1999-2001, 40 White and 96 African-American and Other infants died before age one. By comparison, 61 White and 149 African-American and Other infants died during 1989-91.

[7] Number is an unduplicated count for the entire fiscal year.

Child Injuries and Deaths: Childhood deaths and injuries reflect whether communities are safe for children. In 2001, children in the Charleston County went to the emergency room 7,810 times because of injuries. Boys are injured more often than girls. Children visit the emergency room at comparable rates for each age from 0 to 17.

In South Carolina, the major causes of death among young children are unintentional injuries, cancer, homicide, and congenital anomalies. Over the three year period 1999-2001, 16 White and 20 African-American and Other children ages 1-14 died in the county. During 1989-91, 27 White and 35 African-American and Other children died.

Immunization: Immunization rates are an important indication of whether young children are receiving adequate preventive health care. During FY 1989-90, 60.4% of children less than two years old seen in public health clinics were not fully immunized against such preventable diseases as Polio, Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Haemophilus Influenza B and Whooping Cough. After a concerted statewide campaign to increase immunizations, the percentage of children seen in public health clinics who were not fully immunized in January 2001 had declined in the county to 14.6%. The DHEC statewide birth registry survey of all two year old children found that 88.1% were fully immunized in 2001. This success demonstrates the potential to improve the status of children when the leadership of the state and its communities act decisively together.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Children and youth are infected with sexually transmitted diseases through sexual abuse or irresponsible sexual activity. National prevalence rates indicate: a 1 in 8 chance that sexually active 15 year-old girls will develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), the most rapidly increasing cause of infertility; 10% of sexually active adolescent girls and boys are infected with chlamydia, the most common cause of PID; and as many as 15% of teen girls are infected with human papilloma virus, often with strains linked to cervical cancer. Furthermore, research evidence indicates that susceptibility to HIV/AIDS increases by 3 to 8 times through prior infection with various STDs.

According to national studies, approximately 1 in 4 sexually experienced youth aged 13-19 acquires a STD ever year; since two-thirds of all high school students have had sexual intercourse and half engage in intercourse over a thr month period, this would suggest that 10-15% of teens are infected with STDs annually. For 2000, this would indicate th an estimated 3,134 to 4,700 youth ages 13-19 in the county were infected with a STD. Many infections are either n identified for treatment or not reported. In the county, there were 20 reported cases of children under age 15 and 330 you ages 15 - 19 infected with gonorrhea; 40 youth under 15 and 617 ages 15 - 19 were reported infected with chlamydi Youth with undiagnosed and untreated STDs often spread their infections.

Healthy Lifestyles: Although no county data is available, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2001 found that mar high school students are not following good health habits. The YRBS revealed that 26% felt that they were overweight; 42 were trying to lose weight: 27% of boys and 57% of girls. Although during a week 79% of high school students ate fru 59% ate salad, and over 83% ate vegetables, only 17% ate the recommended five or more servings of fruit and vegetabl per day. During a week, 49% did stretching or muscle strengthening exercises, and 59% exercised three or more times f 20 minutes in sports that made them sweat or breathe hard. However, 11% of students engaged in no vigorous or modera activity at all during a week: 8% of boys and 13% of girls.

Tobacco Use:* Cigarette smoking starts at a young age and often becomes habitual. In the state during 2002 among all students 15 and older, 20.2% first smoked by age 11, 42.9% by age 13, and 60.7% by age 15. In a typical month, 26.5% of 7th and 8th graders and 33.7% of high school students smoked cigarettes. White youths were much more likely than African-Americans to smoke: 39.5% of White male and 39.6% of White female 7th to 12th graders used cigarettes, as compared with 29.0% of African-American males and 17.7% of African American females. A smaller but significant group of high school students (4.6%) used smokeless tobacco monthly; it was used primarily by White males (15.8% compared with 0.9% of all other race and sex groups).

* Schools in the county elected not to participate in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking. Therefore, data for all of South Carolina is presented here.

Disabilities: No data are collected on the true prevalence of disabilities within the county. According to national reported estimates, over 10% of children and youth have developmental disabilities at any point in time, and more than 17 are affected at some time before age 18 by deafness, blindness, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, speech defects, development delays, learning disabilities, and emotional or behavioral problems. For 2000 this suggests that at least 7,357 children ar youth under age 18 in the county are currently affected by disabilities.

Approximately 5% of children and youth nationally have serious disabilities which have lifelong implications f work, social life and community living. Typically among children and youth, there are 1 - 2% who are mentally retarded, - 3% with serious emotional disturbances, over 1% with orthopedic or multiple disabilities, including cerebral palsy an many hereditary conditions, and under 1% with visual or hearing impairments.

Other chronic health problems also affect the lives of many children. Over 3% of children have one or more these limitations. Such serious chronic conditions affect 1 - 2% who have respiratory problems (asthma and chron bronchitis), 0.5 - 1.0% with neurological problems (epilepsy and seizures), and less than 1% with circulatory problen (congenital heart defects and acquired diseases).

Other disabilities are identified primarily in school performance. These would include 2,702 students in grades 12 with learning disabilities and 1,004 students in grades 1-12 with speech/language deficits.

Disabilities are caused by genetics, disease, poor prenatal conditions, injuries, and environmental factors. For example, lead exposure, primarily from paint dust, was detected in over 1% of all children screened, including 58 in Charleston County.

Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: While over 20% of 9-17 year olds meet diagnostic criteria for some form of mental disorder, the number with serious emotional disturbance and impaired functioning in family, school, or community activities is: 9-13% for substantial functional impairment and 5-9% for extreme functional impairment. The rates among poor children are at the higher end of these ranges. Based on a federal formula for estimating prevalence, in the county there are 12% or 4,515 seriously emotionally disturbed 9-17 year olds with substantial functional impairment and 8% or 3,010 with extreme functional impairment during the course of a year. Conduct disorders, attention deficit, depression, and anxiety disorders are the most prevalent, each affecting 3% or more of school-aged children. These disorders may occur simultaneously in a child. The prevalence rates are highest among males, adolescents, and disadvantaged persons in communities under stress and lacking social cohesion; depression, however, is more prevalent among females. On the YRBS, 20% of boys and 33% of girls in high school reported that during the past year they felt so sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that they stopped doing some usual activities. Another indicator of emotional problems is the 8% of high school students in South Carolina who reported that they had "attempted suicide" in the past year: 5% of boys and 10% of girls. Suicide attempts resulted in 4% of high school students reporting that they required treatment by a doctor or nurse for injury, poisoning, or overdose.

Inadequate Healthcare: No county level data is routinely collected regarding the number of children and youth with inadequate healthcare. According to estimates for 2000-02 by the Bureau of the Census through the annual Current Population Survey, the statewide average rate of uninsured children and youth under age 18 in families with incomes under 200% of poverty in South Carolina was 16.6%, and 9.9% above 200% of poverty. If these rates are applied to the county, there are 5,440 children in the county below 200% of poverty with no health insurance, and 4,054 children above 200% of poverty with no health insurance, for a total of 9,494 uninsured children in Charleston County. The number lacking basic accessible primary care is at least double the number lacking insurance. Those lacking primary care are often dependent on health services at school. The ratio of students to nurses recommended nationally is 750:1. In the county, this would suggest the need for 56 nurses, compared with 30 currently working in the schools.

Medicaid: For several years, the State of South Carolina has emphasized enrolling eligible children into Medicaid. In late 1997, South Carolina implemented its version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, Partners for Healthy Children (PHC), and aggressively pursued outreach enrollment for PHC and Medicaid. As a result, enrollment of children ages 0 through 18 in Charleston County has increased by 52.3% from June 1997 to June 2001; thus Medicaid and PHC were serving 45.2% of all children in that age range. The total Medicaid expenditures in South Carolina for services provided to children ages 0 through 18 for state fiscal year 2002 were $991 million, at an average statewide expenditure of $2,343 per child enrolled, approximate Medicaid expenditure for children in the county would be $77.9 million.

In June 2001, the total number of Charleston County children, birth through 18, enrolled in Medicaid was 33,259. The total can be broken down into the following age and race groupings:

	White	African American	Hispanic	Other	Total
Children under 1	595	1,637	186	57	2,475
Children 1 - 5	1,943	6,818	330	302	9,393
Children 6 - 14	2,496	12,356	263	602	15,717
Children 15 - 18	924	4,585	56	109	5,674
Total	5,958	25,396	835	1,070	33,259

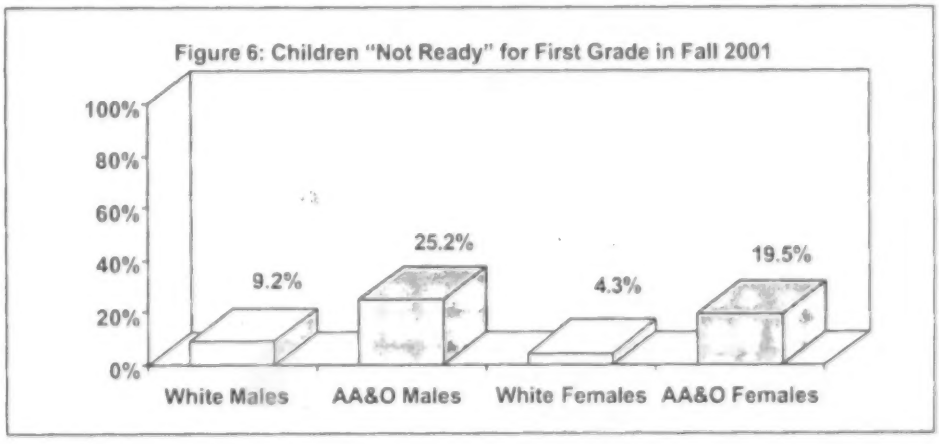
Ambulatory Care: When children lack adequate primary care, whether through lack of insurance, through limite access, or through failing to utilize available care, preventable and treatable conditions become serious and requi hospitalization. A useful indicator of inadequate primary care is the percentage of all hospitalizations that could typicall have been avoided through ambulatory care, especially for pneumonia, asthma, diarrhea and vomiting, dehydration, an severe ear, nose, and throat infections. The share of hospitalizations for these types of conditions could normally be ke below 20%; for children in the county under the age of 18 during 2001, the share was 20.7% for Whites and 19.4% f African-Americans and Others.

READINESS AND EARLY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Too many children reach school without the readiness skills needed for success in learning, such as language, soci skills, visual and auditory discrimination, memory recall, and knowledge of colors, letters, numbers, names of objects, et Likewise, some schools are not ready to respond appropriately to the varying developmental levels of children in the ear grades. As a result, too many students do not experience the success needed to create the motivation and engagement th sustain learning.

1st Grade "Readiness" on 2001-02 Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB):

505 children not ready 16.0% children not ready



1st Grade Failures in 2002:

221 children failing 6.8% children failing

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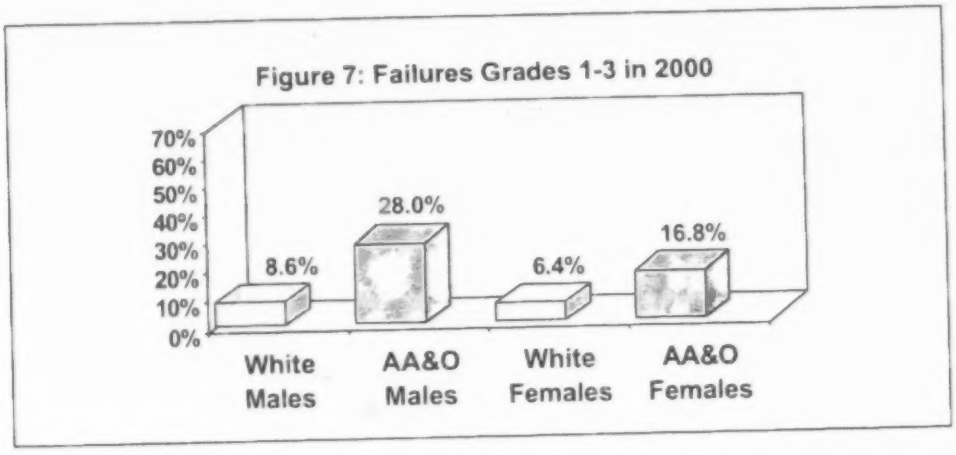
Failures Grades 1-3 in 2002 (approximate cumulative percentage of grades one, two and three):

530 children failing 16.0% children failing



Over-age for Grade 3 in 2001

650 children over-age 20.5% children over-age

Special Education: Large numbers of children are placed in special education classes. In elementary school, 713 six and seven year olds and 1,069 eight and nine year-olds were enrolled in special education classes during 2001-02, approximately 11.8% and 15.8% of their age groups respectively: 14.3% of White 8 – 9 year olds were in special education and 16.8% of African American and Others.

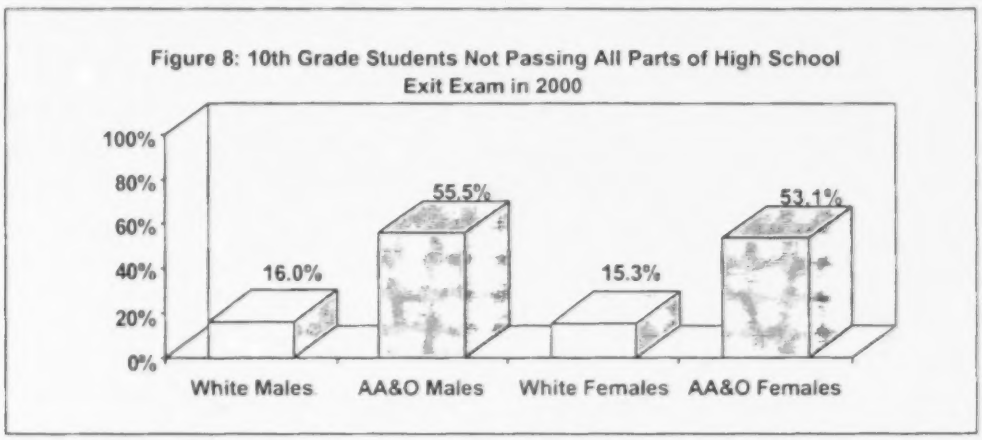
Readiness Summary: A serious problem exists in terms of student readiness and school success in the early grades. With 16.0% assessed not ready for the 1st grade, 20.5% over age in grade 3, and 15.8% of eight and nine year-olds placed in special education, unacceptably large numbers of students still begin school without good prospects of success in future school achievement and graduation; however, great improvement has occurred since the mid 1990s.

SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

By the end of elementary school, significant numbers of students perform below minimum standards. The following standardized test measures, comparing student performance to state minimum standards, should be used in combination with routine classroom assessments more reflective of real-world performance skills.

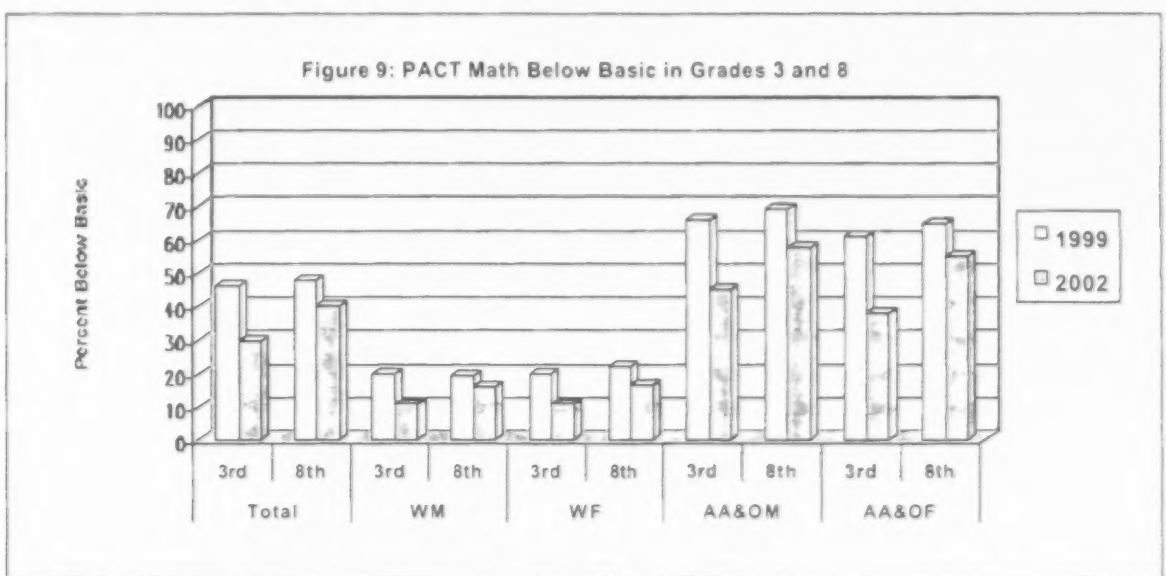
Special Education: Special education placements reflect both the significant number of children with serious handicapping conditions and a large number of students with mild learning and behavioral problems that have not been accommodated successfully by the regular educational program. The result is a large system of self-contained, resource, and itinerant services to meet the needs of 1,004 speech and language impaired, 2,702 learning disabled, 703 emotionally disabled, 1,098 mentally impaired, and 602 physically handicapped, deaf, blind, and other handicapped students. Special education classes served approximately 14.6% of all students in grades 1 - 12 during 2001-2002.

Exit Exam - not passing all parts of Exit Exam on first attempt in the 10th grade in 2002	
874 students did not pass all parts	36.9% of students did not pass all parts



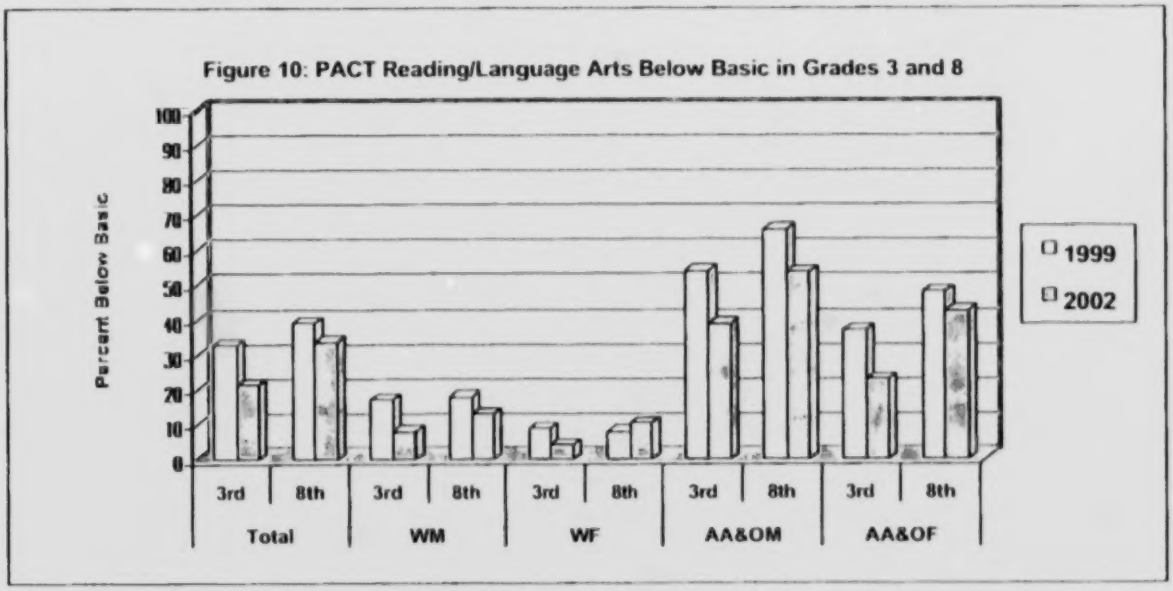
Achievement Trends: How has performance on standardized achievement tests changed over the past 20 years During the 1980s, student performance on the BSAP tests improved dramatically. Between 1981 and 1990, the percentag of 8th grade students in Charleston County who did not meet standards declined from 64% to 23.5% in math and fron 52.4% to 19.2% in reading. During the 1990's the BSAP trend changed, with 40.2% not meeting 8th grade math standard in 1998 and 33.2% in reading. On standardized tests, the first year when South Carolina students take the exam i comparable to the challenge encountered by the national norm group which took the test only once. Looking at first yea data, the percentage of 4th grade students at or below the 25th percentile of national norms was 19.9% in 1983 on th CTBS, 30.1% in 1990 on the Stanford, and 34.7% in 1995 on the Metropolitan; for 9th graders, the percentage in th bottom quarter was 24.8% in 1990 and 28.5% in 1995. Although not comparable, the percent below basic on the 4th grad PACT in 1999, the first year of administration, was 40.7%, but in 2002 25.8% of 4th graders were below basic in readin and math; the percentage of 8th graders below basic in reading and math averaged 43.8% in 1999 and 37.0% in 2002.

PACT: The Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) was first administered in 1999 for grades 3 - 8 in math and reading/language arts. Math assesses skills in numbers, numerical and algebraic concepts, patterns and functions, geometry, measurement, probability and statistics. The percentage of students scoring below basic in math has decreased by 23.6% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 4,647 students below basic in grades 3-8 but there would have been an additional 1,433 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
	Math (%)					
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	29.7	10.8	10.8	44.9	38.0
	4	29.2	11.6	7.8	42.4	39.5
	5	32.9	12.7	14.3	47.1	44.0
	6	33.3	10.9	9.0	49.4	44.6
	7	45.7	19.5	18.5	68.0	59.4
	8	40.3	16.0	16.3	57.9	55.2
Basic	3	38.6	33.0	37.1	37.9	43.7
	4	34.8	22.3	30.3	38.0	42.0
	5	37.4	31.2	36.9	39.0	40.2
	6	37.7	30.5	35.1	38.8	42.9
	7	30.1	33.6	34.5	25.3	29.6
	8	40.3	42.2	47.9	35.4	39.1
Proficient	3	19.6	31.3	30.1	12.3	13.2
	4	19.2	29.4	31.2	12.5	12.5
	5	16.4	25.0	23.7	10.6	11.9
	6	18.3	33.7	34.7	8.7	9.3
	7	12.1	20.2	22.3	4.6	7.3
	8	12.6	25.4	23.7	5.1	4.0
Advanced	3	12.1	24.9	22.0	4.9	5.1
	4	16.8	36.8	30.7	7.1	6.0
	5	13.3	31.1	25.0	3.3	3.9
	6	10.6	24.8	21.2	3.1	3.2
	7	12.1	26.6	24.7	2.1	3.7
	8	6.7	16.3	12.1	1.6	1.7

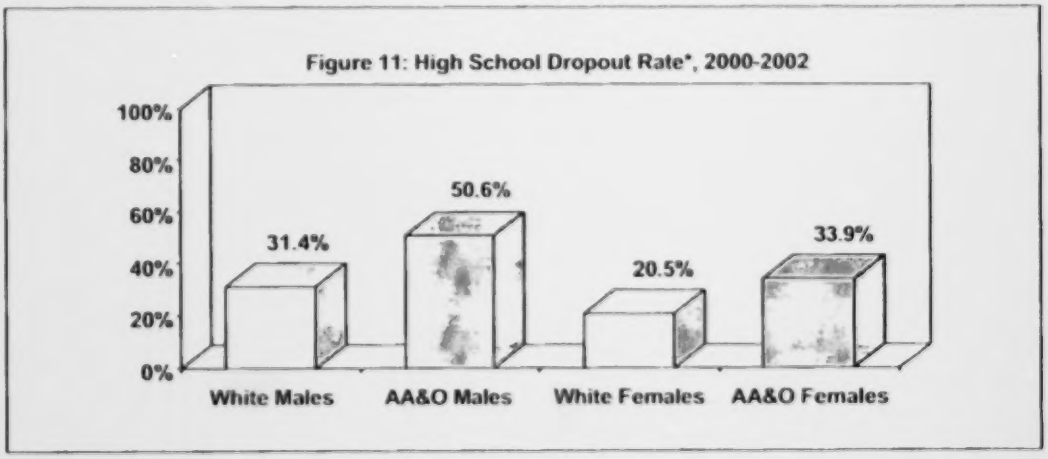
Reading/Language Arts assesses reading, listening, speaking, writing, research, and communication with technology. The first PACT assessment found a high percentage of elementary and middle grades students performing below standards and only a modest number above basic. The percentage of students scoring below basic in reading/language arts has decreased by 24.2% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 3,536 students below basic in grades 3 - 8 but there would have been an additional 1,130 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
	Reading/Language Arts (%)					
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	21.4	7.9	4.2	38.8	23.0
	4	22.3	11.0	5.1	36.3	25.3
	5	31.7	14.4	9.8	50.7	38.6
	6	31.7	11.9	5.7	52.9	36.8
	7	29.9	12.8	5.8	52.2	34.9
	8	33.6	13.1	10.3	53.9	42.5
Basic	3	35.1	23.6	21.0	40.1	46.0
	4	44.5	35.2	29.3	50.4	53.3
	5	44.0	42.2	42.0	42.1	48.1
	6	35.6	32.1	28.1	35.6	42.1
	7	44.8	48.0	34.1	41.8	52.3
	8	40.6	44.6	38.2	37.2	43.1
Proficient	3	38.3	60.4	59.5	19.8	29.9
	4	30.6	49.7	57.8	12.8	20.8
	5	22.8	41.2	44.1	7.1	12.3
	6	24.6	41.2	44.9	9.8	18.0
	7	22.0	36.2	48.0	5.7	11.9
	8	21.3	34.9	39.8	8.3	12.9
Advanced	3	5.2	8.1	15.3	1.3	1.1
	4	2.6	4.2	7.8	0.5	0.6
	5	1.6	2.2	4.1	0.1	0.9
	6	8.1	14.8	21.3	1.7	3.1
	7	3.3	3.0	12.1	0.2	0.9
	8	4.4	7.4	11.8	0.5	1.5

Dropout Rate - 8th grade students no longer enrolled in grade 12
(average of students for the three years ending 2000-2002)

1,150 students drop out annually **35.6% students drop out?**



Dropouts: Distressing numbers of students drop out and fail to graduate. An average of 44.5% of 8th graders failed to graduate** from county schools five years later during the period 1980-84, 41.4% during 1985-89, and 39.2% during 1990-94, 40.9% during 1995-97 and 45.0% during 1998-2000***.

During 2001-02, 95.4% of all who did graduate received the State High School Diploma, while the remaining 4.6% received a State Certificate for meeting the required Carnegie units but not passing the Exit Exam.

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*12th grade enrollment compared to 8th grade enrollment four years earlier

** This is calculated by using 8th grade enrollment to graduation data.

*** 2001 data will be available soon and will be posted on the website

Fortunately, many dropouts enroll in adult education programs and either earn a high school diploma or obtain a GED. During 2001-02, 98 Adult Education high school diplomas were awarded to school completers and in 2001 415 GEDs were awarded in the county. Over time, adult education high school diplomas and GEDs increase the effective school completion rate substantially. In the 2000 Census, 12.5% of county resident 25 - 34 year-olds said they had not completed either high school or a GED.

Achievement Summary: The numbers of students testing below basic on the PACT and dropping out range from 21.4% to 45.7%. Thus, far too many students fail to acquire the knowledge, skills, learning habits, and motivation necessary to compete in the economy or contribute to society in the 21st Century.

ADOLESCENT RISK BEHAVIORS

Academic achievement is greatly influenced by the prevailing youth culture which often promotes popularity with peers and partying rather than studying and doing well in school. The prevalence of adolescent risk-taking and under-achievement is illustrated by the poor grades of substance-abusing teens.

Substance Abuser Rates at Levels of Academic Performance

	Usual School Grades in Past Year					Total
	A Range	B Range	C Range	D Range	F Range	
Smoked Cigarettes (in past 30 days)	13.3%	22.4%	31.7%	42.8%	63.6%	25.3%
Drank 5 or More Drinks on One Occasion (in past 30 days)	12.4%	17.3%	22.6%	26.8%	43.5%	18.9%
Used Any Illicit Drug (in past 30 days)	11.5%	17.1%	25.1%	34.1%	53.0%	20.0%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

As influence from parents and other adults declines during adolescence, significant numbers of students engage in violence, crime, school offenses, depressive emotions and attempted suicide:

Risk Behaviors Participated in During Past 12 Months	White Male		White Female		African American Male		African American Female		Total		Total (Grade 7-12)
	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	
Carried a handgun or knife for self-defense?	22.5%	26.1%	5.3%	6.3%	14.6%	20.2%	5.0%	7.6%	12.2%	14.9%	13.7%
Carried a handgun or knife as a weapon?	6.8%	9.4%	1.3%	1.6%	9.0%	13.9%	3.0%	5.0%	4.8%	6.9%	5.9%
Been in a fight with someone?	40.1%	31.3%	18.5%	16.2%	41.4%	31.9%	29.4%	22.4%	31.7%	24.9%	28.0%
Hit your boyfriend or girlfriend?	2.0%	1.6%	6.9%	10.0%	5.7%	4.9%	17.7%	24.2%	7.4%	9.7%	8.7%
Been hit by your boyfriend or girlfriend?	7.1%	6.1%	6.1%	8.5%	11.5%	9.7%	9.5%	10.6%	8.1%	8.5%	8.3%
Rec'd detention or in-school suspension?	38.1%	37.3%	22.4%	25.0%	41.6%	37.6%	34.3%	30.7%	33.3%	32.1%	32.7%
Been suspended from school?	12.9%	13.9%	5.2%	7.2%	24.0%	22.6%	14.8%	15.4%	13.1%	13.8%	13.5%
Stolen anything worth > $5?	12.9%	17.6%	6.9%	10.7%	14.2%	15.6%	8.5%	8.4%	10.4%	13.1%	11.9%
Had an accident while driving?	NA	14.3%	NA	12.6%	NA	7.7%	NA	6.3%	NA	11.0%	NA
Been arrested and booked?	3.9%	6.1%	1.5%	2.7%	5.7%	8.1%	2.2%	2.9%	3.2%	4.7%	4.0%
Felt hopeless for two weeks or more?	14.8%	15.9%	21.8%	29.0%	14.0%	13.3%	22.0%	24.8%	18.2%	21.4%	19.9%
Seriously considered attempting suicide?	6.9%	8.4%	9.6%	14.3%	5.5%	5.4%	6.8%	8.7%	7.4%	9.7%	8.7%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

Adolescence is often a time of taking risks and asserting independence from adults. When asked whether they would tell an adult about a problem, the following percentages of state students said they would be "not likely" or "very unlikely" to tell if they:

-heard a student threaten to harm someone: 33.2% middle school, 47.0% high school;
-saw a student with a handgun at school: 22.7% middle school, 20.5% high school;
-saw a student with a knife at school: 24.7% middle school, 31.6% high school;
-saw a student with drugs at school: 33.7% middle school, 61.9% high school;

Alcohol Use:* In the state during 2001-02, 21.0% of 7th and 8th graders and 37.1% of high schoolers said they had used alcohol in the past month. Of White males in grades 7 - 12, 33.8% had used it in the past month, compared with 26.0% of African-American males; likewise, 34.5% of White females said they had used alcohol, compared with 26.4% of African-American females. Many youth first used alcohol at an early age: 14.2% had used alcohol by age 11 or younger, 33.0% by age 13, and 61.1% by age 15.

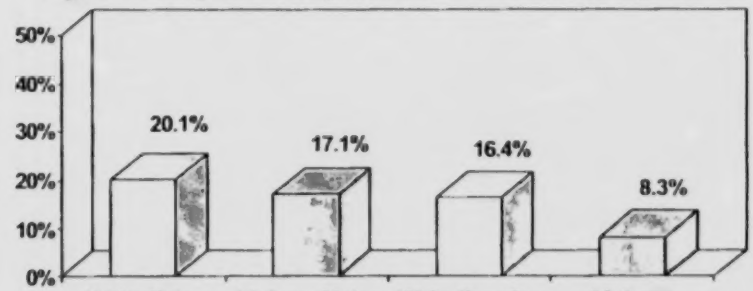
During the previous year, 21.0% of 7th and 8th graders and 30.4% of high schoolers said they had ridden with a drinking driver. Of seniors who drive, 19.4% said they had driven after drinking. Widespread use is encouraged by the ready availability and perceived low risk of alcohol use. Among students who expressed an opinion, 43.6% of eighth graders and 75.4% of seniors felt that beer was easy to get. Also, 71.6% of eighth graders and 70.7% of seniors felt there was not a great risk in drinking two drinks a day, and 47.3% of eighth graders and 53.1% of high schoolers felt there was not a great risk in drinking 5 drinks every weekend.

Heavy Drinking:* In 2001-02, 7.7% of 7th and 8th graders and 18.9% of high school students in the state repor drinking 5 or more drinks in a day during the past month. When asked how many drinks, if any, they usually consur 13.7% of all state students in grades 7 - 12 in 2001-02 responded 3 or more drinks at a time and 7.1% reported usually 5 more drinks. Among high school students, 18.6% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 10.0% 5 or mc Among seniors, 24.7% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 13.7% 5 or more; however 22.9% of seni said that they drank 5 or more drinks in a day once or more during the past month.

Drugs:* In 2001-02, 9.5% of 7th and 8th graders and 20.1% of high schoolers in the state reported using ille drugs during the previous month. Among students in grades 7 - 12, use was reported by 20.1% of White males, 16.4% Wl females, 17.1% of African-American males, and 8.3% of African-American females. Some young people initiated drug at an early age: 5.3% had experienced their first use by age 11 or sooner; 16.3% had used a drug by age 13, and 34.7% by 15.

In the past year, 10.3% of all high school students in the state who drive and 15.4% of seniors who drive said that they had driven after using drugs. Such use is encouraged by the ready availability of drugs: 22.3% of 8th graders who had an opinion said it is easy to get marijuana and 8.4% said it is easy to get cocaine or crack; 65.0% of seniors said it is easy to get marijuana and 29.5% said it was easy to get cocaine or crack.

Figure 12: Drug Use among Students Grades 7-12 during 2001-02*



* Schools in the county elected not to participate in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking. Therefore, data for all of South Carolina is presented here. The latest Charleston County data, for 1992-93, is available on the Kids Count website at www.sckidscount.org.

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Sexual Activity and Pregnancy: Many teenagers now engage in sexual activity. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) administered to a representative sample of high school students throughout South Carolina in 2001 showed that sexual activity begins at an early age: 7% of female and 21% of male students have engaged in intercourse before age 13; by age 15, 38% the females and 49% of males have engaged in sexual intercourse. Statewide, 48% of females and 50% of males in the 11th and 12th grades reported engaging in intercourse during the past three months. Furthermore, 27% of female and 33% of male 12th graders have had intercourse with four or more partners during their lifetimes.

Premature sexual activity often results in pregnancy. In the county, 309 girls between the ages of 14 and 17 became pregnant in 1999, 322 in 2000 and 291 in 2001. This represented 3.2% of all girls ages 14 – 17 in 2001; several times this percentage become pregnant at least once by age 18. The 2001 pregnancy rate for ages 14 - 17 was 1.7% for Whites and 4.8% for African-Americans and Others. Of all pregnancies of 14-17 year olds, 73.2% resulted in live births, with almost all other pregnancies ending in abortions.

Teen pregnancy rates increased substantially across the state during the 1980s; as a result, greater emphasis v devoted to preventing teen pregnancy. Since 1989, the teen pregnancy rate in Charleston County has decreased by 48.9 Overall, it has decreased by 60.5% for Whites, and decreased by 41.5% for African Americans and Others.

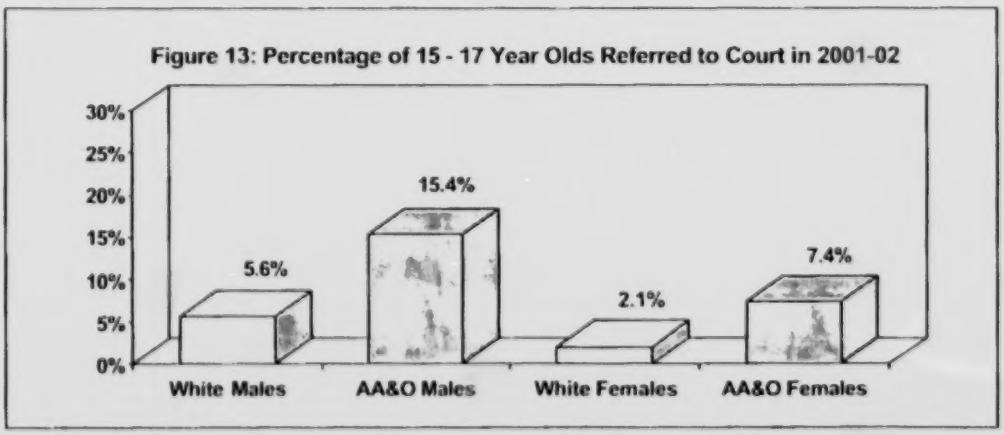
Juvenile Delinquency: In 2001-02, 1,937 individual juvenile offenders in the county were referred to the Solicitor for delinquency; of these, 14.1% were age 12 or younger, 32.4% were 13 or 14, and 53.5% were 15 or older.

Of the referrals to the family court, 8.7% of all referrals were for violent and serious crimes which include drug trafficking, acts against persons for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and serious property offenses for arson and burglary. Also, 139 juvenile cases constituting 4.8% of all referrals were for status offenses. Status offenses include truancy, running away, incorrigibility, and other offenses that would not be crimes for adults.

D linquents are likely to live in families with low income: 26.1% lived in families with income under $10,000, 39.5% with $10,000-$19,999 and 34.4% with $20,000 or more. Furthermore, only 14.8% of delinquents lived with both natural parents, while 57.4% lived in a single parent household, 23.4% lived with other relatives, and 4.4% in other situations including parent plus step-parent. Delinquency or criminal activity occurs among many related family members: 37.3% had at least one family member who was delinquent or had some criminal record.

Youth referred to the family courts are likely to have been there before. In 2001-02, 57.7% had at least one prior referral and 23.7% had been referred to court 3 times or more. Many were referred at an early age. For delinquents 15 - 17 years old, 2.1% had been referred by the age of 10, 12.3% by the age of 12, and 28.1% by the age of 14.

During 2001-02, 1,029 youth ages 15 to 17 were referred to the family courts. In the county, 7.4% of all youth 15 to 17 were referred to court in one year and roughly double that percentage are referred at least once by age 18. Furthermore, the National Youth Survey indicates that typically across the United States the proportion of youth engaging in crime is two or three times the number ever apprehended. In 2001-02, there were 93 juveniles committed from the county to DJJ custody and placed in residential programs.



Not in School or Employed: During 2000, 1,555 teenagers ages 16-19 were idle, meaning they neither worked any hours nor were enrolled in school, even part-time. Idle teens comprised 8.2% of their age group: 5.3% for White and 11.7% African-American & Other teens. A much larger number, perhaps twice as many, were not engaged in either school full time or work full time. The data reflect a serious failure in both school completion and the critical transition from school to work, significantly affecting their development as future workers. For an in-depth description of the problems of young adults seeking to enter the labor force, visit our website at www.scyoungadults.org for our state and county reports on 18-29 year olds.

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Deaths: During 1997-2001, 72 youth ages 15 to 19 died. Historically, automobile accidents have been the major cause, resulting in 17 deaths between 1996 and 2000; homicides killed 20 youth 15 to 19 years old during the five-year period, and 9 youth committed suicide. Alcohol use is often a significant factor in deaths among teenagers.

Summary

Facing the Scope of Problems: The data on families, economic status, health, readiness, school achievement, and adolescent risk behaviors provide a troublesome picture of the condition of children in Charleston County. The 37.0% of children in single-parent families, 23.3% in poverty, 45.0% not graduating from school, 37.1% of high school students using alcohol and 20.1% using drugs each month, and other data profiled in this report suggest that too many children are at risk of not growing up to become self-supporting adults, good family members, and responsible community citizens.

Emphasizing the Positive: South Carolina Kids Count reports have been developed to describe the problems of children in each of the counties. Fortunately, the majority of children and youth are doing well, and some very well. One simple description is the percentage of children who do not fall into the problem categories reported. For the county, 87.1% of children are born to non-teen mothers ages 20 or older, 57.2% are born to married parents, and 63.0% lived in two-parent families; 76.7% were not poor and 55.1% lived in families with incomes above twice the poverty level for a family of three, $30,040 in 2002; 89.5% of babies were born with normal birthweights; 84.0% were assessed as ready for the first grade, 59.7% scored basic or better on PACT for 8th grade math and 66.4% for 8th grade reading, 63.1% passed all parts of the Exit Exam in the 10th grade, and 55.0% graduated with their class. In a typical month, 62.9% of high school students do not drink alcohol, 79.9% do not use drugs, and 66.3% do not smoke. Unfortunately, the absence of a problem is not always an indicator of success. Some data is available for exemplary performance: for example, 43.5% of 3rd graders and 25.7% of 8th graders scored proficient or advanced on PACT in reading and 31.7% of 3rd graders and 19.3% of 8th graders in math. Unfortunately, data on success is not generally available.

Despite the limitations of success data, we must emphasize the positive in providing good support and appropriate influences for children and youth. Recent philosophy and publications such as those of the Search Institute (700 South Third Street, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN, 55415-1138, tel. 1-800-888-7828, www.search-institute.org), emphasize the critical importance of "developmental assets" to promote and support positive development. One short book from the Search Institute, (What Kids Need to Succeed, by Peter J. Benson, Judy Gailbraith, and Pamela Espeland, 1995) presents an excellent array of suggestions for promoting developmental assets through families, community, faith congregations, and schools. If each family, school, religious congregation and community organization assertively worked to build such assets, the problems described in this report would be reduced dramatically. Such positive family-school-community efforts could improve South Carolina's national Kids Count ranking from the bottom 10 to the average or even into the top 10 by prevention of unnecessary problems affecting children and youth, as shown on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

All data presented in this report is the most recent available at the date it goes to the printer. This version of the Kids Count report will be revised as more recent and additional data become available. Please send us your corrections and suggestions for improvement. We welcome your ideas for ways to make the state and county reports more useful and accurate. Please utilize local data sources whenever possible to supplement the profile provided through our report.

Data related inquiries should be directed to:

Anne Wilson, Data Manager (awilson@drss.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-4810

Calls for **copies of reports** for other counties and inquiries regarding more recent reports should be made to:

Kim Hazel-Lohr, Project Manager (khazel@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-1295

For **policy questions and general comments**, please contact:

Dr. A. Baron Holmes, Project Director (bholmes@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-2291

Comparable reports for all 46 counties and for the state can also be found on the World Wide Web at

www.sckidscount.org

Our website also provides: links to other websites for indicators in our report; high to low rankings for individual indicators; information on how to improve SC's national rank; and a glossary of definitions.

The national Kids Count Report can be found on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website at

www.aecf.org

Charleston County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Indicators	Most Recent Year	Number					Percent					R	
		1980*	1990*	Most Recent Data	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980 Rank	199
Health													
Low Birth Weight	2001	478	486	481	+0.6%	-1.0%	9.6	8.4	10.5	9.7%	24.5%	32	
White babies	2001	186	173	210	+12.9%	+21.4%	6.8	5.4	8.0	17.6%	48.5%	31	
African American and Other babies	2001	292	313	271	-7.2%	-13.4%	12.9	12.3	14.0	8.5%	13.7%	29	
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	2001	2,023	2,875	868	+57.1%	-69.8%	40.5	49.9	19.0	-53.1%	-61.9%	22	
White babies	2001	748	1,240	351	-53.1%	-71.7%	27.4	38.6	13.3	-51.5%	-65.5%	26	
African American and Other babies	2001	1,275	1,634	517	-59.5%	-68.4%	56.3	64.2	26.7	-52.6%	-58.4%	27	
Infant Mortality	2001	236	210	136	-42.4%	-35.2%	1.6	1.2	1.0	-36.6%	-19.4%	19	
White babies	2001	98	61	40	-59.2%	-34.4%	1.2	0.7	0.5	-56.6%	-21.5%	26	
African American and Other babies	2001	138	149	96	-30.4%	-35.6%	2.0	1.9	1.6	-20.0%	-15.8%	14	
Family													
Births to mothers under 18	2001	383	279	219	-42.8%	-21.5%	7.7	4.8	4.8	-37.4%	-0.9%	12	
White babies	2001	120	75	55	-54.2%	-26.7%	4.4	2.3	2.1	-52.2%	-10.1%	14	
African American and Other babies	2001	263	204	164	-37.6%	-19.6%	11.6	8.0	8.5	-27.1%	5.6%	16	
Births to mothers under 20	2001	926	762	588	-36.5%	-22.8%	18.5	13.2	12.9	-30.4%	-2.5%	10	
White babies	2001	374	282	192	-48.7%	+31.9%	13.7	8.8	7.3	-46.7%	-16.9%	11	
African American and Other babies	2001	552	480	396	-28.3%	+17.5%	24.4	18.8	20.4	-16.2%	8.4%	11	
Births to mothers with less than a high school education	2001	1,355	1,225	853	-37.0%	-30.4%	27.1	21.3	18.6	-31.4%	-12.5%	6	
White babies	2001	580	486	310	-46.6%	-36.2%	21.2	15.1	11.8	-44.5%	-22.0%	6	
African American and Other babies	2001	775	739	543	-29.9%	-26.5%	34.2	29.0	28.0	-18.1%	-3.5%	46	
Births to single mothers****	2001	1,312	1,924	1,957	+49.2%	+1.7%	26.3	33.4	42.8	63.0%	28.2%	25	
White babies	2001	206	413	530	+157.3%	+28.3%	7.5	12.9	20.1	166.4%	56.3%	37	
African American and Other babies	2001	1,106	1,511	1,427	+29.0%	-5.6%	48.8	59.3	73.6	50.8%	24.1%	32	
Children in single parent families	2000	17,239	18,953	23,388	+35.7%	+23.4%	24.9	30.0	37.0	48.5%	23.2%	44	
White	2000	5,869	5,611	6,361	+8.4%	+13.4%	14.0	15.9	18.8	34.6%	18.6%	46	
African American and Other	2000	11,247	13,174	17,027	+51.4%	+29.2%	38.4	47.9	57.7	50.2%	20.4%	46	
Education													
Not Ready for Grade 1	2001	1,196	1,348	505	-57.8%	-62.5%	36.0	29.7	16.0	-55.6%	-46.1%	19	
White males	2001	217	197	62	-71.4%	-68.5%	27.5	20.7	9.2	-66.5%	-55.6%	14	
White females	2001	122	130	27	-77.9%	-79.2%	17.6	13.9	4.3	-75.6%	-69.1%	11	
African American and Other males	2001	487	558	245	-49.7%	-56.1%	50.4	41.5	25.2	-50.0%	-39.3%	12	
African American and Other females	2001	370	463	170	-54.1%	-63.3%	42.4	35.2	19.5	-54.0%	-44.6%	14	
Repeating Grades 1-3	2000	972	1,173	623	-35.9%	-46.9%	29.4	28.2	16.6	-43.5%	-41.1%	40	
White males	2000	233	153	67	-71.2%	-56.2%	29.2	17.0	8.6	-70.5%	-49.4%	39	
White females	2000	117	134	43	-63.2%	-67.9%	16.8	15.3	6.4	-61.9%	-58.2%	42	
African American and Other males	2000	378	525	326	-13.8%	-37.9%	41.0	44.2	28.0	-31.7%	-36.7%	38	
African American and Other females	2000	242	356	186	-23.1%	-47.8%	27.9	29.8	16.8	-39.8%	-43.6%	37	
Grade 3 Math below standards****	2002	1,147	609	930	-18.9%	+52.7%	33.7	16.3	29.7	-11.9%	82.2%	10	
White males	2002	193	44	64	-66.8%	+45.5%	23.9	5.5	10.8	-54.8%	96.4%	6	
White females	2002	151	48	65	-57.0%	+35.4%	20.1	6.2	10.8	-46.3%	74.2%	5	
African American and Other males	2002	439	250	432	-1.6%	+72.8%	47.8	23.4	44.9	-6.1%	91.9%	7	
African American and Other females	2002	361	262	369	+2.2%	+40.8%	39.6	24.0	38.0	-4.0%	58.3%	5	
Grade 3 Reading below standards****	2002	963	375	667	-30.7%	+77.9%	28.3	10.0	21.4	-24.4%	114.0%	11	
White males	2002	158	32	47	-70.3%	+46.9%	19.5	4.0	7.9	-59.5%	97.5%	4	
White females	2002	98	16	25	-74.5%	+56.3%	13.0	2.1	4.2	-67.7%	100.0%	8	
African American and Other males	2002	412	176	372	-9.7%	+111.4%	44.8	16.5	38.8	-13.4%	135.2%	4	
African American and Other females	2002	291	148	223	-23.4%	+50.7%	31.9	13.5	23.0	-27.9%	70.4%	6	
Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT Grade 4	1998	546	1,072	924	+69.2%	-13.8%	19.9	30.1	26.3	32.2%	-12.6%	5	
White males	1998	99	159	74	-25.3%	-53.5%	14.1	20.0	10.1	-28.4%	-49.5%	3	
White females	1998	61	88	59	-3.3%	-33.0%	10.2	12.6	8.4	-17.6%	-33.3%	9	
African American and Other males	1998	220	452	445	+102.3%	-1.5%	31.6	46.2	43.5	37.7%	-5.8%	1	
African American and Other females	1998	159	372	346	+117.6%	-7.0%	22.0	34.2	33.8	53.6%	-1.2%	2	

*Year of data is approximate in many cases.
**1 is best, 46 is worst.
*** Data include paternity acknowledgements.
**** BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Charleston County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Education (continued)

Indicators		Number					Percent				
	Most Recent Year	1980*	1990*	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres
Grade 8 Math below state standards**	2002	2,148	624	1,226	-42.9%	+96.5%	64.0	23.5	40.3	-37.0%	71.5%
White males	2002	284	65	100	-64.8%	+53.8%	40.9	10.2	16.0	-60.9%	56.9%
White females	2002	302	74	97	-67.9%	+31.1%	43.2	13.3	16.3	-62.3%	22.6%
African American and Other males	2002	802	243	537	-33.0%	+121.0%	79.3	34.4	57.9	-27.0%	68.3%
African American and Other females	2002	751	240	492	-34.5%	+105.0%	79.9	31.9	55.2	-30.9%	73.0%
Grade 8 Reading below state standards**	2002	1,784	510	1,021	-42.8%	+100.2%	52.4	19.2	33.6	-35.9%	75.0%
White males	2002	221	63	82	-62.9%	+30.2%	31.5	9.9	13.1	-58.4%	32.3%
White females	2002	191	60	61	-68.1%	+1.7%	26.9	10.8	10.3	-61.7%	-4.6%
African American and Other males	2002	743	231	499	-32.8%	+116.0%	72.4	32.4	53.9	-25.6%	66.4%
African American and Other females	2002	620	154	379	-38.9%	+146.1%	65.2	20.5	42.5	-34.8%	107.3%
Grade 9 Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT	1998	NA	706	867	NA	+22.8%	NA	24.8	27.7	NA	11.7%
White males	1998	NA	92	NA	NA	NA	NA	14.8	7.8	NA	-47.3%
White females	1998	NA	52	NA	NA	NA	NA	8.6	9.2	NA	7.0%
African American and Other males	1998	NA	323	NA	NA	NA	NA	40.4	43.3	NA	7.2%
African American and Other females	1998	NA	236	NA	NA	NA	NA	29.1	36.8	NA	26.5%
Exit Exam (not passing all parts on 1st attempt)	2002	1,371	551	874	-36.3%	+58.6%	45.3	27.5	36.9	-18.5%	34.2%
White males	2002	194	75	84	-56.7%	+12.0%	25.8	15.5	16.0	-38.0%	3.2%
White females	2002	125	50	82	-34.4%	+64.0%	18.8	10.4	15.3	-18.6%	47.1%
African American and Other males	2002	496	210	289	-41.7%	+37.6%	66.8	46.1	55.5	-16.9%	20.4%
African American and Other females	2002	546	213	413	-24.4%	+93.9%	64.0	36.7	53.1	-17.0%	44.7%
Dropout Rate (8th graders no longer enrolled in 12th grade 4 years later)	2000-02	1,230	1,171	1,150	-6.5%	-1.8%	36.8	36.5	35.6	-3.2%	-2.4%
White males	2000-02	316	312	199	-37.0%	-36.2%	38.9	39.5	31.4	-19.5%	-20.7%
White females	2000-02	187	175	128	-31.2%	-26.5%	26.1	25.1	20.5	-21.7%	-18.5%
African American and Other males	2000-02	436	419	471	+8.0%	+12.5%	45.4	46.9	50.6	11.5%	7.8%
African American and Other females	2000-02	292	267	353	+20.8%	+32.3%	34.0	32.0	33.9	-0.1%	6.2%
Young Adults Not Completing High School (18-24)	2000	12,064	8,025	5,693	-52.8%	-29.1%	23.1	19.1	12.5	-46.0%	-34.8%
White males	NA	4,276	2,265	NA	NA	NA	18.8	13.8	NA	NA	NA
White females	NA	2,376	1,604	NA	NA	NA	17.6	13.3	NA	NA	NA
African American and Other males	NA	3,361	2,306	NA	NA	NA	41.5	32.6	NA	NA	NA
African American and Other females	NA	2,051	1,850	NA	NA	NA	26.0	29.4	NA	NA	NA

Economics

Poverty Rate	2000	18,455	18,965	16,932	-8.3%	-10.7%	24.0	26.0	23.3	-2.9%	-10.4%
White children	2000	3,837	3,228	2,699	-29.7%	-16.4%	9.1	8.6	7.4	-18.7%	-14.0%
African American and Other children	2000	14,503	15,737	14,233	-1.9%	-9.6%	41.9	44.5	38.9	-7.1%	-12.5%
Income of Families w/children (1999 $)	2000	$ 42,354	$ 47,098	$ 58,171	+37.3%	23.5%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
White families	2000	$ 50,065	$ 58,772	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
African American and Other families	2000	$ 29,473	$ 29,655	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Adolescent Risk Factors

Teenage Pregnancy (ages 14-17)	2001	594	447	291	-51.0%	-34.9%	5.8	5.5	3.2	-44.8%	-41.8%
White	2001	239	155	83	-65.3%	-46.5%	4.3	3.5	1.7	-60.0%	-51.4%
African American and Other	2001	355	292	208	-41.4%	-28.8%	7.7	8.1	4.8	-37.7%	-40.7%
Delinquency	2002	504	723	1,029	+104.2%	+42.3%	3.1	5.8	7.4	138.6%	27.5%
White males	2002	149	198	203	+36.2%	+2.5%	2.8	5.1	5.6	100.3%	10.0%
White females	2002	70	99	78	+11.4%	-21.2%	1.7	3.4	2.1	23.7%	-38.2%
African American and Other males	2002	233	306	504	+116.3%	+64.7%	6.7	11.0	15.4	130.0%	40.1%
African American and Other females	2002	52	120	244	+369.2%	+103.3%	1.5	4.2	7.4	391.4%	75.5%

*Closest available data to this year was used in many cases.
**BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Kids Count 2003

Cherokee County

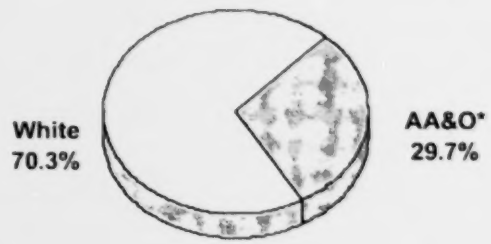
DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2000 there were an estimated 13,570 children under age 18 in the county. Of these, 9,542 were White, 3,531 were African-American, and 497 were other races. There were 11,694 children under age 18 in 1990, 12,700 in 1980, 13,105 in 1970, and 14,097 in 1960.

Children represent a shrinking portion of the county's population. Those under 18 constituted 25.8% of the population in 2000, down from 40.0% in 1960, 35.6% in 1970, and 31.0% in 1980.

In 2000 the 4,472 pre-schoolers under age 6 were 8.5% of the overall population: 7.8% of Whites and 10.3% of African Americans.

Figure 1: Population Ages 0-17 in 2000



* In all charts African-American is combined with other races, and often abbreviated as AA&O. Other races comprise 3.7% of children in the county, with "two or more races" at 1.5% and "some other race alone" at 1.5% as the largest Other groups.

FAMILY

Families have always been the most important influence in a child's life. Children depend on their families for material needs, stimulation and guidance. Family life is different in numerous ways from previous generations, and many families now face exceptional challenges.

Families with children now make up a smaller share of all households. Only 32.7% of all households in 2000, as compared with 47.0% of households in 1960, had children below the age of 18.

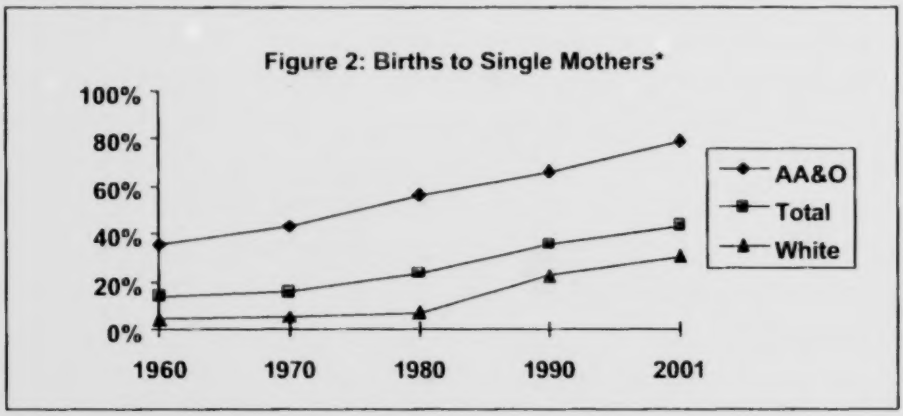
Births to Teen Mothers: In 2001, 55 babies were born to mothers younger than age 18. They were 7.9% of all babies born in the county; 6.5% of all White and 12.0% of all African-American and Other babies were born to teen mothers under the age of 18. Of the babies born to these teens in 2001, 90.9% were born to single mothers, including babies whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers.

In 2001, 151 babies were born to mothers younger than age 20. These babies were 21.8% of all born in the county; 19.1% of all White and 29.5% of all African-American and Other babies were born to mothers under the age of 20. Of the babies born to these mothers in 2001, 77.5% were born to single mothers, including paternity acknowledeged babies.

Education of Mothers Giving Birth: Children's success is strongly influenced by the education of their parents. In 2001, 219 babies, 31.7% of all babies, were born to mothers of all ages who had not completed the 12th grade. In 2001, 30.9% of White and 33.9% of African-American and Other babies were born to mothers who had completed less than the 12th grade. This is a substantial improvement from 55.8% in 1970. In addition, during 2001, 42.3% had completed 12 grades (39.8% of Whites and 49.2% of African Americans and Others) and 26.0% had more than a high school degree (29.3% of Whites and 16.9% of African American and Others).

Births to Single Mothers: Births to single mothers have increased steadily over four decades. In 2001, 176 babies, 25.4% of all babies, were recorded as born to single mothers. A decade earlier in 1990, the percentage was 26.2% and in 1960 it was 13.9%. In 2001, 15.1% of White children and 54.1% of African-American and Other children were born to single mothers. These numbers, however, do not include paternity acknowlegement births.

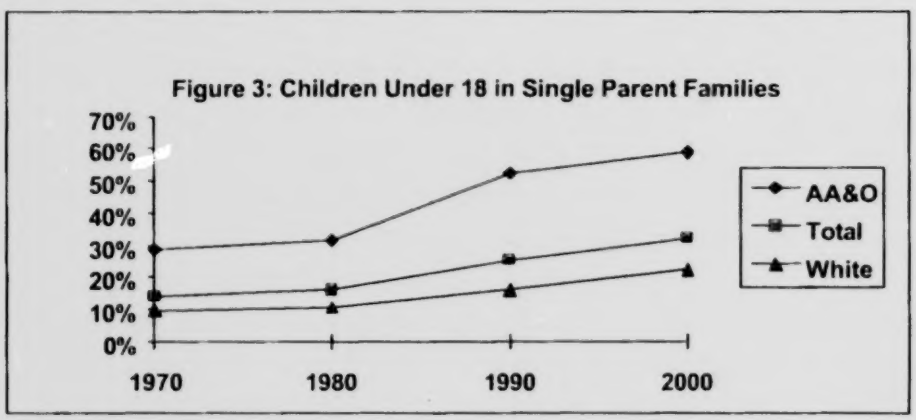
Thus, to these numbers should be added an additional group of 125 babies, 18.1% of all born in 2001, whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers. When the paternity-acknowledged babies are added, the total number born to single mothers in 2001 was 301, constituting 43.5% of all babies, 30.6% of White babies, and 79.2% of African-American and Others.



*Includes paternity acknowleged babies in 1980, 1990 and 2001. Prior to 1979, paternity acknowleged cases were not a statistical category, and thus were included in births to single mothers.

Divorce Rate: In 2001, 854 marriage licenses were issued, while 259 divorce decrees involving 204 children were filed. In 1970, only 57 children were in families involved in divorce.

Single-Parent Family: Increasing numbers of children live in single-parent families. In 2000, 3,784 children lived with only one parent. This was 32.4% of all children, up from 25.3% in 1990, 16.0% in 1980, and 14.0% in 1970. In 2000, 22.3% of White and 59.0% of African-American and Other children lived in single-parent families. Also in 2000, 1,226 or 32.4% of children under age 6 lived in single parent families: 22.1% of White and 61.3% of African American and Other pre-schoolers.



Parents Working and Child Care: Increasingly, parents must divide their time between children and employers. In order to meet family financial needs, most parents must work and thus have less time for family life. In 2000, 67.2% of mothers with children under 6 and 74.2% with children 6 - 17 were in the labor force. This has increased substantially from 1960 when 47.0% of mothers with children under 6 were in the labor force. Most fathers also work: 66.9% of children under 6 are in families where the single parent or both parents work. Caring for children is a problem for parents unable to obtain quality, affordable daycare while they are at work.

Overall, there are 1,234 spaces in state-regulated childcare facilities* in the county, 88.1% of these are in licensed programs and 11.9% are in registered programs. Of the spaces, 71.2% are in licensed childcare centers serving more than 12 children, 10.7% are in registered or licensed family childcare homes serving six or fewer children, 3.9% are in licensed group childcare homes serving 7-12 children, and 14.3% are in registered or licensed church programs.

The homes and centers are severely constrained by the limited ability of parents to pay. In the county, the average weekly charge is $ 74.55 for centers and $ 69.02 for homes. Consequently, center wages are low: 42.9% of centers with pre-school staff and 33.3% of centers with assistant pre-school staff report paying these staff under $6 per hour. Paying $6-$8 per hour are 42.9% of centers with pre-school staff and 66.7% of centers with assistants. Low wages attract workers with limited education. In 57.1% of centers, most pre-school staff and in 33.3% of centers most assistants have only a high school degree. In 42.9% of centers few to none of the pre-school staff have early childhood credentials. In childcare homes, 58.8% of lead providers have no more education than a high school degree or GED; 5.9% have less than a high school degree.

Family Violence: In 2000, 467 domestic assaults were recorded by law enforcement officials. These domestic assaults comprised 26.9% of all assaults, which include aggravated assaults, simple assaults, and intimidation. Overall, 60.0% of all domestic assaults involve spouse abuse which constitutes 16.1% of all assaults. Since most family violence is not reported, the true incidence of family disruption is much more widespread than even the large number of reported cases would indicate.

Separation from Parents: Some children do not live with their natural parents. In 2000, 7.2% of all children did not live with their natural parents. Approximately 697 or 5.1% of all children lived with relatives, 230 or 1.7% lived with non-relatives, 25 or 0.2% were householders or spouses, and 21 or 0.2% were in institutional facilities.

Abuse and Neglect: In 2000-01, there were 506 investigations into reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children. Through its investigations, the Department of Social Services (DSS) determined that 222 of the investigations were indicated for abuse or neglect: 13.7% for physical abuse, 5.0% for sexual abuse, 0.0% for mental injury, 37.0% for physical neglect, 10.0% for educational neglect, 1.8% for medical neglect, 31.1% for threat of harm for physical/sexual abuse, and 1.4% for other types of abuse.

In the indicated cases of abuse and neglect, DSS determined there were 369 children who were victims of abuse or neglect. Of these, 48.8% were male, 51.2% were female; 74.3% were White, 25.8% were African-American and Other. By age, 36.7% were ages 0 - 5, 42.5% were ages 6 - 12, and 20.8% were ages 13 - 17. In the indicated cases, 36.9% of the children lived in two-parent families, 35.2% in single parent families, 19.0% with unmarried couples, and 8.9% in other circumstances.

Out of Home Placements: As of June 2001, 81 children lived in foster care. The median age at first placement in the county is 6.6 years. The ages of children in foster care were 23.5% 0-2, 9.9% 3-5, 14.8% 6-10, 22.2% 11-13, and 29.6% 14 and above. The foster care population is 55.6% males and 44.4% females. Regarding their future, 25.9% were under a plan for placement in adoptive homes, 45.7% for return to a parent or guardian, 4.9% for placement with a relative, 16.1% for independent living, 7.4% for permanent foster care, and 0.0% for other circumstances.

Adult/Child Ratio: A measure of potential adult attention for children from family and community is the ratio of adults to children and youth. In 2000 there were 2.87 adults for every person below age 18. This was up substantially from 1960, when there were only 1.50 adults for every person under the age 18. This indicates that today there are more adults potentially available to provide attention and care for each child than in the past.

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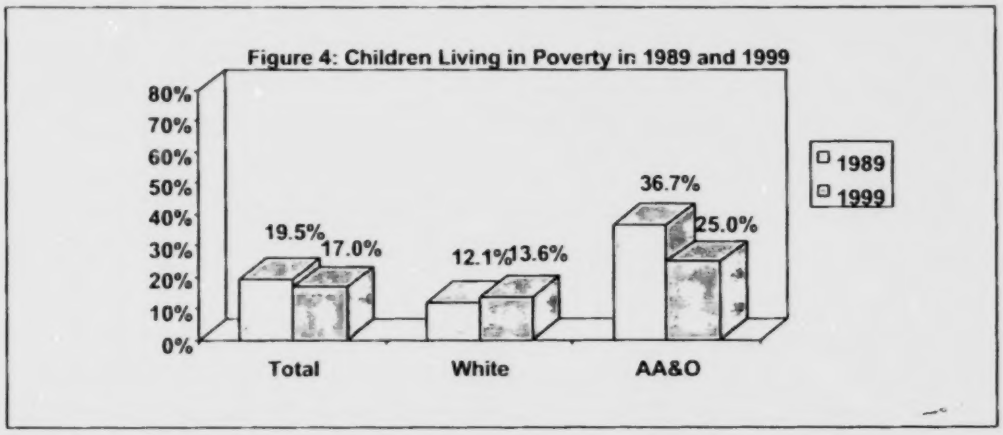
* This data is the best currently available; however, an effort is being made to check the coverage and improve the accuracy. As soon as more recent and complete data becomes available, it will be posted on the website.

ECONOMIC STATUS

Low income makes it difficult for many families to provide the material and environmental enrichment necessary for healthy child development.

Poverty: In 1999, 2,283 children and youth under the age of 18 lived in 1,156 families with incomes below poverty, comprising 17.0% of all children and youth: 13.6% of Whites and 25.0% of African-Americans and Others. A rough estimate of child poverty in 2001 calculated by the Census Bureau was 23.0%.



Poverty has always been a serious problem. While the rate among children under age 18 in 1989 was 19.5%, it was 17.2% in 1979 and 21.3% in 1969.

Children and the elderly are the age groups most seriously affected by poverty. In 1999, 16.1% of children 0 - 5 (12.9% White, 23.2% African-American and Other), and 17.6% of children 6 - 17 (14.0% White, 25.9% African-American and Other), lived in poverty; 15.2% of persons 65 years and older lived in poverty. Historically, the poverty rate among the elderly was much higher. During the last three decades, federal policy actions have substantially improved the economic status of older persons but have not done so for children.

Single-parent families are most likely to be poor. In 1999, 31.2% of children in single-parent families lived in poverty, but only 8.8% of children in married-couple families were poor. Children in single-parent families made up 73.1% of all the county's children living in poverty.

In 2002, the poverty level was $15,020 for a family of three and $18,100 for a family of four. The poverty threshold is often criticized as an arbitrary number. People can still be poor but may be just above the poverty level. Federal programs utilize varying thresholds. For example, in 1999 there were 6,236 children ages 0-17 who were less than 200 percent of poverty; thus an additional 3,953 children were above the poverty level but could still be considered poor or near-poor with incomes below $30,040 and $36,200 respectively for 3 and 4 person families.

Children Under 18 in Poverty in 1999

Percent of Poverty	Total		White		African American & Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 50%	1,015	7.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 100%	2,283	17.0%	1,281	13.6%	1,002	25.0%
Under 125%	3,251	24.2%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 150%	4,294	31.9%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 175%	5,294	39.4%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 185%	5,684	42.3%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 200%	6,236	46.4%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total Children	13,570		9,542		4,028	

Note: Missing data will be released by the Census Bureau later in 2003, and will be posted on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

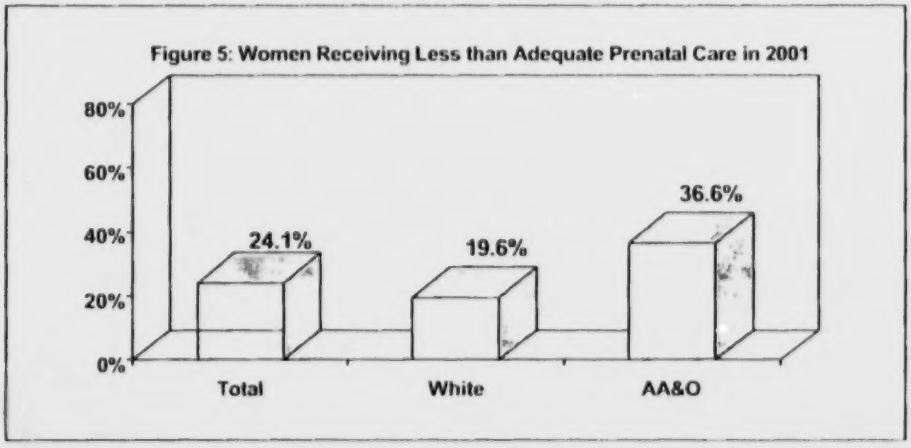
Income: The mean income of families with children in 1999 was $44,623. In 1989 it was $40,415, and 1979, it was $41,712, adjusted for. inflation (i.e., in 1999 dollars). The mean income of single-parent families with children was $23,810 for single parents in 1999, as compared with $55,332 in married-couple families with children. From 1999 to 2000, Cherokee County real dollar per capita income (eliminating inflation) increased by 3.1%.

Child Support Payments: There were 288[7] families receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families in fiscal year 2002, but only 21.9 % had child support court orders. Their average monthly payment of child support was $ 230, including child support receipts and tax refund intercepts. In addition, during fiscal year 2002, an estimated 1,000 parents in non-TANF families were obligated to pay a monthly average of $ 217. Information is not available regarding the amount actually paid.

HEALTH

Good health during a child's formative years helps children to reach their maximum potential. Good health requires healthy lifestyles and effective primary care, starting during the prenatal period and continuing through adolescence into adulthood. Children's health reflects the well-being of the community, as well as how adequately they are protected.

Prenatal Care: Early and continuous prenatal care can make a significant difference in assuring births of healthy babies. Delayed or insufficient prenatal care is associated with low birthweight and other health risks for infants. In 2001, 148, or 21.4% of pregnant women received no prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy. In 2001, 167, or 24.1% of pregnant women received less than adequate prenatal care: 100 or 19.6% of Whites and 67 or 36.6% of African-Americans and Others. In that same year, 4 women received no prenatal care at all.



Low Birthweight: Low birthweight of less than 5.5 pounds and very low birthweight of less than 3.3 pounds are associated with health risks and growth and development problems. In 2001, 78 or 11.3% of all babies in the county were born with low birthweight: 16.9% of African-American and Other babies and 9.2% of White babies. During 1999-2001, approximately 45 or 2.0% of all babies were born with very low birthweight and had the most serious complications: 1.9% of White babies and 2.5% of African-American and Other babies. The cost of hospitalization for each newborn low birthweight baby in the county in 1999 - 2001 was $14,757 and $75,507 for each very low birthweight baby, compared with $2,166 for a baby of normal birthweight. The result was excess cost in the county of $1,142,694 for all low birthweight babies, of which $660,066 was for very low birthweight babies.

Infant Mortality: During the decade since 1989-91, the overall infant mortality rate increased by 100.5% from 6.1 to 12.3 per 1000 live births. For Whites, the rate increased 119.1% from 4.7 to 10.4 per 1000 live births, while for African-Americans and Others the rate increased 91.7% from 9.3 to 17.9 per 1000 live births. Over the three-year period 1999-2001, 17 White and 10 African-American and Other infants died before age one. By comparison, 7 White and 6 African-American and Other infants died during 1989-91.

[7] Number is an unduplicated count for the entire fiscal year.

Child Injuries and Deaths: Childhood deaths and injuries reflect whether communities are safe for children. In 2001, children in the Cherokee County went to the emergency room 1,675 times because of injuries. Boys are injured more often than girls. Children visit the emergency room at comparable rates for each age from 0 to 17.

In South Carolina, the major causes of death among young children are unintentional injuries, cancer, homicide, and congenital anomalies. Over the three year period 1999-2001, 4 White and 1 African-American and Other children ages 1-14 died in the county. During 1989-91, 14 White and 1 African-American and Other children died.

Immunization: Immunization rates are an important indication of whether young children are receiving adequate preventive health care. During FY 1989-90, 49.7% of children less than two years old seen in public health clinics were not fully immunized against such preventable diseases as Polio, Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Haemophilus Influenza B and Whooping Cough. After a concerted statewide campaign to increase immunizations, the percentage of children seen in public health clinics who were not fully immunized in January 2001 had declined in the county to 13.8%. The DHEC statewide birth registry survey of all two year old children found that 88.1% were fully immunized in 2001. This success demonstrates the potential to improve the status of children when the leadership of the state and its communities act decisively together.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Children and youth are infected with sexually transmitted diseases through sexual abuse or irresponsible sexual activity. National prevalence rates indicate: a 1 in 8 chance that sexually active 15 year-old girls will develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), the most rapidly increasing cause of infertility; 10% of sexually active adolescent girls and boys are infected with chlamydia, the most common cause of PID; and as many as 15% of teen girls are infected with human papilloma virus, often with strains linked to cervical cancer. Furthermore, research evidence indicates that susceptibility to HIV/AIDS increases by 3 to 8 times through prior infection with various STDs.

According to national studies, approximately 1 in 4 sexually experienced youth aged 13-19 acquires a STD ever year; since two-thirds of all high school students have had sexual intercourse and half engage in intercourse over a three month period, this would suggest that 10-15% of teens are infected with STDs annually. For 2000, this would indicate that an estimated 500 to 750 youth ages 13-19 in the county were infected with a STD. Many infections are either not identified for treatment or not reported. In the county, there were 3 reported cases of children under age 15 and 33 youth ages 15-19 infected with gonorrhea; 3 youth under 15 and 50 ages 15 - 19 were reported infected with chlamydia. Youth with undiagnosed and untreated STDs often spread their infections.

Healthy Lifestyles: Although no county data is available, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2001 found that many high school students are not following good health habits. The YRBS revealed that 26% felt that they were overweight; 42% were trying to lose weight: 27% of boys and 57% of girls. Although during a week 79% of high school students ate fruit, 59% ate salad, and over 83% ate vegetables, only 17% ate the recommended five or more servings of fruit and vegetables per day. During a week, 49% did stretching or muscle strengthening exercises, and 59% exercised three or more times for 20 minutes in sports that made them sweat or breathe hard. However, 11% of students engaged in no vigorous or moderate activity at all during a week: 8% of boys and 13% of girls.

Tobacco Use:* Cigarette smoking starts at a young age and often becomes habitual. In the county during 2002 among all students 15 and older, 15.1% first smoked by age 11, 34.0% by age 13, and 48.9% by age 15. In a typical month, 21.3% of 7th and 8th graders and 26.6% of high school students smoked cigarettes. White youths were much more likely than African-Americans to smoke: 30.2% of White male and 28.6% of White female 7th to 12th graders used cigarettes, as compared with 9.5% of African-American males and 13.3% of African American females. A smaller but significant group of high school students (7.6%) used smokeless tobacco monthly; it was used primarily by White males (19.5% compared with 1.6% of all other race and sex groups).

* County participation in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking was not complete but county data is presented to provide the best available picture of teen risk-taking attitudes and behavior in Cherokee County. There was partial participation: only grades 8, 10 and 12.

Disabilities: No data are collected on the true prevalence of disabilities within the county. According to national reported estimates, over 10% of children and youth have developmental disabilities at any point in time, and more than 17 are affected at some time before age 18 by deafness, blindness, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, speech defects, development delays, learning disabilities, and emotional or behavioral problems. For 2000 this suggests that at least 1,357 children ar youth under age 18 in the county are currently affected by disabilities.

Approximately 5% of children and youth nationally have serious disabilities which have lifelong implications fo work, social life and community living. Typically among children and youth, there are 1 - 2% who are mentally retarded, - 3% with serious emotional disturbances, over 1% with orthopedic or multiple disabilities, including cerebral palsy an many hereditary conditions, and under 1% with visual or hearing impairments.

Other chronic health problems also affect the lives of many children. Over 3% of children have one or more o these limitations. Such serious chronic conditions affect 1 - 2% who have respiratory problems (asthma and chron bronchitis), 0.5 - 1.0% with neurological problems (epilepsy and seizures), and less than 1% with circulatory problen (congenital heart defects and acquired diseases).

Other disabilities are identified primarily in school performance. These would include 547 students in grades 1- with learning disabilities and 265 students in grades 1-12 with speech/language deficits.

Disabilities are caused by genetics, disease, poor prenatal conditions, injuries, and environmental factors. For example, lead exposure, primarily from paint dust, was detected in over 1% of all children screened, including 4 in Cherokee County.

Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: While over 20% of 9-17 year olds meet diagnostic criteria for some form of mental disorder, the number with serious emotional disturbance and impaired functioning in family, school, or community activities is: 9-13% for substantial functional impairment and 5-9% for extreme functional impairment. The rates among poor children are at the higher end of these ranges. Based on a federal formula for estimating prevalence, in the county there are 12% or 813 seriously emotionally disturbed 9-17 year olds with substantial functional impairment and 8% or 542 with extreme functional impairment during the course of a year. Conduct disorders, attention deficit, depression, and anxiety disorders are the most prevalent, each affecting 3% or more of school-aged children. These disorders may occur simultaneously in a child. The prevalence rates are highest among males, adolescents, and disadvantaged persons in communities under stress and lacking social cohesion; depression, however, is more prevalent among females. On the YRBS, 20% of boys and 33% of girls in high school reported that during the past year they felt so sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that they stopped doing some usual activities. Another indicator of emotional problems is the 8% of high school students in South Carolina who reported that they had "attempted suicide" in the past year: 5% of boys and 10% of girls. Suicide attempts resulted in 4% of high school students reporting that they required treatment by a doctor or nurse for injury, poisoning, or overdose.

Inadequate Healthcare: No county level data is routinely collected regarding the number of children and youth with inadequate healthcare. According to estimates for 2000-02 by the Bureau of the Census through the annual Current Population Survey, the statewide average rate of uninsured children and youth under age 18 in families with incomes under 200% of poverty in South Carolina was 16.6%, and 9.9% above 200% of poverty. If these rates are applied to the county, there are 1,037 children in the county below 200% of poverty with no health insurance, and 728 children above 200% of poverty with no health insurance, for a total of 1,764 uninsured children in Cherokee County. The number lacking basic accessible primary care is at least double the number lacking insurance. Those lacking primary care are often dependent on health services at school. The ratio of students to nurses recommended nationally is 750:1. In the county, this would suggest the need for 12 nurses, compared with 7 currently working in the schools.

Medicaid: For several years, the State of South Carolina has emphasized enrolling eligible children into Medicaid. In late 1997, South Carolina implemented its version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, Partners for Healthy Children (PHC), and aggressively pursued outreach enrollment for PHC and Medicaid. As a result, enrollment of children ages 0 through 18 in Cherokee County has increased by 101.9% from June 1997 to June 2001; thus Medicaid and PHC were serving 43.9% of all children in that age range. The total Medicaid expenditures in South Carolina for services provided to children ages 0 through 18 for state fiscal year 2002 were $991 million, at an average statewide expenditure of $2,343 per child enrolled, approximate Medicaid expenditure for children in the county would be $14.0 million.

In June 2001, the total number of Cherokee County children, birth through 18, enrolled in Medicaid was 5,961. The total can be broken down into the following age and race groupings:

	White	African American	Hispanic	Other	Total
Children under 1	297	159	19	14	489
Children 1 - 5	1,069	676	33	57	1,835
Children 6 - 14	1,574	1,036	37	98	2,745
Children 15 - 18	514	357	9	12	892
Total	3,454	2,228	98	181	5,961

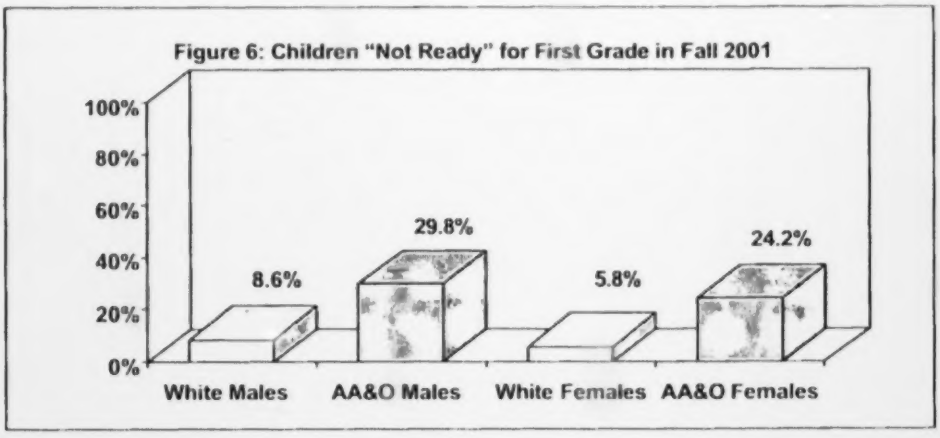
Ambulatory Care: When children lack adequate primary care, whether through lack of insurance, through limite access, or through failing to utilize available care, preventable and treatable conditions become serious and requi hospitalization. A useful indicator of inadequate primary care is the percentage of all hospitalizations that could typicall have been avoided through ambulatory care, especially for pneumonia, asthma, diarrhea and vomiting, dehydration, a severe ear, nose, and throat infections. The share of hospitalizations for these types of conditions could normally be ke below 20%; for children in the county under the age of 18 during 2001, the share was 39.3% for Whites and 40.1% f African-Americans and Others.

READINESS AND EARLY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Too many children reach school without the readiness skills needed for success in learning, such as language, soci skills, visual and auditory discrimination, memory recall, and knowledge of colors, letters, numbers, names of objects, et Likewise, some schools are not ready to respond appropriately to the varying developmental levels of children in the ear grades. As a result, too many students do not experience the success needed to create the motivation and engagement th sustain learning.

1st Grade "Readiness" on 2001-02 Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB):

94 children not ready 13.7% children not ready

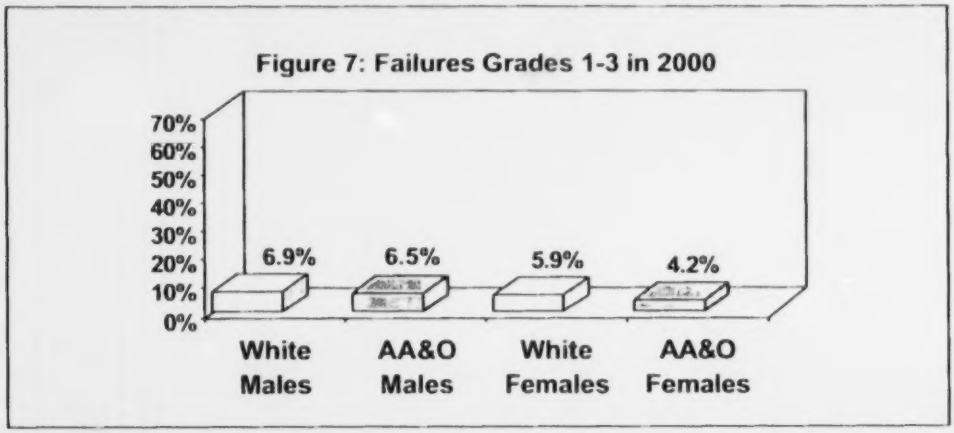


1st Grade Failures in 2002:

17 children failing 2.4% children failing

Failures Grades 1-3 in 2002 (approximate cumulative percentage of grades one, two and three):

39 children failing 5.3% children failing



Over-age for Grade 3 in 2001

38 children over-age 5.6% children over-age

Special Education: Large numbers of children are placed in special education classes. In elementary school, 165 six and seven year olds and 174 eight and nine year-olds were enrolled in special education classes during 2001-02, approximately 11.7% and 11.6% of their age groups respectively: 11.9% of White 8 – 9 year olds were in special education and 11.1% of African American and Others.

Readiness Summary: A serious problem exists in terms of student readiness and school success in the early grades. With 13.7% assessed not ready for the 1st grade, 5.6% over age in grade 3, and 11.6% of eight and nine year-olds placed in special education, unacceptably large numbers of students still begin school without good prospects of success in future school achievement and graduation; however, great improvement has occurred since the mid 1990s.

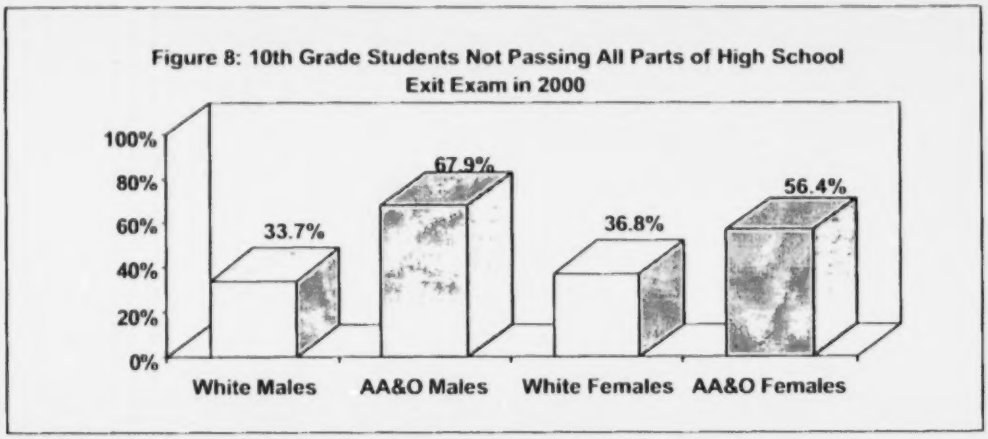
SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

By the end of elementary school, significant numbers of students perform below minimum standards. The following standardized test measures, comparing student performance to state minimum standards, should be used in combination with routine classroom assessments more reflective of real-world performance skills.

Special Education: Special education placements reflect both the significant number of children with serious handicapping conditions and a large number of students with mild learning and behavioral problems that have not been accommodated successfully by the regular educational program. The result is a large system of self-contained, resource, and itinerant services to meet the needs of 265 speech and language impaired, 547 learning disabled, 20 emotionally disabled, 81 mentally impaired, and 60 physically handicapped, deaf, blind, and other handicapped students. Special education classes served approximately 11.0% of all students in grades 1 - 12 during 2001-2002.

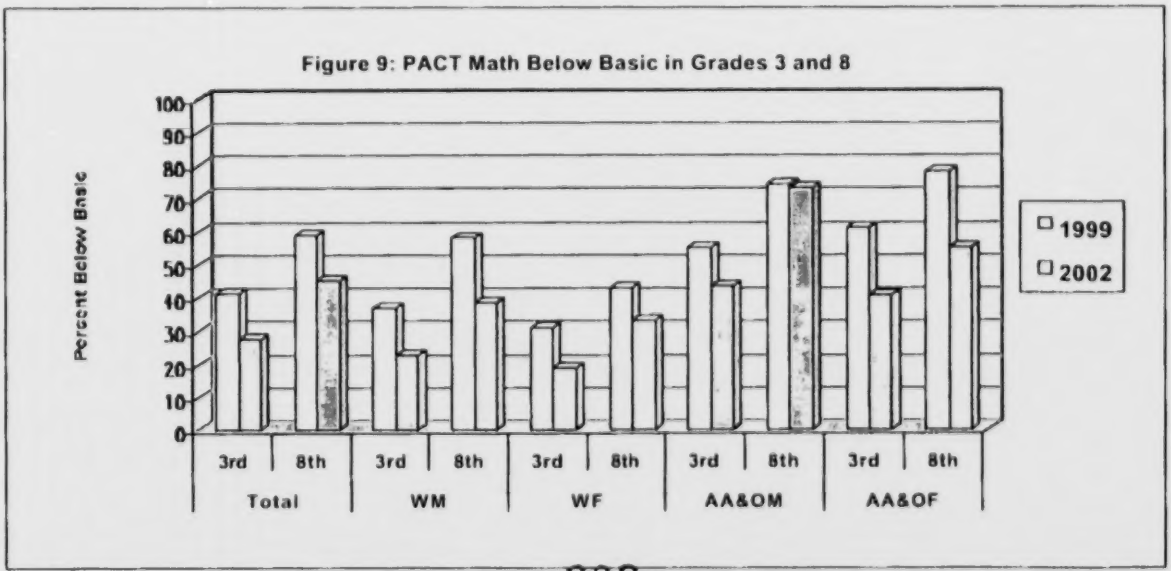
Exit Exam - not passing all parts of Exit Exam on first attempt in the 10th grade in 2002

220 students did not pass all parts	43.8% of students did not pass all parts



Achievement Trends: How has performance on standardized achievement tests changed over the past 20 years? During the 1980s, student performance on the BSAP tests improved dramatically. Between 1981 and 1990, the percentage of 8th grade students in Cherokee County who did not meet standards declined from 58% to 47.6% in math and from 57.3% to 30.9% in reading. During the 1990's the BSAP trend changed, with 38.9% not meeting 8th grade math standards in 1998 and 40.7% in reading. On standardized tests, the first year when South Carolina students take the exam is comparable to the challenge encountered by the national norm group which took the test only once. Looking at first year data, the percentage of 4th grade students at or below the 25th percentile of national norms was 34.3% in 1983 on the CTBS, 32.6% in 1990 on the Stanford, and 28.2% in 1995 on the Metropolitan; for 9th graders, the percentage in the bottom quarter was 37.1% in 1990 and 36.2% in 1995. Although not comparable, the percent below basic on the 4th grade PACT in 1999, the first year of administration, was 45.7%, but in 2002 26.5% of 4th graders were below basic in reading and math; the percentage of 8th graders below basic in reading and math averaged 53.8% in 1999 and 42.2% in 2002.

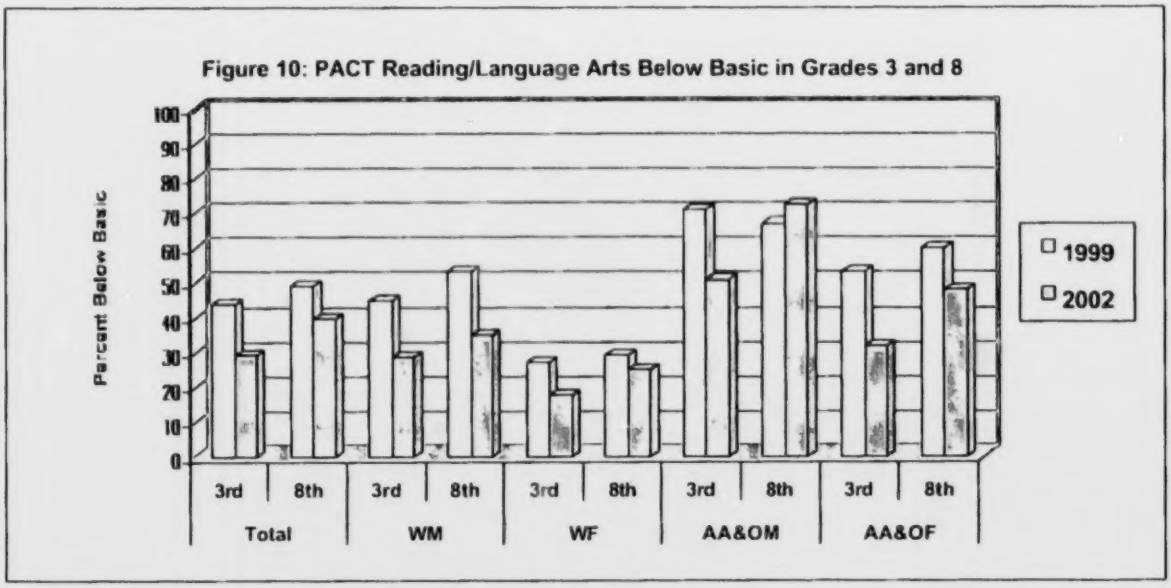
PACT: The Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) was first administered in 1999 for grades 3 - 8 in math and reading/language arts. Math assesses skills in numbers, numerical and algebraic concepts, patterns and functions, geometry, measurement, probability and statistics. The percentage of students scoring below basic in math has decreased by 25.3% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 851 students below basic in grades 3-8 but there would have been an additional 288 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
		Math (%)				
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	27.6	22.8	18.8	43.6	40.8
	4	25.5	18.9	19.9	38.1	38.2
	5	33.6	27.8	22.5	45.2	56.1
	6	33.3	29.1	22.0	54.2	45.1
	7	43.1	40.4	31.4	66.4	51.3
	8	44.9	38.3	32.9	73.2	55.1
Basic	3	39.8	36.8	44.2	40.9	36.7
	4	37.4	31.7	42.1	43.8	33.6
	5	41.2	40.4	44.1	47.0	30.8
	6	41.9	41.7	45.0	35.4	42.2
	7	33.0	31.7	38.0	23.4	33.6
	8	39.7	43.1	45.3	24.1	36.7
Proficient	3	20.6	25.2	24.0	10.9	12.2
	4	20.4	27.3	20.8	11.4	13.6
	5	17.7	20.6	24.3	4.3	12.1
	6	18.3	21.3	23.0	9.4	10.8
	7	14.9	16.5	18.2	8.4	10.9
	8	11.6	14.8	16.7	0.9	5.1
Advanced	3	12.0	15.2	13.0	4.5	10.2
	4	16.7	22.0	17.2	6.7	14.5
	5	7.5	11.2	9.0	3.5	0.9
	6	6.5	7.8	10.0	1.0	2.0
	7	9.0	11.3	12.4	1.9	4.2
	8	3.8	3.8	5.1	1.8	3.1

Reading/Language Arts assesses reading, listening, speaking, writing, research, and communication with technology. The first PACT assessment found a high percentage of elementary and middle grades students performing below standards and only a modest number above basic. The percentage of students scoring below basic in reading/language arts has decreased by 23.7% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 815 students below basic in grades 3 - 8 but there would have been an additional 253 at 1999 performance rates.

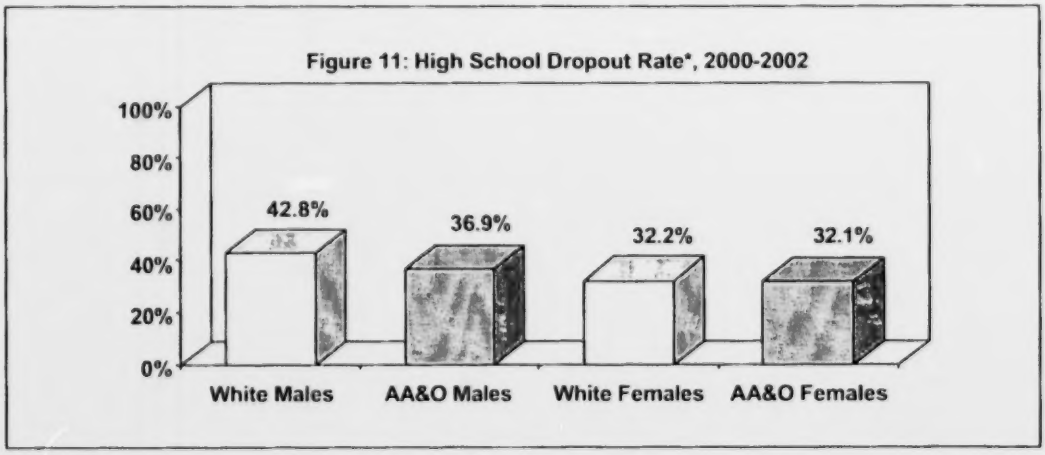
Figure 10: PACT Reading/Language Arts Below Basic in Grades 3 and 8



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
	Reading/Language Arts (%)					
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	29.4	28.8	17.8	50.9	31.6
	4	27.6	22.9	18.6	51.4	32.7
	5	34.8	29.6	20.3	56.5	52.3
	6	38.6	36.5	25.0	59.8	50.0
	7	36.3	33.9	22.7	64.2	43.7
	8	39.6	34.8	24.8	72.3	48.0
Basic	3	37.2	38.4	34.1	35.5	42.9
	4	46.9	49.8	47.5	41.0	45.5
	5	47.7	52.5	51.4	39.1	39.3
	6	38.3	41.3	38.0	36.1	34.3
	7	45.6	46.5	47.9	34.9	48.7
	8	40.2	45.2	43.2	24.1	40.8
Proficient	3	31.1	28.8	46.2	13.6	24.5
	4	24.1	26.0	32.1	6.7	20.9
	5	16.9	16.1	28.4	4.3	8.4
	6	20.3	19.1	32.5	4.1	14.7
	7	16.5	18.3	26.0	0.9	7.6
	8	18.5	19.0	28.6	3.6	10.2
Advanced	3	2.3	4.0	1.9	0.0	1.0
	4	1.4	1.3	1.8	1.0	0.9
	5	0.6	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
	6	2.7	3.0	4.5	0.0	1.0
	7	1.6	1.3	3.3	0.0	0.0
	8	1.7	1.0	3.4	0.0	1.0

Dropout Rate - 8th grade students no longer enrolled in grade 12
(average of students for the three years ending 2000-2002)

246 students drop out annually **36.9% students drop out?**



Dropouts: Distressing numbers of students drop out and fail to graduate. An average of 37.1% of 8th graders failed to graduate** from county schools five years later during the period 1980-84, 38.8% during 1985-89, and 37.8% during 1990-94, 36.9% during 1995-97 and 44.9% during 1998-2000***.

During 2001-02, 96.4% of all who did graduate received the State High School Diploma, while the remaining 3.6% received a State Certificate for meeting the required Carnegie units but not passing the Exit Exam.

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* 12th grade enrollment compared to 8th grade enrollment four years earlier
** This is calculated by using 8th grade enrollment to graduation data.
*** 2001 data will be available soon and will be posted on the website.

Fortunately, many dropouts enroll in adult education programs and either earn a high school diploma or obtain a GED. During 2001-02, 12 Adult Education high school diplomas were awarded to school completers and in 2001 123 GEDs were awarded in the county. Over time, adult education high school diplomas and GEDs increase the effective school completion rate substantially. In the 2000 Census, 25.8% of county resident 25 - 34 year-olds said they had not completed either high school or a GED.

Achievement Summary: The numbers of students testing below basic on the PACT and dropping out range from 25.5% to 50.0%. Thus, far too many students fail to acquire the knowledge, skills, learning habits, and motivation necessary to compete in the economy or contribute to society in the 21st Century.

ADOLESCENT RISK BEHAVIORS

Academic achievement is greatly influenced by the prevailing youth culture which often promotes popularity with peers and partying rather than studying and doing well in school. The prevalence of adolescent risk-taking and under-achievement is illustrated by the poor grades of substance-abusing teens.

Substance Abuser Rates at Levels of Academic Performance

	Usual School Grades in Past Year					Total
	A Range	B Range	C Range	D Range	F Range	
Smoked Cigarettes (in past 30 days)	10.6%	24.2%	34.9%	42.0%	73.0%	26.4%
Drank 5 or More Drinks on One Occasion (in past 30 days)	10.2%	17.0%	22.6%	27.7%	50.0%	18.4%
Used Any Illicit Drug (in past 30 days)	16.0%	23.0%	28.1%	38.1%	63.8%	24.5%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

As influence from parents and other adults declines during adolescence, significant numbers of students engage in violence, crime, school offenses, depressive emotions and attempted suicide:

Risk Behaviors Participated in During Past 12 Months	White Male		White Female		African American Male		African American Female		Total		Total (Grade 7-12)
	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	
Carried a handgun or knife for self-defense?	29.7%	30.4%	3.8%	3.7%	16.7%	12.4%	6.8%	7.5%	14.9%	14.6%	14.8%
Carried a handgun or knife as a weapon?	9.8%	9.3%	1.0%	1.8%	7.8%	7.6%	1.1%	2.7%	5.0%	5.3%	5.2%
Been in a fight with someone?	36.6%	27.2%	22.2%	10.1%	38.9%	24.1%	36.4%	20.0%	31.8%	19.3%	25.5%
Hit your boyfriend or girlfriend?	0.5%	2.9%	10.1%	9.4%	9.2%	10.9%	28.4%	32.0%	9.6%	10.8%	10.2%
Been hit by your boyfriend or girlfriend?	4.2%	5.9%	10.7%	8.1%	17.4%	12.0%	17.2%	24.4%	10.6%	10.4%	10.5%
Rec'd detention or in-school suspension?	39.2%	28.2%	24.8%	21.0%	46.1%	33.4%	29.9%	22.9%	33.7%	25.4%	29.5%
Been suspended from school?	15.0%	13.4%	9.2%	8.1%	23.3%	17.8%	10.6%	6.4%	13.6%	11.0%	12.3%
Stolen anything worth > $5?	12.5%	11.2%	7.2%	6.5%	13.8%	23.0%	7.2%	3.8%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%
Had an accident while driving?	NA	14.3%	NA	10.5%	NA	5.2%	NA	6.5%	NA	10.7%	NA
Been arrested and booked?	5.3%	5.8%	1.9%	1.6%	4.7%	7.1%	NA%	NA%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Felt hopeless for two weeks or more?	13.8%	10.1%	25.8%	23.1%	24.1%	15.4%	22.4%	26.8%	21.1%	18.3%	19.7%
Seriously considered attempting suicide?	6.3%	8.0%	12.3%	10.8%	1.2%	2.1%	2.3%	16.3%	7.1%	9.5%	8.3%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

Adolescence is often a time of taking risks and asserting independence from adults. When asked whether they would tell an adult about a problem, the following percentages of county students said they would be "not likely" or "very unlikely" to tell if they:

-heard a student threaten to harm someone: 32.3% middle school, 45.9% high school;
-saw a student with a handgun at school: 16.1% middle school, 19.9% high school;
-saw a student with a knife at school: 20.7% middle school, 30.3% high school;
-saw a student with drugs at school: 31.5% middle school, 58.7% high school;

Alcohol Use:* In the county during 2001-02, 20.4% of 7th and 8th graders and 33.6% of high schoolers said they had used alcohol in the past month. Of White males in grades 7 - 12, 29.4% had used it in the past month, compared with 20.0% of African-American males; likewise, 28.5% of White females said they had used alcohol, compared with 22.8% of African-American females. Many youth first used alcohol at an early age: 11.0% had used alcohol by age 11 or younger, 25.8% by age 13, and 53.3% by age 15.

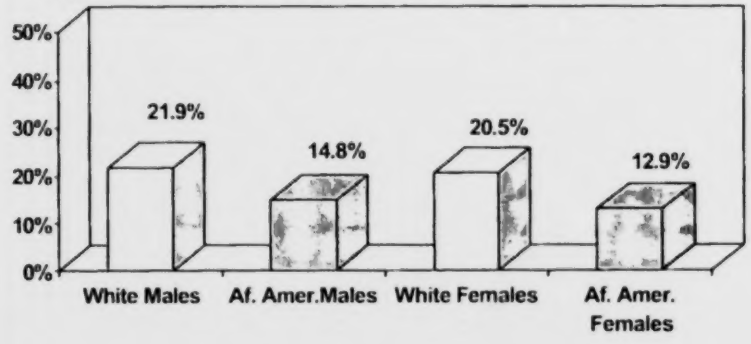
During the previous year, 20.9% of 7th and 8th graders and 27.3% of high schoolers said they had ridden with a drinking driver. Of seniors who drive, 12.4% said they had driven after drinking. Widespread use is encouraged by the ready availability and perceived low risk of alcohol use. Among students who expressed an opinion, 31.4% of eighth graders and 70.2% of seniors felt that beer was easy to get. Also, 71.6% of eighth graders and 70.1% of seniors felt there was not a great risk in drinking two drinks a day, and 45.0% of eighth graders and 46.3% of high schoolers felt there was not a great risk in drinking 5 drinks every weekend.

Heavy Drinking:* In 2001-02, 9.1% of 7th and 8th graders and 18.4% of high school students in the county repor drinking 5 or more drinks in a day during the past month. When asked how many drinks, if any, they usually consur 12.7% of all county students in grades 7 - 12 in 2001-02 responded 3 or more drinks at a time and 6.3% reported usually 5 more drinks. Among high school students, 18.8% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 9.4% 5 or mc Among seniors, 20.3% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 10.3% 5 or more; however 18.6% of seni said that they drank 5 or more drinks in a day once or more during the past month.

Drugs:* In 2001-02, 12.5% of 7th and 8th graders and 24.8% of high schoolers in the county reported using ille drugs during the previous month. Among students in grades 7 - 12, use was reported by 21.9% of White males, 20.5% Wl females, 14.8% of African-American males, and 12.9% of African-American females. Some young people initiated drug at an early age: 4.5% had experienced their first use by age 11 or sooner; 16.8% had used a drug by age 13, and 35.6% by 15.

In the past year, 10.3% of all high school students in the county who drive and 13.2% of seniors who drive said that they had driven after using drugs. Such use is encouraged by the ready availability of drugs: 19.8% of 8th graders who had an opinion said it is easy to get marijuana and 6.6% said it is easy to get cocaine or crack; 59.3% of seniors said it is easy to get marijuana and 26.2% said it was easy to get cocaine or crack.

Figure 12: Drug Use among Students Grades 7-12 during 2001-02*



* County participation in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking was not complete but county data is presented to provide the best available picture of teen risk-taking attitudes and behavior in Cherokee County. There was partial participation: only grades 8, 10 and 12.

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Sexual Activity and Pregnancy: Many teenagers now engage in sexual activity. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) administered to a representative sample of high school students throughout South Carolina in 2001 showed that sexual activity begins at an early age: 7% of female and 21% of male students have engaged in intercourse before age 13; by age 15, 38% the females and 49% of males have engaged in sexual intercourse. Statewide, 48% of females and 50% of males in the 11th and 12th grades reported engaging in intercourse during the past three months. Furthermore, 27% of female and 33% of male 12th graders have had intercourse with four or more partners during their lifetimes.

Premature sexual activity often results in pregnancy. In the county, 77 girls between the ages of 14 and 17 became pregnant in 1999, 86 in 2000 and 66 in 2001. This represented 4.5% of all girls ages 14 – 17 in 2001; several times this percentage become pregnant at least once by age 18. The 2001 pregnancy rate for ages 14 - 17 was 3.7% for Whites and 6.6% for African-Americans and Others. Of all pregnancies of 14-17 year olds, 83.3% resulted in live births, with almost all other pregnancies ending in abortions.

Teen pregnancy rates increased substantially across the state during the 1980s; as a result, greater emphasis v devoted to preventing teen pregnancy. Since 1989, the teen pregnancy rate in Cherokee County has decreased by 39.1 Overall, it has decreased by 36.2% for Whites, and decreased by 47.2% for African Americans and Others.

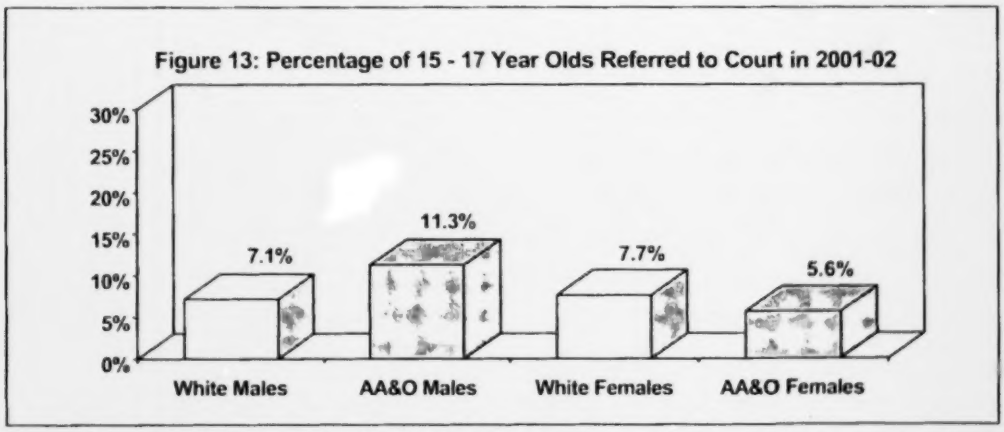
Juvenile Delinquency: In 2001-02, 337 individual juvenile offenders in the county were referred to the Solicitor for delinquency; of these, 22.0% were age 12 or younger, 27.6% were 13 or 14, and 50.4% were 15 or older.

Of the referrals to the family court, 7.1% of all referrals were for violent and serious crimes which include drug trafficking, acts against persons for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and serious property offenses for arson and burglary. Also, 226 juvenile cases constituting 47.1% of all referrals were for status offenses. Status offenses include truancy, running away, incorrigibility, and other offenses that would not be crimes for adults.

Delinquents are likely to live in families with low income: 17.2% lived in families with income under $10,000, 42.2% with $10,000-$19,999 and 40.5% with $20,000 or more. Furthermore, only 23.8% of delinquents lived with both natural parents, while 51.2% lived in a single parent household, 22.6% lived with other relatives, and 2.4% in other situations including parent plus step-parent. Delinquency or criminal activity occurs among many related family members: 47.0% had at least one family member who was delinquent or had some criminal record.

Youth referred to the family courts are likely to have been there before. In 2001-02, 58.2% had at least one prior referral and 24.6% had been referred to court 3 times or more. Many were referred at an early age. For delinquents 15 - 17 years old, 2.4% had been referred by the age of 10, 8.1% by the age of 12, and 31.9% by the age of 14.

During 2001-02, 170 youth ages 15 to 17 were referred to the family courts. In the county, 7.7% of all youth 15 to 17 were referred to court in one year and roughly double that percentage are referred at least once by age 18. Furthermore, the National Youth Survey indicates that typically across the United States the proportion of youth engaging in crime is two or three times the number ever apprehended. In 2001-02, there were 17 juveniles committed from the county to DJJ custody and placed in residential programs.



Not in School or Employed: During 2000, 434 teenagers ages 16-19 were idle, meaning they neither worked any hours nor were enrolled in school, even part-time. Idle teens comprised 15.6% of their age group: 15.4% for White and 16.1% African-American & Other teens. A much larger number, perhaps twice as many, were not engaged in either school full time or work full time. The data reflect a serious failure in both school completion and the critical transition from school to work, significantly affecting their development as future workers. For an in-depth description of the problems of young adults seeking to enter the labor force, visit our website at www.scyoungadults.org for our state and county reports on 18-29 year olds.

Deaths: During 1997-2001, 26 youth ages 15 to 19 died. Historically, automobile accidents have been the major cause, resulting in 7 deaths between 1996 and 2000; homicides killed 3 youth 15 to 19 years old during the five-year period, and 5 youth committed suicide. Alcohol use is often a significant factor in deaths among teenagers.

SUMMARY

Facing the Scope of Problems: The data on families, economic status, health, readiness, school achievement, and adolescent risk behaviors provide a troublesome picture of the condition of children in Cherokee County. The 32.4% of children in single-parent families, 17.0% in poverty, 44.9% not graduating from school, 33.6% of high school students using alcohol and 24.8% using drugs each month, and other data profiled in this report suggest that too many children are at risk of not growing up to become self-supporting adults, good family members, and responsible community citizens.

Emphasizing the Positive: South Carolina Kids Count reports have been developed to describe the problems of children in each of the counties. Fortunately, the majority of children and youth are doing well, and some very well. One simple description is the percentage of children who do not fall into the problem categories reported. For the county, 78.2% of children are born to non-teen mothers ages 20 or older, 56.5% are born to married parents, and 67.6% lived in two-parent families; 83.0% were not poor and 53.6% lived in families with incomes above twice the poverty level for a family of three, $30,040 in 2002; 88.7% of babies were born with normal birthweights; 86.3% were assessed as ready for the first grade, 55.1% scored basic or better on PACT for 8th grade math and 60.4% for 8th grade reading, 56.2% passed all parts of the Exit Exam in the 10th grade, and 55.1% graduated with their class. In a typical month, 66.4% of high school students do not drink alcohol, 75.2% do not use drugs, and 74.7% do not smoke. Unfortunately, the absence of a problem is not always an indicator of success. Some data is available for exemplary performance: for example, 33.4% of 3rd graders and 20.2% of 8th graders scored proficient or advanced on PACT in reading and 32.6% of 3rd graders and 15.4% of 8th graders in math. Unfortunately, data on success is not generally available.

Despite the limitations of success data, we must emphasize the positive in providing good support and appropriate influences for children and youth. Recent philosophy and publications such as those of the Search Institute (700 South Third Street, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN, 55415-1138, tel. 1-800-888-7828, www.search-institute.org), emphasize the critical importance of "developmental assets" to promote and support positive development. One short book from the Search Institute, (What Kids Need to Succeed, by Peter J. Benson, Judy Gailbraith, and Pamela Espeland, 1995) presents an excellent array of suggestions for promoting developmental assets through families, community, faith congregations, and schools. If each family, school, religious congregation and community organization assertively worked to build such assets, the problems described in this report would be reduced dramatically. Such positive family-school-community efforts could improve South Carolina's national Kids Count ranking from the bottom 10 to the average or even into the top 10 by prevention of unnecessary problems affecting children and youth, as shown on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

All data presented in this report is the most recent available at the date it goes to the printer. This version of the Kids Count report will be revised as more recent and additional data become available. Please send us your corrections and suggestions for improvement. We welcome your ideas for ways to make the state and county reports more useful and accurate. Please utilize local data sources whenever possible to supplement the profile provided through our report.

Data related inquiries should be directed to:

Anne Wilson, Data Manager (awilson@drss.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-4810

Calls for **copies of reports** for other counties and inquiries regarding more recent reports should be made to:

Kim Hazel-Lohr, Project Manager (khazel@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-1295

For **policy questions and general comments**, please contact:

Dr. A. Baron Holmes, Project Director (bholmes@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-2291

Comparable reports for all 46 counties and for the state can also be found on the World Wide Web at

www.sckidscount.org

Our website also provides: links to other websites for indicators in our report; high to low rankings for individual indicators; information on how to improve SC's national rank; and a glossary of definitions.

The national Kids Count Report can be found on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website at

www.aecf.org

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Cherokee County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Indicators	Most Recent Year	Number 1980*	Number 1990*	Most Recent Data	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	Percent 1980	Percent 1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	R 1980 Rank	R 199
Health													
Low Birth Weight	2001	51	69	78	+52.9%	+13.0%	8.0	10.0	11.3	40.5%	13.3%	16	
White babies	*2001*	*31*	*37*	*47*	*+51.6%*	*+27.0%*	*7.5*	*7.7*	*9.2*	*22.7%*	*19.1%*	*43*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*20*	*32*	*31*	*+55.0%*	*-3.1%*	*9.1*	*15.0*	*16.9*	*86.3%*	*12.8%*	*7*	
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	2001	280	278	167	+40.4%	-39.9%	44.2	40.2	24.1	-45.5%	-40.0%	30	
White babies	*2001*	*149*	*148*	*100*	*-32.9%*	*-32.4%*	*36.0*	*30.9*	*19.6*	*-45.6%*	*-36.6%*	*41*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*131*	*130*	*67*	*-48.9%*	*-48.5%*	*59.6*	*61.0*	*36.6*	*-38.6%*	*-40.0%*	*32*	
Infant Mortality	2001	31	13	27	-12.9%	+107.7%	1.7	0.6	1.2	-26.0%	100.5%	24	
White babies	*2001*	*12*	*7*	*17*	*+41.7%*	*+142.9%*	*1.0*	*0.5*	*1.0*	*7.2%*	*119.1%*	*12*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*19*	*6*	*10*	*-47.4%*	*+66.7%*	*3.0*	*0.9*	*1.8*	*-41.0%*	*91.7%*	*41*	
Family													
Births to mothers under 18	2001	78	84	55	29.5%	34.5%	12.3	12.1	7.9	-35.8%	34.9%	43	
White babies	*2001*	*43*	*46*	*33*	*-23.3%*	*-28.3%*	*10.4*	*9.6*	*6.5*	*-37.4%*	*-32.3%*	*44*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*35*	*38*	*22*	*-37.1%*	*-42.1%*	*15.9*	*17.8*	*12.0*	*-24.4%*	*-32.6%*	*43*	
Births to mothers under 20	2001	166	178	151	-9.0%	-15.2%	26.2	25.7	21.8	-16.7%	-15.2%	44	
White babies	*2001*	*95*	*108*	*97*	*+2.1%*	*+10.2%*	*22.9*	*22.5*	*19.1*	*-16.8%*	*-15.3%*	*45*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*71*	*70*	*54*	*-23.9%*	*+22.9%*	*32.3*	*32.9*	*29.5*	*-8.6%*	*-10.2%*	*45*	
Births to mothers with less than a high school education	2001	278	265	219	-21.2%	-17.4%	43.8	38.3	31.6	-27.9%	-17.5%	42	
White babies	*2001*	*164*	*178*	*157*	*-4.3%*	*-11.8%*	*39.6*	*37.2*	*30.8*	*-22.2%*	*-17.1%*	*42*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*114*	*87*	*62*	*-45.6%*	*-28.7%*	*51.8*	*40.8*	*33.9*	*-34.6%*	*-17.1%*	*19*	
Births to single mothers****	2001	153	248	301	+96.7%	+21.4%	24.1	35.8	43.5	80.3%	21.4%	20	
White babies	*2001*	*29*	*107*	*156*	*+437.9%*	*+45.8%*	*7.0*	*22.3*	*30.6*	*336.8%*	*37.0%*	*30*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*124*	*141*	*145*	*+16.9%*	*+2.8%*	*56.4*	*66.2*	*79.2*	*40.6%*	*19.7%*	*45*	
Children in single parent families	2000	1,870	2,516	3,784	+102.4%	+50.4%	16.0	25.3	32.4	102.3%	27.9%	10	
White	*2000*	*1,027*	*1,184*	*1,893*	*+84.3%*	*+59.9%*	*10.9*	*16.0*	*22.3*	*104.7%*	*39.4%*	*35*	
African American and Other	*2000*	*831*	*1,314*	*1,891*	*+127.6%*	*+43.9%*	*31.5*	*52.5*	*59.0*	*87.3%*	*12.4%*	*9*	
Education													
Not Ready for Grade 1	2001	305	141	94	-69.2%	-33.3%	42.1	21.4	13.7	-67.5%	-36.0%	30	
White males	*2001*	*90*	*47*	*22*	*-75.6%*	*-53.2%*	*37.5*	*19.9*	*8.6*	*-77.1%*	*-56.8%*	*39*	
White females	*2001*	*84*	*25*	*12*	*-85.7%*	*-52.0%*	*32.2*	*12.0*	*5.8*	*-82.0%*	*-51.7%*	*42*	
African American and Other males	*2001*	*72*	*45*	*36*	*-50.0%*	*-20.0%*	*66.7*	*39.1*	*29.8*	*-55.3%*	*-23.8%*	*40*	
African American and Other females	*2001*	*59*	*24*	*24*	*-59.3%*	*+0.0%*	*51.3*	*24.0*	*24.2*	*-52.8%*	*0.8%*	*34*	
Repeating Grades 1-3	2000	102	104	45	-55.9%	-56.7%	13.7	15.9	6.2	-54.7%	-61.0%	11	
White males	*2000*	*38*	*42*	*18*	*-52.6%*	*-57.1%*	*14.5*	*17.7*	*6.9*	*-52.4%*	*-61.0%*	*17*	
White females	*2000*	*25*	*20*	*14*	*-44.0%*	*-30.0%*	*10.1*	*9.8*	*5.9*	*-41.6%*	*-39.8%*	*22*	
African American and Other males	*2000*	*22*	*29*	*8*	*-63.6%*	*-72.4%*	*19.5*	*27.6*	*6.5*	*-66.7%*	*-76.4%*	*10*	
African American and Other females	*2000*	*17*	*13*	*5*	*-70.6%*	*-61.5%*	*14.6*	*12.6*	*4.2*	*-71.2%*	*-66.7%*	*17*	
Grade 3 Math below standards****	2002	255	67	184	-27.8%	+174.6%	34.0	10.4	27.6	-18.8%	165.4%	11	
White males	*2002*	*92*	*20*	*57*	*-38.0%*	*+185.0%*	*33.5*	*8.3*	*22.8*	*-31.9%*	*174.7%*	*31*	
White females	*2002*	*67*	*19*	*39*	*-41.8%*	*+105.3%*	*26.2*	*9.5*	*18.8*	*-28.2%*	*97.9%*	*20*	
African American and Other males	*2002*	*53*	*14*	*48*	*-9.4%*	*+242.9%*	*50.0*	*13.5*	*43.6*	*-12.8%*	*223.0%*	*10*	
African American and Other females	*2002*	*42*	*14*	*40*	*-4.8%*	*+185.7%*	*37.8*	*14.4*	*40.8*	*7.9%*	*183.3%*	*3*	
Grade 3 Reading below standards****	2002	285	87	196	-31.2%	+125.3%	38.0	13.5	29.4	-22.6%	117.8%	25	
White males	*2002*	*111*	*32*	*72*	*-35.1%*	*+125.0%*	*40.4*	*13.2*	*28.8*	*-28.7%*	*118.2%*	*41*	
White females	*2002*	*63*	*13*	*37*	*-41.3%*	*+184.6%*	*24.6*	*6.5*	*17.8*	*-27.6%*	*173.8%*	*38*	
African American and Other males	*2002*	*61*	*30*	*56*	*-8.2%*	*+86.7%*	*57.6*	*28.9*	*50.9*	*-11.6%*	*76.1%*	*24*	
African American and Other females	*2002*	*48*	*12*	*31*	*-35.4%*	*+158.3%*	*43.2*	*12.4*	*31.6*	*-26.9%*	*154.8%*	*28*	
Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT Grade 4	1998	243	201	188	-22.6%	-6.5%	34.3	32.6	28.7	-16.3%	-12.0%	26	
White males	*1998*	*88*	*54*	*50*	*-43.2%*	*-7.4%*	*36.4*	*26.0*	*22.4*	*-38.5%*	*-13.8%*	*43*	
White females	*1998*	*42*	*50*	*47*	*+11.9%*	*-6.0%*	*18.3*	*22.8*	*20.0*	*9.3%*	*-12.3%*	*34*	
African American and Other males	*1998*	*69*	*57*	*61*	*-11.6%*	*+7.0%*	*59.0*	*57.6*	*61.9*	*4.9%*	*7.5%*	*38*	
African American and Other females	*1998*	*44*	*40*	*30*	*-31.8%*	*-25.0%*	*37.0*	*44.4*	*30.8*	*-16.8%*	*-30.6%*	*24*	

*Year of data is approximate in many cases.

**1 is best, 46 is worst.

*** Data include paternity acknowledgements.

**** BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Cherokee County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Education (continued)

Indicators	Most Recent Year	Number					Percent				
		1980*	1990*	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres
Grade 8 Math below state standards**	2002	430	284	293	-31.9%	+3.2%	58.0	47.6	44.9	-22.6%	-5.7%
White males	2002	131	86	80	-38.9%	-7.0%	47.3	41.1	38.3	-19.0%	-6.8%
White females	2002	147	86	77	-47.6%	-10.5%	53.8	40.0	32.9	-38.8%	-17.8%
African American and Other males	2002	79	57	82	+3.8%	+43.9%	81.4	64.8	73.2	-10.1%	13.0%
African American and Other females	2002	73	55	54	-26.0%	-1.8%	77.7	64.7	55.1	-29.1%	-14.8%
Grade 8 Reading below state standards**	2002	429	184	259	-39.6%	+40.8%	57.3	30.9	39.6	-30.9%	28.2%
White males	2002	155	62	73	-52.9%	+17.7%	55.4	29.7	34.8	-37.2%	17.2%
White females	2002	116	50	58	-50.0%	+16.0%	42.3	23.4	24.8	-41.4%	6.0%
African American and Other males	2002	86	46	81	-5.8%	+76.1%	86.9	52.9	72.3	-16.8%	36.7%
African American and Other females	2002	72	26	47	-34.7%	+80.8%	75.8	30.6	48.0	-36.7%	56.9%
Grade 9 Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT	1998	NA	216	189	NA	-12.5%	NA	37.1	31.9	NA	-14.0%
White males	1998	NA	82	NA	NA	NA	NA	37.8	32.9	NA	-13.0%
White females	1998	NA	43	NA	NA	NA	NA	21.7	16.4	NA	-24.4%
African American and Other males	1998	NA	55	NA	NA	NA	NA	66.3	54.3	NA	-18.1%
African American and Other females	1998	NA	36	NA	NA	NA	NA	42.9	44.8	NA	4.4%
Exit Exam (not passing all parts on 1st attempt)	2002	346	217	220	-36.4%	+1.4%	51.3	38.7	43.8	-14.6%	13.2%
White males	2002	98	63	57	-41.8%	-9.5%	41.0	34.8	33.7	-17.8%	-3.2%
White females	2002	97	49	64	-34.0%	+30.6%	40.4	24.8	36.8	-8.9%	48.4%
African American and Other males	2002	73	55	55	-24.7%	+0.0%	78.5	72.4	67.9	-13.5%	-6.2%
African American and Other females	2002	78	49	44	-43.6%	-10.2%	76.5	47.1	56.4	-26.3%	19.7%
Dropout Rate (8th graders no longer enrolled in 12th grade 4 years later)	2000-02	241	301	246	+2.2%	-18.2%	32.1	38.4	36.9	14.8%	-4.0%
White males	2000-02	95	129	107	+13.2%	-16.7%	34.9	45.2	42.8	22.5%	-5.4%
White females	2000-02	79	98	69	-11.7%	-28.9%	28.3	37.2	32.2	13.6%	-13.5%
African American and Other males	2000-02	30	46	37	+25.4%	-18.7%	31.6	38.2	36.9	16.9%	-3.6%
African American and Other females	2000-02	39	30	33	-14.3%	+11.9%	35.2	24.8	32.1	-8.6%	29.7%
Young Adults Not Completing High School (18-24)	2000	1,638	1,635	1,986	+21.2%	+21.5%	34.5	35.1	25.8	-25.3%	-26.6%
White males	NA	618	725	NA	NA	NA	34.6	39.2	NA	NA	NA
White females	NA	553	579	NA	NA	NA	30.8	32.4	NA	NA	NA
African American and Other males	NA	198	163	NA	NA	NA	39.1	36.4	NA	NA	NA
African American and Other females	NA	269	168	NA	NA	NA	41.1	29.1	NA	NA	NA

Economics

Poverty Rate	2000	2,152	2,242	2,283	+6.1%	+1.8%	17.2	19.5	17.0	-1.2%	-12.8%
White children	2000	1,014	973	1,281	+26.3%	+31.7%	10.8	12.1	13.6	25.9%	12.4%
African American and Other children	2000	1,078	1,269	1,002	-7.1%	-21.0%	35.8	36.7	25.0	-30.1%	-31.8%
Income of Families w/children (1999 $)	2000	$ 41,712	$ 40,415	$ 44,623	+7.0%	+10.4%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
White families	2000	$ 43,790	$ 44,489	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
African American and Other families	2000	$ 32,529	$ 25,861	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Adolescent Risk Factors

Teenage Pregnancy (ages 14-17)	2001	87	105	66	-24.1%	-37.1%	5.9	7.4	4.5	-24.0%	-39.2%
White	2001	47	57	39	-17.0%	-31.6%	4.3	5.8	3.7	-14.2%	-36.2%
African American and Other	2001	40	48	27	-32.5%	-43.8%	10.8	11.2	6.6	-38.9%	-41.1%
Delinquency	2002	87	156	170	+95.4%	+9.0%	4.0	7.4	7.7	93.2%	4.0%
White males	2002	32	76	57	+78.1%	-25.0%	3.9	9.5	7.1	82.7%	-25.0%
White females	2002	20	26	59	+195.0%	+126.9%	2.5	3.2	7.7	206.5%	139.4%
African American and Other males	2002	26	40	36	+38.5%	-10.0%	10.1	16.8	11.3	11.4%	-33.0%
African American and Other females	2002	9	14	18	+100.0%	+28.6%	3.3	5.5	5.6	70.5%	2.3%

*Closest available data to this year was used in many cases.
**BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Kids Count 2003

Chester County

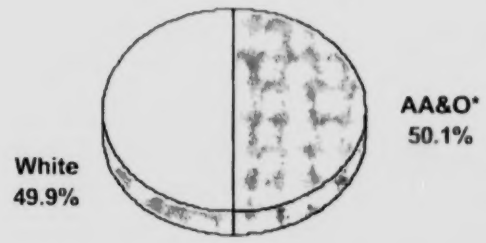
DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2000 there were an estimated 9,167 children under age 18 in the county. Of these, 4,577 were White, 4,394 were African-American, and 196 were other races. There were 8,988 children under age 18 in 1990, 9,354 in 1980, 10,979 in 1970, and 12,727 in 1960.

Children represent a shrinking portion of the county's population. Those under 18 constituted 26.9% of the population in 2000, down from 41.2% in 1960, 36.8% in 1970, and 31.0% in 1980.

In 2000 the 2,778 pre-schoolers under age 6 were 8.2% of the overall population: 7.2% of Whites and 9.3% of African Americans.

Figure 1: Population Ages 0-17 in 2000



* In all charts African-American is combined with other races, and often abbreviated as AA&O. Other races comprise 2.1% of children in the county, with "two or more races" at 1.0% and American Indian and Alaska Native Alone at 0.4% as the largest Other groups.

FAMILY

Families have always been the most important influence in a child's life. Children depend on their families for material needs, stimulation and guidance. Family life is different in numerous ways from previous generations, and many families now face exceptional challenges.

Families with children now make up a smaller share of all households. Only 32.9% of all households in 2000, as compared with 44.0% of households in 1960, had children below the age of 18.

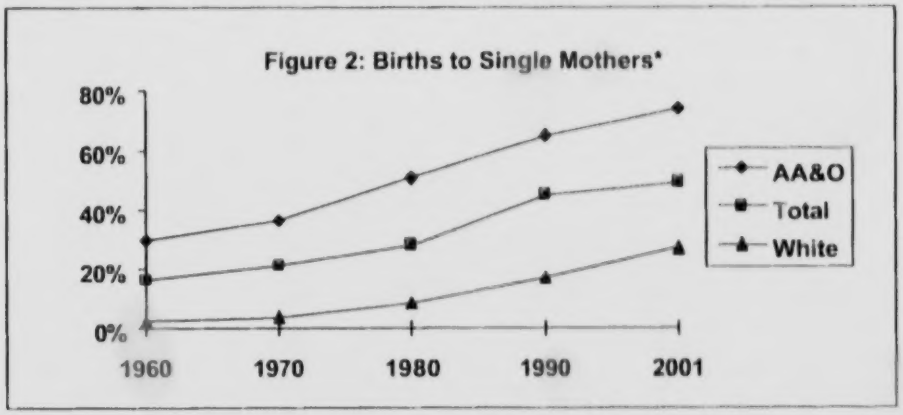
Births to Teen Mothers: In 2001, 23 babies were born to mothers younger than age 18. They were 5.3% of all babies born in the county; 3.1% of all White and 7.7% of all African-American and Other babies were born to teen mothers under the age of 18. Of the babies born to these teens in 2001, 95.7% were born to single mothers, including babies whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers.

In 2001, 80 babies were born to mothers younger than age 20. These babies were 18.4% of all born in the county; 10.6% of all White and 27.1% of all African-American and Other babies were born to mothers under the age of 20. Of the babies born to these mothers in 2001, 90.0% were born to single mothers, including paternity acknowledeged babies.

Education of Mothers Giving Birth: Children's success is strongly influenced by the education of their parents. In 2001, 106 babies, 24.4% of all babies, were born to mothers of all ages who had not completed the 12th grade. In 2001, 21.1% of White and 28.0% of African-American and Other babies were born to mothers who had completed less than the 12th grade. This is a substantial improvement from 55.1% in 1970. In addition, during 2001, 46.8% had completed 12 grades (45.4% of Whites and 48.3% of African Americans and Others) and 28.8% had more than a high school degree (33.5% of Whites and 23.7% of African American and Others).

Births to Single Mothers: Births to single mothers have increased steadily over four decades. In 2001, 141 babies, 32.5% of all babies, were recorded as born to single mothers. A decade earlier in 1990, the percentage was 41.0% and in 1960 it was 16.4%. In 2001, 14.1% of White children and 52.7% of African-American and Other children were born to single mothers. These numbers, however, do not include paternity acknowlegement births.

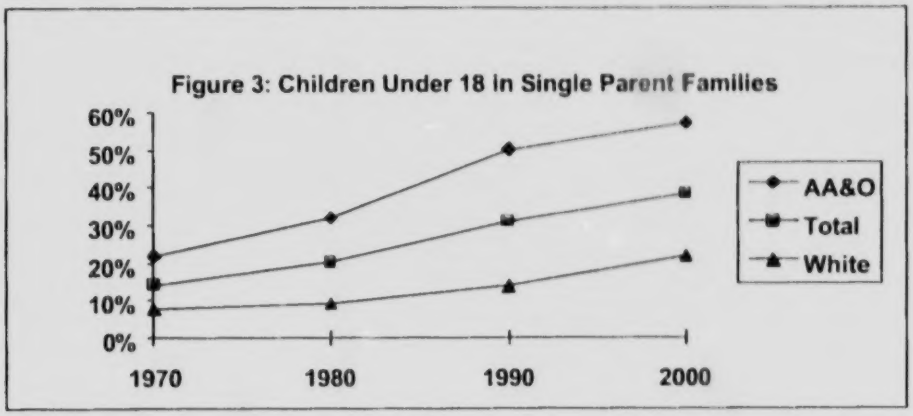
Thus, to these numbers should be added an additional group of 73 babies, 16.8% of all born in 2001, whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers. When the paternity-acknowledged babies are added, the total number born to single mothers in 2001 was 214, constituting 49.3% of all babies, 26.9% of White babies, and 73.9% of African-American and Others.



*Includes paternity acknowleged babies in 1980, 1990 and 2001. Prior to 1979, paternity acknowleged cases were not a statistical category, and thus were included in births to single mothers.

Divorce Rate: In 2001, 239 marriage licenses were issued, while 129 divorce decrees involving 115 children were filed. In 1970, only 84 children were in families involved in divorce.

Single-Parent Family: Increasing numbers of children live in single-parent families. In 2000, 2,923 children lived with only one parent. This was 38.3% of all children, up from 30.9% in 1990, 20.1% in 1980, and 14.3% in 1970. In 2000, 21.9% of White and 57.1% of African-American and Other children lived in single-parent families. Also in 2000, 838 or 35.8% of children under age 6 lived in single parent families: 17.8% of White and 60.4% of African American and Other pre-schoolers.



Parents Working and Child Care: Increasingly, parents must divide their time between children and employers. In order to meet family financial needs, most parents must work and thus have less time for family life. In 2000, 72.2% of mothers with children under 6 and 76.8% with children 6 - 17 were in the labor force. This has increased substantially from 1960 when 44.0% of mothers with children under 6 were in the labor force. Most fathers also work: 68.9% of children under 6 are in families where the single parent or both parents work. Caring for children is a problem for parents unable to obtain quality, affordable daycare while they are at work.

Overall, there are 624 spaces in state-regulated childcare facilities* in the county, 89.7% of these are in licensed programs and 10.3% are in registered programs. Of the spaces, 84.0% are in licensed childcare centers serving more than 12 children, 8.7% are in registered or licensed family childcare homes serving six or fewer children, 5.8% are in licensed group childcare homes serving 7-12 children, and 1.6% are in registered or licensed church programs.

The homes and centers are severely constrained by the limited ability of parents to pay. In the county, the average weekly charge is $ 65.36 for centers and $ 56.31 for homes. Consequently, center wages are low: 33.3% of centers with pre-school staff and 0% of centers with assistant pre-school staff report paying these staff under $6 per hour. Paying $6-$8 per hour are 66.7% of centers with pre-school staff and 0% of centers with assistants. Low wages attract workers with limited education. In 66.7% of centers, most pre-school staff and in 0% of centers most assistants have only a high school degree. In 33.3% of centers few to none of the pre-school staff have early childhood credentials. In childcare homes, 50% of lead providers have no more education than a high school degree or GED, 16.7% have less than a high school degree.

Family Violence: In 2000, 289 domestic assaults were recorded by law enforcement officials. These domestic assaults comprised 21.3% of all assaults, which include aggravated assaults, simple assaults, and intimidation. Overall, 60.2% of all domestic assaults involve spouse abuse which constitutes 12.8% of all assaults. Since most family violence is not reported, the true incidence of family disruption is much more widespread than even the large number of reported cases would indicate.

Separation from Parents: Some children do not live with their natural parents. In 2000, 6.7% of all children did not live with their natural parents. Approximately 413 or 4.5% of all children lived with relatives, 175 or 1.9% lived with non-relatives, 18 or 0.2% were householders or spouses, and 5 or 0.1% were in institutional facilities.

Abuse and Neglect: In 2000-01, there were 160 investigations into reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children. Through its investigations, the Department of Social Services (DSS) determined that 60 of the investigations were indicated for abuse or neglect: 13.4% for physical abuse, 7.5% for sexual abuse, 0.0% for mental injury, 26.9% for physical neglect, 7.5% for educational neglect, 1.5% for medical neglect, 40.3% for threat of harm for physical/sexual abuse, and 3.0% for other types of abuse.

In the indicated cases of abuse and neglect, DSS determined there were 113 children who were victims of abuse or neglect. Of these, 48.6% were male, 51.4% were female; 47.8% were White, 52.2% were African-American and Other. By age, 43.8% were ages 0 - 5, 35.7% were ages 6 - 12, and 20.5% were ages 13 - 17. In the indicated cases, 37.2% of the children lived in two-parent families, 46.9% in single parent families, 5.3% with unmarried couples, and 10.6% in other circumstances.

Out of Home Placements: As of June 2001, 32 children lived in foster care. The median age at first placement in the county is 6.6 years. The ages of children in foster care were 18.8% 0-2, 12.5% 3-5, 25.0% 6-10, 9.4% 11-13, and 34.4% 14 and above. The foster care population is 56.3% males and 43.8% females. Regarding their future, 50.0% were under a plan for placement in adoptive homes, 12.5% for return to a parent or guardian, 0.0% for placement with a relative, 28.1% for independent living, 9.4% for permanent foster care, and 0.0% for other circumstances.

Adult/Child Ratio: A measure of potential adult attention for children from family and community is the ratio of adults to children and youth. In 2000 there were 2.72 adults for every person below age 18. This was up substantially from 1960, when there were only 1.43 adults for every person under the age 18. This indicates that today there are more adults potentially available to provide attention and care for each child than in the past.

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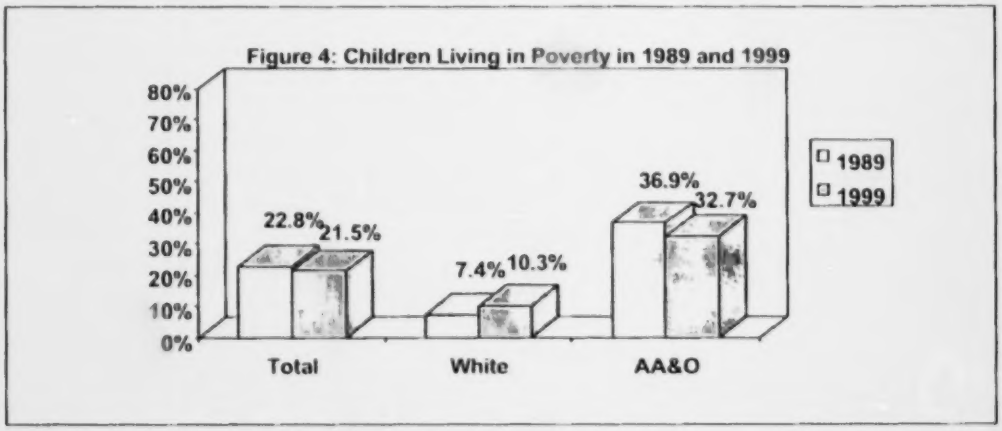
* This data is the best currently available; however, an effort is being made to check the coverage and improve the accuracy. As soon as more recent and complete data becomes available, it will be posted on the website.

ECONOMIC STATUS

Low income makes it difficult for many families to provide the material and environmental enrichment necessary for healthy child development.

Poverty: In 1999, 1,938 children and youth under the age of 18 lved in 852 families with incomes below poverty, comprising 21.5% of all children and youth: 10.3% of Whites and 32.7% of African-Americans and Others. A rough estimate of child poverty in 2001 calculated by the Census Bureau was 23.0%.



Poverty has always been a serious problem. While the rate among children under age 18 in 1989 was 22.8%, it was 23.5% in 1979 and 32.0% in 1969.

Children and the elderly are the age groups most seriously affected by poverty. In 1999, 24.5% of children 0 - 5 (8.8% White, 42.3% African-American and Other), and 19.9% of children 6 - 17 (9.5% White, 29.4% African-American and Other), lived in poverty; 14.9% of persons 65 years and older lived in poverty. Historically, the poverty rate among the elderly was much higher. During the last three decades, federal policy actions have substantially improved the economic status of older persons but have not done so for children.

Single-parent families are most likely to be poor. In 1999, 37.1% of children in single-parent families lived in poverty, but only 9.4% of children in married-couple families were poor. Children in single-parent families made up 63.0% of all the county's children living in poverty.

In 2002, the poverty level was $15,020 for a family of three and $18,100 for a family of four. The poverty threshold is often criticized as an arbitrary number. People can still be poor but may be just above the poverty level. Federal programs utilize varying thresholds. For example, in 1999 there were 4,433 children ages 0-17 who were less than 200 percent of poverty; thus an additional 2,495 children were above the poverty level but could still be considered poor or near-poor with incomes below $30,040 and $36,200 respectively for 3 and 4 person families.

Children Under 18 in Poverty in 1999

Percent of Poverty	Total		White		African American & Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 50%	1,085	12.1%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 100%	1,938	21.5%	459	10.3%	1,479	32.7%
Under 125%	2,553	28.4%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 150%	3,250	36.1%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 175%	3,834	42.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 185%	4,040	44.9%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 200%	4,433	49.3%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total Children	9,167		4,577		4,590	

Note: Missing data will be released by the Census Bureau later in 2003, and will be posted on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

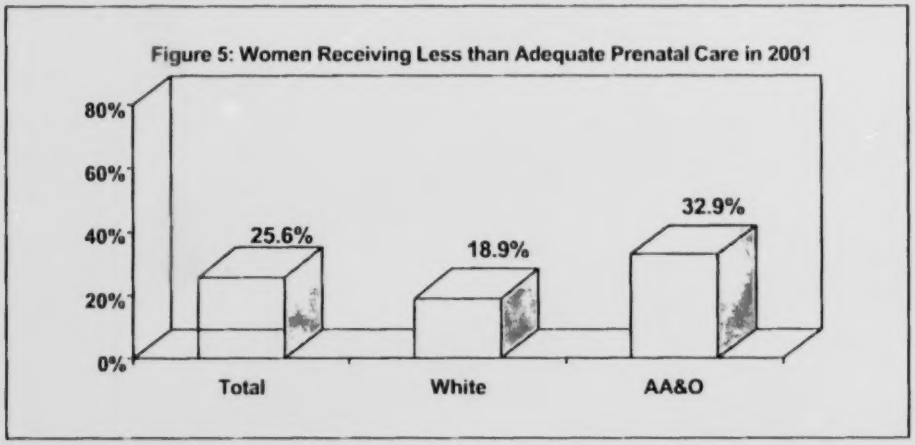
Income: The mean income of families with children in 1999 was $41,562. In 1989 it was $39,787, and 1979, it was $38,528, adjusted for inflation (i.e., in 1999 dollars). The mean income of single-parent families with children was $24,340 for single parents in 1999, as compared with $52,502 in married-couple families with children. From 1999 to 2000, Chester County real dollar per capita income (eliminating inflation) increased by 2.2%.

Child Support Payments: There were 395[7] families receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families in fiscal year 2002, but only 27.6 % had child support court orders. Their average monthly payment of child support was $ 234, including child support receipts and tax refund intercepts. In addition, during fiscal year 2002, an estimated 808 parents in non-TANF families were obligated to pay a monthly average of $ 213. Information is not available regarding the amount actually paid.

HEALTH

Good health during a child's formative years helps children to reach their maximum potential. Good health requires healthy lifestyles and effective primary care, starting during the prenatal period and continuing through adolescence into adulthood. Children's health reflects the well-being of the community, as well as how adequately they are protected.

Prenatal Care: Early and continuous prenatal care can make a significant difference in assuring births of healthy babies. Delayed or insufficient prenatal care is associated with low birthweight and other health risks for infants. In 2001, 91, or 21.0% of pregnant women received no prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy. In 2001, 111, or 25.6% of pregnant women received less than adequate prenatal care: 43 or 18.9% of Whites and 68 or 32.9% of African-Americans and Others. In that same year, women received no prenatal care at all.



Low Birthweight: Low birthweight of less than 5.5 pounds and very low birthweight of less than 3.3 pounds are associated with health risks and growth and development problems. In 2001, 38 or 8.8% of all babies in the county were born with low birthweight: 9.7% of African-American and Other babies and 7.9% of White babies. During 1999-2001, approximately 29 or 2.1% of all babies were born with very low birthweight and had the most serious complications: 1.8% of White babies and 2.3% of African-American and Other babies. The cost of hospitalization for each newborn low birthweight baby in the county in 1999 - 2001 was $14,839 and $85,360 for each very low birthweight baby, compared with $2,080 for a baby of normal birthweight. The result was excess cost in the county of $889,395 for all low birthweight babies, of which $638,481 was for very low birthweight babies.

Infant Mortality: During the decade since 1989-91, the overall infant mortality rate decreased by 52.8% from 16.6 to 7.9 per 1000 live births. For Whites, the rate decreased 65.6% from 8.1 to 2.8 per 1000 live births, while for African-Americans and Others the rate decreased 44.7% from 23.8 to 13.1 per 1000 live births. Over the three-year period 1999-2001, 2 White and 9 African-American and Other infants died before age one. By comparison, 6 White and 21 African-American and Other infants died during 1989-91.

[7] Number is an unduplicated count for the entire fiscal year.

Child Injuries and Deaths: Childhood deaths and injuries reflect whether communities are safe for children. In 2001, children in the Chester County went to the emergency room 1,275 times because of injuries. Boys are injured more often than girls. Children visit the emergency room at comparable rates for each age from 0 to 17.

In South Carolina, the major causes of death among young children are unintentional injuries, cancer, homicide, and congenital anomalies. Over the three year period 1999-2001, 3 White and 1 African-American and Other children ages 1-14 died in the county. During 1989-91, 4 White and 8 African-American and Other children died.

Immunization: Immunization rates are an important indication of whether young children are receiving adequate preventive health care. During FY 1989-90, 42.1% of children less than two years old seen in public health clinics were not fully immunized against such preventable diseases as Polio, Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Haemophilus Influenza B and Whooping Cough. After a concerted statewide campaign to increase immunizations, the percentage of children seen in public health clinics who were not fully immunized in January 2001 had declined in the county to 5.9%. The DHEC statewide birth registry survey of all two year old children found that 88.1% were fully immunized in 2001. This success demonstrates the potential to improve the status of children when the leadership of the state and its communities act decisively together.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Children and youth are infected with sexually transmitted diseases through sexual abuse or irresponsible sexual activity. National prevalence rates indicate: a 1 in 8 chance that sexually active 15 year-old girls will develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), the most rapidly increasing cause of infertility; 10% of sexually active adolescent girls and boys are infected with chlamydia, the most common cause of PID; and as many as 15% of teen girls are infected with human papilloma virus, often with strains linked to cervical cancer. Furthermore, research evidence indicates that susceptibility to HIV/AIDS increases by 3 to 8 times through prior infection with various STDs.

According to national studies, approximately 1 in 4 sexually experienced youth aged 13-19 acquires a STD ever year; since two-thirds of all high school students have had sexual intercourse and half engage in intercourse over a thr month period, this would suggest that 10-15% of teens are infected with STDs annually. For 2000, this would indicate th an estimated 349 to 524 youth ages 13-19 in the county were infected with a STD. Many infections are either not identifi for treatment or not reported. In the county, there were 1 reported cases of children under age 15 and 14 youth ages 1 19 infected with gonorrhea; 2 youth under 15 and 85 ages 15 - 19 were reported infected with chlamydia. Youth wi undiagnosed and untreated STDs often spread their infections.

Healthy Lifestyles: Although no county data is available, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2001 found that ma high school students are not following good health habits. The YRBS revealed that 26% felt that they were overweight; 42 were trying to lose weight: 27% of boys and 57% of girls. Although during a week 79% of high school students ate fru 59% ate salad, and over 83% ate vegetables, only 17% ate the recommended five or more servings of fruit and vegetabl per day. During a week, 49% did stretching or muscle strengthening exercises, and 59% exercised three or more times f 20 minutes in sports that made them sweat or breathe hard. However, 11% of students engaged in no vigorous or modera activity at all during a week: 8% of boys and 13% of girls.

Tobacco Use:* Cigarette smoking starts at a young age and often becomes habitual. In the county during 2002 among all students 15 and older, 20.2% first smoked by age 11, 42.9% by age 13, and 60.7% by age 15. In a typical month, 26.5% of 7th and 8th graders and 33.7% of high school students smoked cigarettes. White youths were much more likely than African-Americans to smoke: 39.5% of White male and 39.6% of White female 7th to 12th graders used cigarettes, as compared with 29.0% of African-American males and 17.7% of African American females. A smaller but significant group of high school students (4.6%) used smokeless tobacco monthly; it was used primarily by White males (15.8% compared with 0.9% of all other race and sex groups).

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* Data is from the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking.

Disabilities: No data are collected on the true prevalence of disabilities within the county. According to national reported estimates, over 10% of children and youth have developmental disabilities at any point in time, and more than 17 are affected at some time before age 18 by deafness, blindness, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, speech defects, development delays, learning disabilities, and emotional or behavioral problems. For 2000 this suggests that at least 917 children ar youth under age 18 in the county are currently affected by disabilities.

Approximately 5% of children and youth nationally have serious disabilities which have lifelong implications fo work, social life and community living. Typically among children and youth, there are 1 - 2% who are mentally retarded, - 3% with serious emotional disturbances, over 1% with orthopedic or multiple disabilities, including cerebral palsy an many hereditary conditions, and under 1% with visual or hearing impairments.

Other chronic health problems also affect the lives of many children. Over 3% of children have one or more these limitations. Such serious chronic conditions affect 1 - 2% who have respiratory problems (asthma and chron bronchitis), 0.5 - 1.0% with neurological problems (epilepsy and seizures), and less than 1% with circulatory problem (congenital heart defects and acquired diseases).

Other disabilities are identified primarily in school performance. These would include 479 students in grades 1- with learning disabilities and 211 students in grades 1-12 with speech/language deficits.

Disabilities are caused by genetics, disease, poor prenatal conditions, injuries, and environmental factors. For example, lead exposure, primarily from paint dust, was detected in over 1% of all children screened, including 10 in Chester County.

Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: While over 20% of 9-17 year olds meet diagnostic criteria for some form of mental disorder, the number with serious emotional disturbance and impaired functioning in family, school, or community activities is: 9-13% for substantial functional impairment and 5-9% for extreme functional impairment. The rates among poor children are at the higher end of these ranges. Based on a federal formula for estimating prevalence, in the county there are 12% or 585 seriously emotionally disturbed 9-17 year olds with substantial functional impairment and 8% or 390 with extreme functional impairment during the course of a year. Conduct disorders, attention deficit, depression, and anxiety disorders are the most prevalent, each affecting 3% or more of school-aged children. These disorders may occur simultaneously in a child. The prevalence rates are highest among males, adolescents, and disadvantaged persons in communities under stress and lacking social cohesion; depression, however, is more prevalent among females. On the YRBS, 20% of boys and 33% of girls in high school reported that during the past year they felt so sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that they stopped doing some usual activities. Another indicator of emotional problems is the 8% of high school students in South Carolina who reported that they had "attempted suicide" in the past year: 5% of boys and 10% of girls. Suicide attempts resulted in 4% of high school students reporting that they required treatment by a doctor or nurse for injury, poisoning, or overdose.

Inadequate Healthcare: No county level data is routinely collected regarding the number of children and youth with inadequate healthcare. According to estimates for 2000-02 by the Bureau of the Census through the annual Current Population Survey, the statewide average rate of uninsured children and youth under age 18 in families with incomes under 200% of poverty in South Carolina was 16.6%, and 9.9% above 200% of poverty. If these rates are applied to the county, there are 737 children in the county below 200% of poverty with no health insurance, and 470 children above 200% of poverty with no health insurance, for a total of 1,207 uninsured children in Chester County. The number lacking basic accessible primary care is at least double the number lacking insurance. Those lacking primary care are often dependent on health services at school. The ratio of students to nurses recommended nationally is 750:1. In the county, this would suggest the need for 8 nurses, compared with 4 currently working in the schools.

Medicaid: For several years, the State of South Carolina has emphasized enrolling eligible children into Medicaid. In late 1997, South Carolina implemented its version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, Partners for Healthy Children (PHC), and aggressively pursued outreach enrollment for PHC and Medicaid. As a result, enrollment of children ages 0 through 18 in Chester County has increased by 87.5% from June 1997 to June 2001; thus Medicaid and PHC were serving 48.9% of all children in that age range. The total Medicaid expenditures in South Carolina for services provided to children ages 0 through 18 for state fiscal year 2002 were $991 million, at an average statewide expenditure of $2,343 per child enrolled, approximate Medicaid expenditure for children in the county would be $10.5 million.

In June 2001, the total number of Chester County children, birth through 18, enrolled in Medicaid was 4,486. The total can be broken down into the following age and race groupings:

	White	African American	Hispanic	Other	Total
Children under 1	129	185	2	10	326
Children 1 - 5	450	763	2	33	1,248
Children 6 - 14	741	1,383	11	74	2,209
Children 15 - 18	237	458	0	8	703
Total	1,557	2,789	15	125	4,486

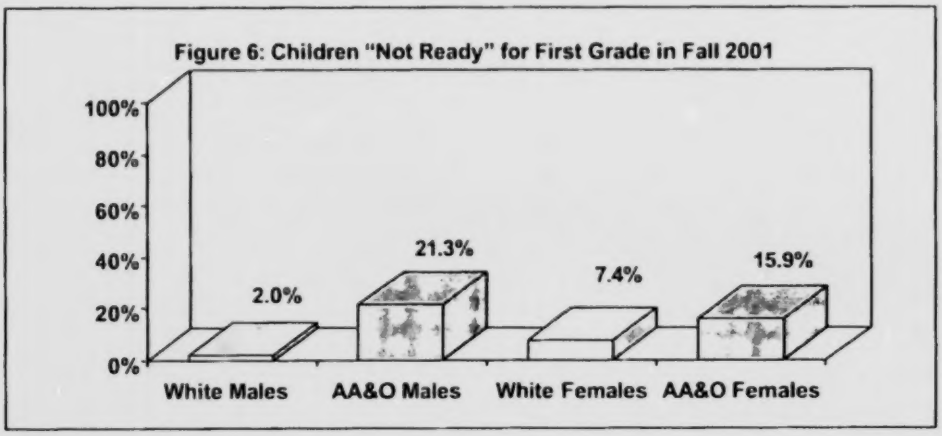
Ambulatory Care: When children lack adequate primary care, whether through lack of insurance, through limite access, or through failing to utilize available care, preventable and treatable conditions become serious and requi hospitalization. A useful indicator of inadequate primary care is the percentage of all hospitalizations that could typicall have been avoided through ambulatory care, especially for pneumonia, asthma, diarrhea and vomiting, dehydration, a severe ear, nose, and throat infections. The share of hospitalizations for these types of conditions could normally be ke below 20%; for children in the county under the age of 18 during 2001, the share was 40.0% for Whites and 41.7% f African-Americans and Others.

READINESS AND EARLY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Too many children reach school without the readiness skills needed for success in learning, such as language, soci skills, visual and auditory discrimination, memory recall, and knowledge of colors, letters, numbers, names of objects, et Likewise, some schools are not ready to respond appropriately to the varying developmental levels of children in the ea grades. As a result, too many students do not experience the success needed to create the motivation and engagement th sustain learning.

1st Grade "Readiness" on 2001-02 Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB):

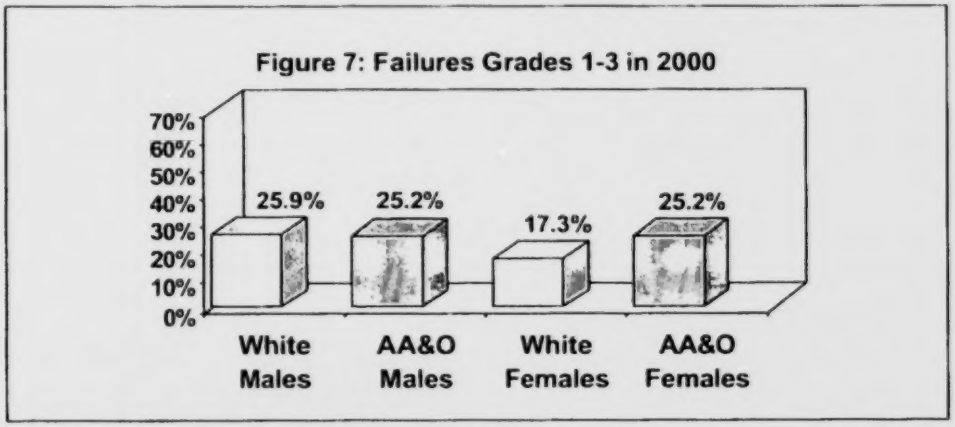
58 children not ready 11.3% children not ready



1st Grade Failures in 2002:

41 children failing 7.9% children failing

Failures Grades 1-3 in 2002 (approximate cumulative percentage of grades one, two and three):	
95 children failing	18.0% children failing



Over-age for Grade 3 in 2001	
193 children over-age	36.2% children over-age

Special Education: Large numbers of children are placed in special education classes. In elementary school, 154 six and seven year olds and 151 eight and nine year-olds were enrolled in special education classes during 2001-02, approximately 14.9% and 14.1% of their age groups respectively: 16.7% of White 8 – 9 year olds were in special education and 11.8% of African American and Others.

Readiness Summary: A serious problem exists in terms of student readiness and school success in the early grades. With 11.3% assessed not ready for the 1st grade, 36.2% over age in grade 3, and 14.1% of eight and nine year-olds placed in special education, unacceptably large numbers of students still begin school without good prospects of success in future school achievement and graduation; however, great improvement has occurred since the mid 1990s.

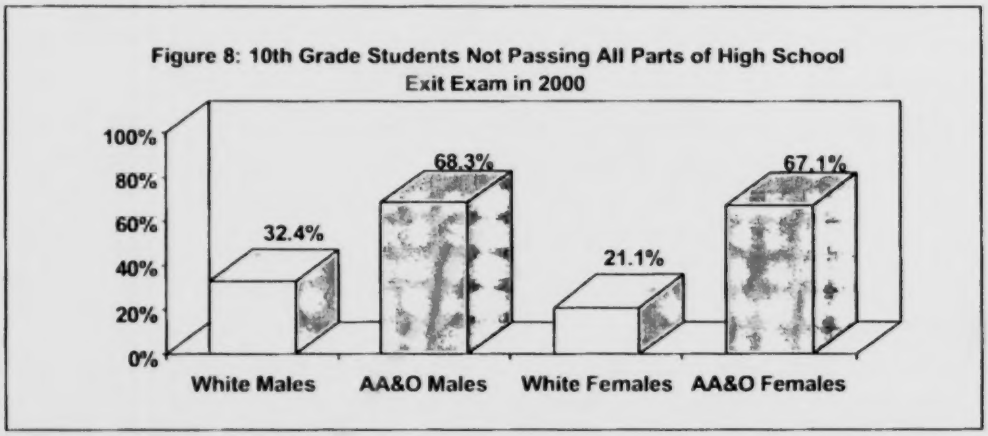
School Achievement

By the end of elementary school, significant numbers of students perform below minimum standards. The following standardized test measures, comparing student performance to state minimum standards, should be used in combination with routine classroom assessments more reflective of real-world performance skills.

Special Education: Special education placements reflect both the significant number of children with serious handicapping conditions and a large number of students with mild learning and behavioral problems that have not been accommodated successfully by the regular educational program. The result is a large system of self-contained, resource, and itinerant services to meet the needs of 211 speech and language impaired, 479 learning disabled, 28 emotionally disabled, 145 mentally impaired, and 46 physically handicapped, deaf, blind, and other handicapped students. Special education classes served approximately 14.3% of all students in grades 1 - 12 during 2001-2002.

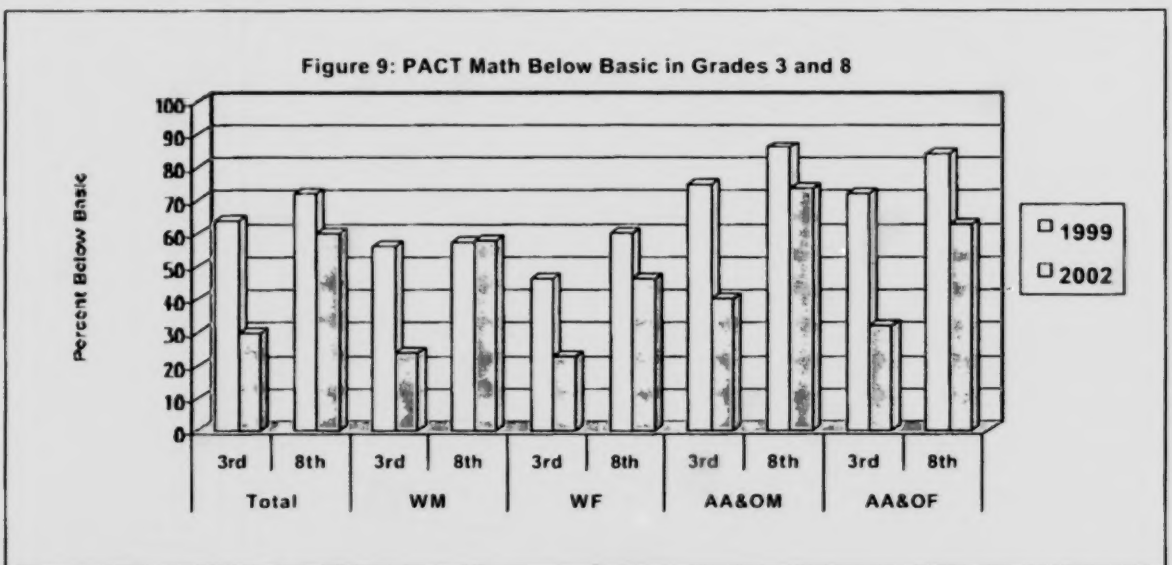
Exit Exam - not passing all parts of Exit Exam on first attempt in the 10th grade in 2002

129 students did not pass all parts — 46.7% of students did not pass all parts



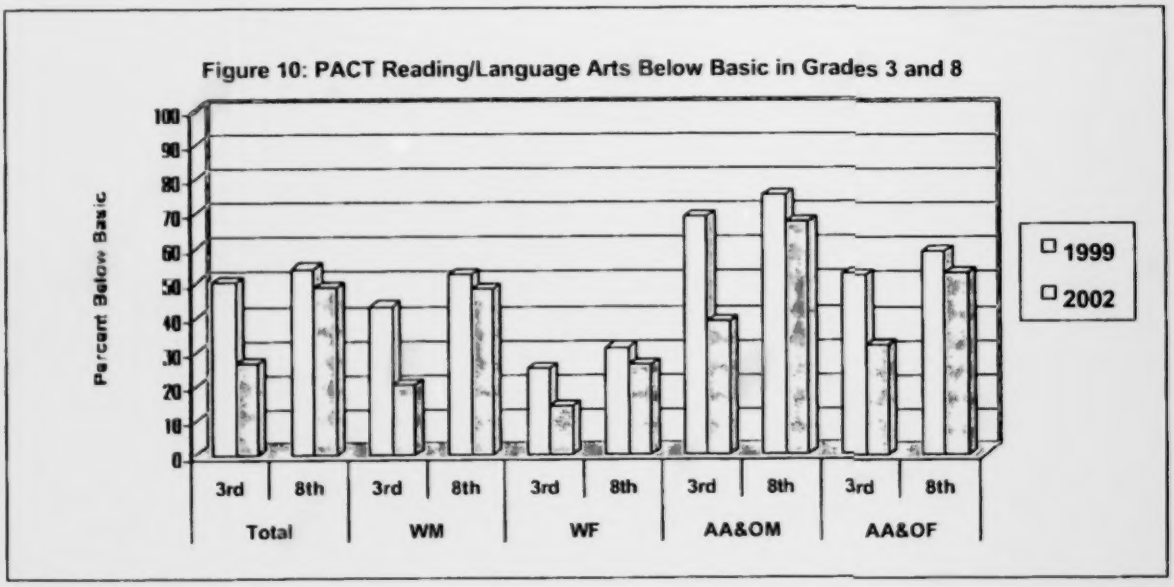
Achievement Trends: How has performance on standardized achievement tests changed over the past 20 years? During the 1980s, student performance on the BSAP tests improved dramatically. Between 1981 and 1990, the percentage of 8th grade students in Chester County who did not meet standards declined from 67.8% to 39.2% in math and from 61.1% to 32.6% in reading. During the 1990's the BSAP trend changed, with 58.6% not meeting 8th grade math standards in 1998 and 45.2% in reading. On standardized tests, the first year when South Carolina students take the exam is comparable to the challenge encountered by the national norm group which took the test only once. Looking at first year data, the percentage of 4th grade students at or below the 25th percentile of national norms was 48% in 1983 on the CTBS, 43.4% in 1990 on the Stanford, and 49.8% in 1995 on the Metropolitan; for 9th graders, the percentage in the bottom quarter was 49.7% in 1990 and 43.1% in 1995. Although not comparable, the percent below basic on the 4th grade PACT in 1999, the first year of administration, was 56.0%, but in 2002 35.3% of 4th graders were below basic in reading and math; the percentage of 8th graders below basic in reading and math averaged 63.0% in 1999 and 54.1% in 2002.

PACT: The Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) was first administered in 1999 for grades 3 - 8 in math and reading/language arts. Math assesses skills in numbers, numerical and algebraic concepts, patterns and functions, geometry, measurement, probability and statistics. The percentage of students scoring below basic in math has decreased by 30.8% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 877 students below basic in grades 3-8 but there would have been an additional 391 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
		Math (%)				
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	29.8	23.6	22.8	40.0	31.8
	4	34.4	29.4	20.7	43.0	43.4
	5	42.3	29.4	31.4	51.6	54.7
	6	45.5	29.6	29.3	54.4	61.9
	7	55.0	48.8	44.1	60.8	64.7
	8	59.9	57.5	46.1	73.6	62.9
Basic	3	47.4	43.9	46.5	45.4	53.5
	4	40.7	34.6	44.6	47.1	37.9
	5	41.9	47.8	43.0	37.1	40.6
	6	39.3	41.7	44.4	39.0	33.6
	7	33.4	31.5	44.1	28.8	30.2
	8	34.4	35.4	44.3	24.5	32.8
Proficient	3	14.9	17.1	21.1	8.5	14.0
	4	14.1	21.3	19.0	4.1	11.7
	5	9.6	11.8	14.9	8.2	3.9
	6	10.7	19.1	21.2	3.7	3.0
	7	7.9	9.4	10.2	8.8	3.6
	8	5.3	7.1	8.7	1.8	3.4
Advanced	3	7.9	15.4	9.6	6.2	0.8
	4	10.7	14.7	15.7	5.8	6.9
	5	6.3	11.0	10.7	3.1	0.8
	6	4.5	9.6	5.1	2.9	1.5
	7	3.7	10.2	1.7	1.6	1.4
	8	0.4	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.9

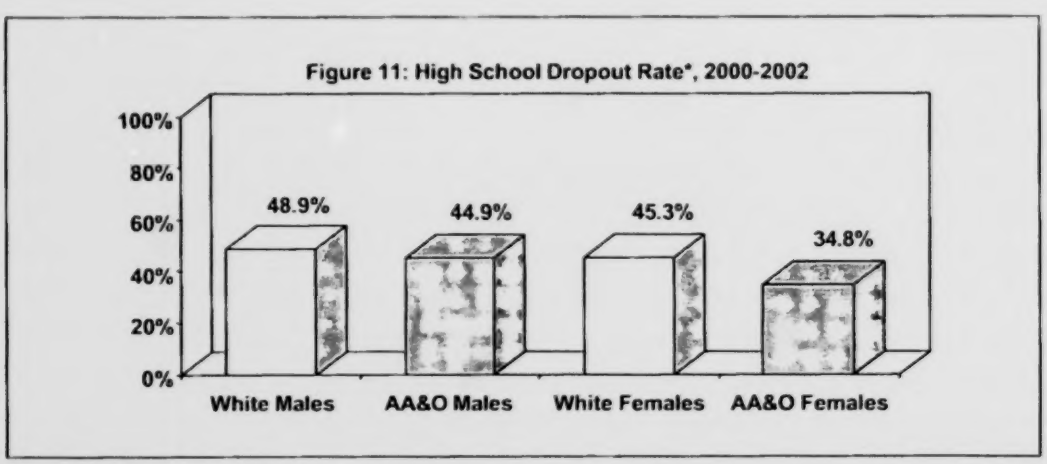
Reading/Language Arts assesses reading, listening, speaking, writing, research, and communication with technology. The first PACT assessment found a high percentage of elementary and middle grades students performing below standards and only a modest number above basic. The percentage of students scoring below basic in reading/language arts has decreased by 30.0% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 710 students below basic in grades 3 - 8 but there would have been an additional 304 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
	Reading/Language Arts (%)					
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	26.6	20.3	14.0	38.5	31.8
	4	36.1	35.3	20.7	49.6	38.6
	5	37.2	27.9	14.9	54.4	46.9
	6	39.2	30.4	22.4	54.9	43.3
	7	39.5	34.1	16.5	53.7	51.1
	8	48.4	48.2	26.1	67.3	52.6
Basic	3	40.7	39.0	36.0	43.1	44.2
	4	46.7	50.0	40.5	43.8	51.0
	5	48.1	57.4	56.2	36.3	45.3
	6	40.6	42.6	37.8	36.8	44.8
	7	45.1	46.5	53.9	37.4	43.2
	8	39.1	43.9	45.2	29.1	37.9
Proficient	3	30.0	38.2	43.9	17.7	22.5
	4	16.1	13.2	36.4	6.6	9.7
	5	13.6	13.2	25.6	9.4	7.8
	6	16.5	21.7	32.7	6.0	10.4
	7	13.8	17.1	26.1	8.9	5.0
	8	11.6	7.9	27.0	3.6	7.8
Advanced	3	2.6	2.4	6.1	0.8	1.6
	4	1.1	1.5	2.5	0.0	0.7
	5	1.1	1.5	3.3	0.0	0.0
	6	3.8	5.2	7.1	2.3	1.5
	7	1.6	2.3	3.5	0.0	0.7
	8	0.9	0.0	1.7	0.0	1.7

Dropout Rate - 8th grade students no longer enrolled in grade 12
(average of students for the three years ending 2000-2002)

215 students drop out annually **43.3% students drop out?**



Dropouts: Distressing numbers of students drop out and fail to graduate. An average of 36.0% of 8th graders failed to graduate** from county schools five years later during the period 1980-84, 26.8% during 1985-89, and 22.6% during 1990-94, 36.7% during 1995-97 and 43.4% during 1998-2000***.

During 2001-02, 93.7% of all who did graduate received the State High School Diploma, while the remaining 6.3% received a State Certificate for meeting the required Carnegie units but not passing the Exit Exam.

*12th grade enrollment compared to 8th grade enrollment four years earlier
** This is calculated by using 8th grade enrollment to graduation data.
*** 2001 data will be available soon and will be posted on the website

Fortunately, many dropouts enroll in adult education programs and either earn a high school diploma or obtain a GED. During 2001-02, 27 Adult Education high school diplomas were awarded to school completers and in 2001 69 GEDs were awarded in the county. Over time, adult education high school diplomas and GEDs increase the effective school completion rate substantially. In the 2000 Census, 20.6% of county resident 25 - 34 year-olds said they had not completed either high school or a GED.

Achievement Summary: The numbers of students testing below basic on the PACT and dropping out range from 26.6% to 61.9%. Thus, far too many students fail to acquire the knowledge, skills, learning habits, and motivation necessary to compete in the economy or contribute to society in the 21st Century.

ADOLESCENT RISK BEHAVIORS

Academic achievement is greatly influenced by the prevailing youth culture which often promotes popularity with peers and partying rather than studying and doing well in school. The prevalence of adolescent risk-taking and under-achievement is illustrated by the poor grades of substance-abusing teens.

Substance Abuser Rates at Levels of Academic Performance

	Usual School Grades in Past Year					Total
	A Range	B Range	C Range	D Range	F Range	
Smoked Cigarettes (in past 30 days)	19.2%	26.3%	38.4%	64.1%	86.1%	33.8%
Drank 5 or More Drinks on One Occasion (in past 30 days)	17.1%	17.5%	27.1%	45.9%	45.9%	23.5%
Used Any Illicit Drug (in past 30 days)	14.8%	20.6%	26.1%	45.5%	72.1%	24.6%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

As influence from parents and other adults declines during adolescence, significant numbers of students engage in violence, crime, school offenses, depressive emotions and attempted suicide:

Risk Behaviors Participated in During Past 12 Months	White Male		White Female		African American Male		African American Female		Total		Total (Grade 7-12)
	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	
Carried a handgun or knife for self-defense?	31.3%	35.7%	7.7%	6.9%	24.6%	22.5%	7.1%	10.5%	17.6%	18.4%	18.1%
Carried a handgun or knife as a weapon?	9.9%	15.0%	2.8%	2.0%	15.0%	14.7%	5.7%	5.9%	8.4%	9.1%	8.8%
Been in a fight with someone?	45.1%	32.2%	23.1%	23.1%	47.5%	25.8%	35.1%	22.5%	37.7%	25.8%	31.0%
Hit your boyfriend or girlfriend?	3.9%	1.8%	9.8%	12.9%	8.4%	4.6%	26.1%	31.0%	12.1%	13.4%	12.9%
Been hit by your boyfriend or girlfriend?	8.7%	6.9%	7.4%	12.0%	17.3%	10.5%	16.2%	17.1%	12.5%	11.9%	12.1%
Rec'd detention or in-school suspension?	47.7%	44.8%	46.5%	38.4%	53.9%	41.9%	50.5%	40.8%	49.7%	41.4%	45.0%
Been suspended from school?	18.9%	17.7%	9.2%	11.3%	31.5%	25.3%	20.5%	13.0%	19.9%	16.5%	18.0%
Stolen anything worth > $5?	13.4%	19.8%	10.7%	13.1%	18.8%	12.0%	12.0%	10.0%	13.7%	13.6%	13.6%
Had an accident while driving?	NA	14.1%	NA	10.0%	NA	7.4%	NA	5.0%	NA	9.2%	NA
Been arrested and booked?	5.9%	7.1%	2.9%	4.4%	9.1%	9.1%	2.1%	2.2%	5.0%	5.5%	5.3%
Felt hopeless for two weeks or more?	16.0%	17.8%	26.2%	32.4%	15.5%	11.0%	28.5%	22.4%	21.7%	21.3%	21.5%
Seriously considered attempting suicide?	9.5%	9.7%	10.7%	16.5%	6.9%	2.3%	5.6%	7.9%	8.1%	9.3%	8.8%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

Adolescence is often a time of taking risks and asserting independence from adults. When asked whether they would tell an adult about a problem, the following percentages of county students said they would be "not likely" or "very unlikely" to tell if they:

-heard a student threaten to harm someone: 31.3% middle school, 48.4% high school;
-saw a student with a handgun at school: 24.2% middle school, 23.4% high school;
-saw a student with a knife at school: 25.7% middle school, 32.9% high school;
-saw a student with drugs at school: 34.0% middle school, 64.3% high school;

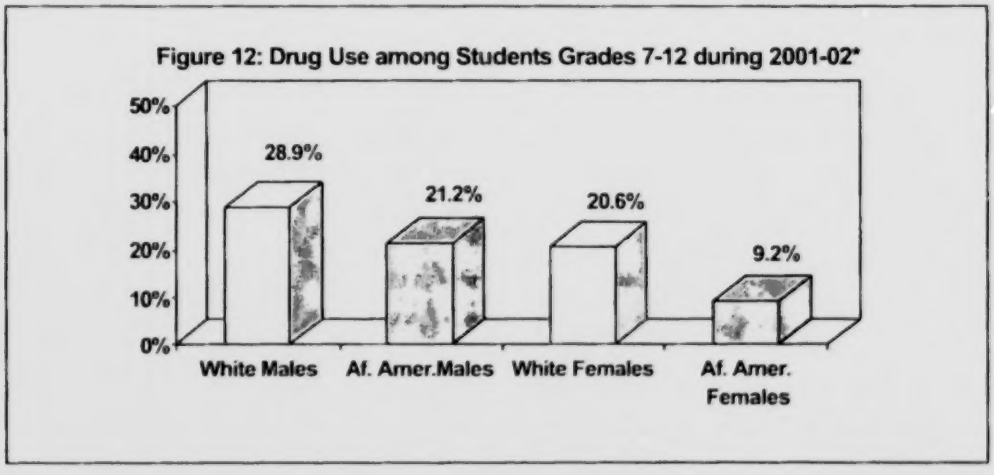
Alcohol Use:* In the county during 2001-02, 21.7% of 7th and 8th graders and 41.0% of high schoolers said they had used alcohol in the past month. Of White males in grades 7 - 12, 40.1% had used it in the past month, compared with 29.7% of African-American males; likewise, 36.4% of White females said they had used alcohol, compared with 30.2% of African-American females. Many youth first used alcohol at an early age: 14.4% had used alcohol by age 11 or younger, 35.4% by age 13, and 65.0% by age 15.

During the previous year, 23.5% of 7th and 8th graders and 36.6% of high schoolers said they had ridden with a drinking driver. Of seniors who drive, 24.7% said they had driven after drinking. Widespread use is encouraged by the ready availability and perceived low risk of alcohol use. Among students who expressed an opinion, 42.7% of eighth graders and 68.5% of seniors felt that beer was easy to get. Also, 69.4% of eighth graders and 76.4% of seniors felt there was not a great risk in drinking two drinks a day, and 46.5% of eighth graders and 61.0% of high schoolers felt there was not a great risk in drinking 5 drinks every weekend.

Heavy Drinking:* In 2001-02, 9.6% of 7th and 8th graders and 23.6% of high school students in the county repor drinking 5 or more drinks in a day during the past month. When asked how many drinks, if any, they usually consur 16.9% of all county students in grades 7 - 12 in 2001-02 responded 3 or more drinks at a time and 9.1% reported usually 5 more drinks. Among high school students, 22.1% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 12.2% 5 or mc Among seniors, 25.2% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 13.3% 5 or more; however 25.8% of seni said that they drank 5 or more drinks in a day once or more during the past month.

Drugs:* In 2001-02, 11.0% of 7th and 8th graders and 24.6% of high schoolers in the county reported using ille drugs during the previous month. Among students in grades 7 - 12, use was reported by 28.9% of White males, 20.6% Wl females, 21.2% of African-American males, and 9.2% of African-American females. Some young people initiated drug at an early age: 6.5% had experienced their first use by age 11 or sooner; 19.2% had used a drug by age 13, and 39.3% by a 15.

In the past year, 14.0% of all high school students in the county who drive and 20.7% of seniors who drive said that they had driven after using drugs. Such use is encouraged by the ready availability of drugs: 24.8% of 8th graders who had an opinion said it is easy to get marijuana and 11.3% said it is easy to get cocaine or crack; 66.2% of seniors said it is easy to get marijuana and 27.7% said it was easy to get cocaine or crack.



* Data is from the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking.

Sexual Activity and Pregnancy: Many teenagers now engage in sexual activity. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) administered to a representative sample of high school students throughout South Carolina in 2001 showed that sexual activity begins at an early age: 7% of female and 21% of male students have engaged in intercourse before age 13; by age 15, 38% the females and 49% of males have engaged in sexual intercourse. Statewide, 48% of females and 50% of males in the 11th and 12th grades reported engaging in intercourse during the past three months. Furthermore, 27% of female and 33% of male 12th graders have had intercourse with four or more partners during their lifetimes.

Premature sexual activity often results in pregnancy. In the county, 52 girls between the ages of 14 and 17 became pregnant in 1999, 52 in 2000 and 32 in 2001. This represented 3.2% of all girls ages 14 – 17 in 2001; several times this percentage become pregnant at least once by age 18. The 2001 pregnancy rate for ages 14 - 17 was 2.0% for Whites and 4.5% for African-Americans and Others. Of all pregnancies of 14-17 year olds, 71.9% resulted in live births, with almost all other pregnancies ending in abortions.

Teen pregnancy rates increased substantially across the state during the 1980s; as a result, greater emphasis v devoted to preventing teen pregnancy. Since 1989, the teen pregnancy rate in Chester County has decreased by 47.2 Overall, it has decreased by 41.2% for Whites, and decreased by 53.1% for African Americans and Others.

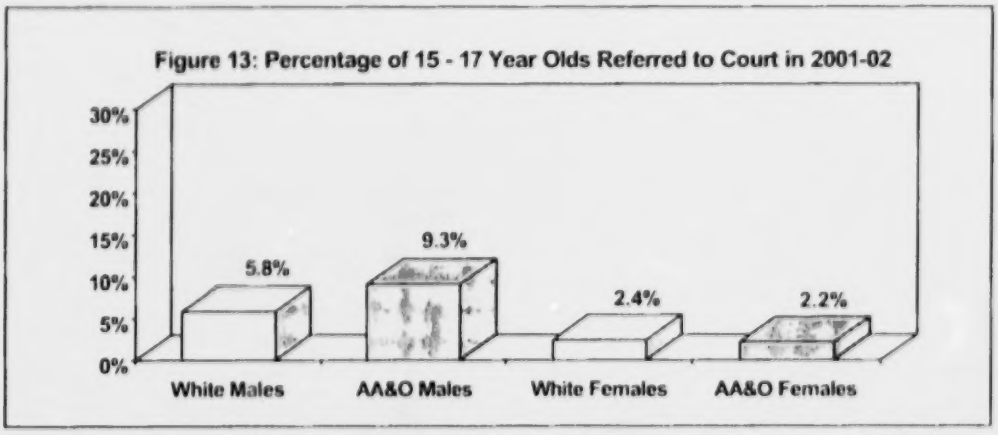
Juvenile Delinquency: In 2001-02, 133 individual juvenile offenders in the county were referred to the Solicitor for delinquency; of these, 11.3% were age 12 or younger, 30.8% were 13 or 14, and 57.9% were 15 or older.

Of the referrals to the family court, 14.7% of all referrals were for violent and serious crimes which include drug trafficking, acts against persons for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and serious property offenses for arson and burglary. Also, 27 juvenile cases constituting 17.3% of all referrals were for status offenses. Status offenses include truancy, running away, incorrigibility, and other offenses that would not be crimes for adults.

Delinquents are likely to live in families with low income: 9.7% lived in families with income under $10,000, 19.4% with $10,000-$19,999 and 71.0% with $20,000 or more. Furthermore, only 19.4% of delinquents lived with both natural parents, while 55.9% lived in a single parent household, 24.7% lived with other relatives, and 0.0% in other situations including parent plus step-parent. Delinquency or criminal activity occurs among many related family members: 35.5% had at least one family member who was delinquent or had some criminal record.

Youth referred to the family courts are likely to have been there before. In 2001-02, 45.9% had at least one prior referral and 18.8% had been referred to court 3 times or more. Many were referred at an early age. For delinquents 15 - 17 years old, 3.3% had been referred by the age of 10, 9.9% by the age of 12, and 24.0% by the age of 14.

During 2001-02, 76 youth ages 15 to 17 were referred to the family courts. In the county, 5.0% of all youth 15 to 17 were referred to court in one year and roughly double that percentage are referred at least once by age 18. Furthermore, the National Youth Survey indicates that typically across the United States the proportion of youth engaging in crime is two or three times the number ever apprehended. In 2001-02, there were 14 juveniles committed from the county to DJJ custody and placed in residential programs.



Not in School or Employed: During 2000, 380 teenagers ages 16-19 were idle, meaning they neither worked any hours nor were enrolled in school, even part-time. Idle teens comprised 20.2% of their age group: 20.9% for White and 19.5% African-American & Other teens. A much larger number, perhaps twice as many, were not engaged in either school full time or work full time. The data reflect a serious failure in both school completion and the critical transition from school to work, significantly affecting their development as future workers. For an in-depth description of the problems of young adults seeking to enter the labor force, visit our website at www.scyoungadults.org for our state and county reports on 18-29 year olds.

Deaths: During 1997-2001, 11 youth ages 15 to 19 died. Historically, automobile accidents have been the major cause, resulting in 4 deaths between 1996 and 2000; homicides killed 1 youth 15 to 19 years old during the five-year period, and 1 youth committed suicide. Alcohol use is often a significant factor in deaths among teenagers.

SUMMARY

Facing the Scope of Problems: The data on families, economic status, health, readiness, school achievement, and adolescent risk behaviors provide a troublesome picture of the condition of children in Chester County. The 38.3% of children in single-parent families, 21.5% in poverty, 43.4% not graduating from school, 41.0% of high school students using alcohol and 24.6% using drugs each month, and other data profiled in this report suggest that too many children are at risk of not growing up to become self-supporting adults, good family members, and responsible community citizens.

Emphasizing the Positive: South Carolina Kids Count reports have been developed to describe the problems of children in each of the counties. Fortunately, the majority of children and youth are doing well, and some very well. One simple description is the percentage of children who do not fall into the problem categories reported. For the county, 81.6% of children are born to non-teen mothers ages 20 or older, 50.7% are born to married parents, and 61.7% lived in two-parent families; 78.5% were not poor and 50.7% lived in families with incomes above twice the poverty level for a family of three, $30,040 in 2002; 91.2% of babies were born with normal birthweights; 88.7% were assessed as ready for the first grade, 40.1% scored basic or better on PACT for 8th grade math and 51.6% for 8th grade reading, 53.3% passed all parts of the Exit Exam in the 10th grade, and 56.6% graduated with their class. In a typical month, 59.0% of high school students do not drink alcohol, 75.4% do not use drugs, and 74.7% do not smoke. Unfortunately, the absence of a problem is not always an indicator of success. Some data is available for exemplary performance: for example, 32.6% of 3rd graders and 12.5% of 8th graders scored proficient or advanced on PACT in reading and 22.8% of 3rd graders and 5.7% of 8th graders in math. Unfortunately, data on success is not generally available.

Despite the limitations of success data, we must emphasize the positive in providing good support and appropriate influences for children and youth. Recent philosophy and publications such as those of the Search Institute (700 South Third Street, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN, 55415-1138, tel. 1-800-888-7828, www.search-institute.org), emphasize the critical importance of "developmental assets" to promote and support positive development. One short book from the Search Institute, (What Kids Need to Succeed, by Peter J. Benson, Judy Gailbraith, and Pamela Espeland, 1995) presents an excellent array of suggestions for promoting developmental assets through families, community, faith congregations, and schools. If each family, school, religious congregation and community organization assertively worked to build such assets, the problems described in this report would be reduced dramatically. Such positive family-school-community efforts could improve South Carolina's national Kids Count ranking from the bottom 10 to the average or even into the top 10 by prevention of unnecessary problems affecting children and youth, as shown on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

All data presented in this report is the most recent available at the date it goes to the printer. This version of the Kids Count report will be revised as more recent and additional data become available. Please send us your corrections and suggestions for improvement. We welcome your ideas for ways to make the state and county reports more useful and accurate. Please utilize local data sources whenever possible to supplement the profile provided through our report.

Data related inquiries should be directed to:

Anne Wilson, Data Manager (awilson@drss.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-4810

Calls for **copies of reports** for other counties and inquiries regarding more recent reports should be made to:

Kim Hazel-Lohr, Project Manager (khazel@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-1295

For **policy questions and general comments**, please contact:

Dr. A. Baron Holmes, Project Director (bholmes@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-2291

Comparable reports for all 46 counties and for the state can also be found on the World Wide Web at

www.sckidscount.org

Our website also provides: links to other websites for indicators in our report; high to low rankings for individual indicators; information on how to improve SC's national rank; and a glossary of definitions.

The national Kids Count Report can be found on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website at www.aecf.org

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Chester County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Indicators	Most Recent Year	Number					Percent					R	
		1980*	1990*	Most Recent Data	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980 Rank	199
Health													
Low Birth Weight	2001	57	59	38	-33.3%	-35.6%	9.6	11.2	8.8	-8.1%	-21.1%	33	
White babies	2001	21	20	18	-14.3%	-10.0%	7.2	9.1	7.9	9.7%	-13.1%	39	
African American and Other babies	2001	36	39	20	-44.4%	-48.7%	11.9	12.6	9.7	-18.9%	-23.4%	21	
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	2001	277	281	111	-59.9%	-60.5%	46.6	53.1	25.6	-45.1%	-51.8%	35	
White babies	2001	94	78	43	-54.3%	-44.9%	32.1	35.5	18.9	-41.1%	-46.7%	34	
African American and Other babies	2001	183	203	68	-62.8%	-66.5%	60.6	65.7	32.9	-45.8%	-50.0%	33	
Infant Mortality	2001	29	27	11	-62.1%	-59.3%	1.7	1.7	0.8	-54.4%	-52.8%	25	
White babies	2001	14	6	2	-85.7%	-66.7%	1.7	0.8	0.3	-83.7%	-65.6%	37	
African American and Other babies	2001	15	21	9	-40.0%	-57.1%	1.7	2.4	1.3	-24.1%	-44.7%	6	
Family													
Births to mothers under 18	2001	65	42	23	-64.6%	-45.2%	10.9	7.9	5.3	-51.5%	-33.2%	39	
White babies	2001	19	15	7	-63.2%	-53.3%	6.5	6.8	3.1	-52.2%	-54.5%	31	
African American and Other babies	2001	46	27	16	-65.2%	-40.7%	15.2	8.7	7.7	-49.3%	-11.5%	39	
Births to mothers under 20	2001	146	119	80	-45.2%	-32.8%	24.5	22.5	18.4	-25.0%	-18.2%	38	
White babies	2001	57	40	24	-57.9%	+40.0%	19.5	18.2	10.6	-45.5%	-41.7%	38	
African American and Other babies	2001	89	79	56	-37.1%	+29.1%	29.5	25.6	27.1	-8.2%	5.8%	34	
Births to mothers with less than a high school education	2001	236	156	106	-55.1%	-32.1%	39.7	29.5	24.4	-38.5%	-17.3%	36	
White babies	2001	112	68	48	-57.1%	-29.4%	38.2	30.9	21.1	-44.8%	-31.7%	41	
African American and Other babies	2001	124	88	58	-53.2%	-34.1%	41.1	28.5	28.0	-31.8%	-1.6%	22	
Births to single mothers****	2001	178	238	214	+20.2%	-10.1%	29.9	45.0	49.3	64.8%	9.6%	31	
White babies	2001	25	37	61	+144.0%	+64.9%	8.5	16.8	26.9	215.3%	59.9%	41	
African American and Other babies	2001	153	201	153	+0.0%	-23.9%	50.7	65.0	73.9	45.9%	13.6%	35	
Children in single parent families	2000	1,688	2,325	2,923	+73.2%	+25.7%	20.1	30.9	38.3	90.3%	23.8%	27	
White	2000	429	545	893	+108.2%	+63.9%	9.1	13.7	21.9	140.3%	59.6%	13	
African American and Other	2000	1,255	1,764	2,030	+61.8%	+15.1%	32.0	50.0	57.1	78.3%	14.1%	20	
Education													
Not Ready for Grade 1	2001	271	176	58	-78.6%	-67.0%	49.3	30.3	11.3	-77.1%	-62.7%	41	
White males	2001	49	28	3	-93.9%	-89.3%	36.8	21.2	2.0	-94.6%	-90.6%	38	
White females	2001	41	15	8	-80.5%	-46.7%	34.5	11.7	7.4	-78.6%	-36.8%	44	
African American and Other males	2001	104	85	27	-74.0%	-68.2%	67.5	48.6	21.3	-68.4%	-56.2%	41	
African American and Other females	2001	77	48	20	-74.0%	-58.3%	53.5	32.9	15.9	-70.3%	-51.7%	38	
Repeating Grades 1-3	2000	98	82	53	-45.9%	-35.4%	18.2	15.3	23.7	30.2%	54.9%	25	
White males	2000	17	29	18	+5.9%	-37.9%	13.9	24.5	25.9	86.3%	5.7%	12	
White females	2000	10	11	10	+0.0%	-9.1%	8.5	8.5	17.3	103.5%	103.5%	18	
African American and Other males	2000	45	29	13	-71.1%	-55.2%	29.6	18.8	25.2	-14.9%	34.0%	29	
African American and Other females	2000	25	13	11	-56.0%	-15.4%	17.5	9.7	25.2	44.0%	159.8%	22	
Grade 3 Math below standards*****	2002	236	122	148	-37.3%	+21.3%	47.1	23.7	29.8	-36.7%	25.7%	31	
White males	2002	45	14	29	-35.6%	+107.1%	39.5	13.0	23.6	-40.3%	81.5%	39	
White females	2002	33	21	26	-21.2%	+23.8%	28.7	15.1	22.8	-20.6%	51.0%	27	
African American and Other males	2002	97	50	52	-46.4%	+4.0%	65.1	35.7	40.0	-38.6%	12.0%	37	
African American and Other females	2002	57	37	41	-28.1%	+10.8%	48.7	28.9	31.8	-34.7%	10.0%	17	
Grade 3 Reading below standards*****	2002	229	98	132	-42.4%	+34.7%	45.7	19.0	26.6	-41.8%	40.0%	38	
White males	2002	40	14	25	-37.5%	+78.6%	35.1	12.8	20.3	-42.2%	58.6%	35	
White females	2002	26	13	16	-38.5%	+23.1%	22.6	9.4	14.0	-38.1%	48.9%	31	
African American and Other males	2002	103	45	50	-51.5%	+11.1%	69.1	32.1	38.5	-44.3%	19.9%	42	
African American and Other females	2002	55	26	41	-25.5%	+57.7%	47.0	20.3	31.8	-32.3%	56.7%	35	
Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT Grade 4	1998	258	212	181	-29.8%	-14.6%	48.0	43.4	38.6	-19.6%	-11.1%	43	
White males	1998	58	49	33	-43.1%	-32.7%	46.4	41.2	31.7	-31.7%	-23.1%	46	
White females	1998	31	35	34	+9.7%	-2.9%	26.5	26.5	28.1	6.0%	6.0%	39	
African American and Other males	1998	96	62	57	-40.6%	-8.1%	66.7	56.9	50.4	-24.4%	-11.4%	44	
African American and Other females	1998	72	66	56	-22.2%	-15.2%	48.0	51.6	43.4	-9.6%	-15.9%	42	

*Year of data is approximate in many cases.
**1 is best, 46 is worst.
*** Data include paternity acknowledgements.
**** BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Chester County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Education (continued)

Indicators	Most Recent Year	Number					Percent				
		1980*	1990*	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres
Grade 8 Math below state standards**	2002	364	165	272	-25.3%	+64.8%	67.8	39.2	59.9	-11.7%	52.8%
White males	2002	67	30	65	-3.0%	+116.7%	51.9	30.3	57.5	10.8%	89.8%
White females	2002	74	31	53	-28.4%	+71.0%	52.5	28.7	46.1	-12.2%	60.6%
African American and Other males	2002	107	47	81	-24.3%	+72.3%	82.3	47.0	73.6	-10.6%	56.6%
African American and Other females	2002	113	56	73	-35.4%	+30.4%	84.3	50.0	62.9	-25.4%	25.8%
Grade 8 Reading below state standards**	2002	329	137	220	-33.1%	+60.6%	61.1	32.6	48.4	-20.8%	48.5%
White males	2002	70	31	55	-21.4%	+77.4%	54.3	31.0	48.2	-11.2%	55.5%
White females	2002	46	22	30	-34.8%	+36.4%	32.6	20.6	26.1	-19.9%	26.7%
African American and Other males	2002	101	39	74	-30.8%	+89.7%	82.3	39.4	67.3	-18.2%	70.8%
African American and Other females	2002	103	43	61	-40.8%	+41.9%	76.3	38.4	52.6	-31.1%	37.0%
Grade 9 Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT	1998	NA	260	214	NA	-17.7%	NA	49.7	41.2	NA	-17.1%
White males	1998	NA	54	NA	NA	NA	NA	36	29.8	NA	-17.2%
White females	1998	NA	41	NA	NA	NA	NA	35.3	19.7	NA	-44.2%
African American and Other males	1998	NA	99	NA	NA	NA	NA	73.9	59.5	NA	-19.5%
African American and Other females	1998	NA	66	NA	NA	NA	NA	53.7	52.8	NA	-1.7%
Exit Exam (not passing all parts on 1st attempt)	2002	333	169	129	-61.3%	-23.7%	60.3	40.1	46.7	-22.6%	16.5%
White males	2002	69	29	23	-66.7%	-20.7%	47.9	27.9	32.4	-32.4%	16.1%
White females	2002	47	21	15	-68.1%	-28.6%	36.4	22.8	21.1	-42.0%	-7.5%
African American and Other males	2002	120	67	43	-64.2%	-35.8%	85.1	63.2	68.3	-19.7%	8.1%
African American and Other females	2002	97	52	47	-51.5%	-9.6%	70.3	43.7	67.1	-4.6%	53.5%
Dropout Rate (8th graders no longer enrolled in 12th grade 4 years later)	2000-02	135	157	215	+59.3%	+36.9%	23.9	28.8	43.3	81.0%	50.0%
White males	2000-02	42	53	58	+39.0%	+8.8%	29.0	36.9	48.9	68.4%	32.3%
White females	2000-02	31	35	58	+86.0%	+64.8%	23.0	25.9	45.3	97.2%	74.7%
African American and Other males	2000-02	35	42	54	+54.3%	+30.1%	22.8	30.6	44.9	96.8%	46.5%
African American and Other females	2000-02	28	28	46	+66.1%	+66.1%	20.5	21.1	34.8	69.4%	65.0%
Young Adults Not Completing High School (18-24)	2000	998	940	933	-6.5%	-0.7%	30.4	31.9	20.6	-32.2%	-35.4%
White males	NA	307	234	NA	NA	NA	33.4	30.7	NA	NA	NA
White females	NA	229	230	NA	NA	NA	27.3	29.0	NA	NA	NA
African American and Other males	NA	245	269	NA	NA	NA	33.9	40.2	NA	NA	NA
African American and Other females	NA	217	207	NA	NA	NA	27.0	28.6	NA	NA	NA

Economics

Poverty Rate	2000	2,217	2,078	1,938	-12.6%	-6.7%	23.5	22.8	21.5	-8.5%	-5.7%
White children	2000	488	323	459	-5.9%	+42.1%	10.1	7.4	10.3	2.0%	39.2%
African American and Other children	2000	1,729	1,755	1,479	-14.5%	-15.7%	37.3	36.9	32.7	-12.4%	-11.4%
Income of Families w/children (1999 $)	2000	$ 38,528	$ 39,787	$ 41,562	+7.9%	+4.5%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
White families	2000	$ 44,554	$ 46,685	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
African American and Other families	2000	$ 29,490	$ 29,920	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Adolescent Risk Factors

Teenage Pregnancy (ages 14-17)	2001	71	60	32	-54.9%	-46.7%	6.5	6.2	3.2	-50.8%	-48.4%
White	2001	23	26	10	-56.5%	-61.5%	4.2	5.4	2.0	-52.2%	-63.0%
African American and Other	2001	48	34	22	-54.2%	-35.3%	8.9	6.9	4.5	-49.4%	-34.8%
Delinquency	2002	74	112	76	+2.7%	-32.1%	4.5	7.7	5.0	11.8%	-34.6%
White males	2002	24	44	22	-8.3%	-50.0%	5.8	12.3	5.8	-0.2%	-52.9%
White females	2002	17	16	9	-47.1%	-43.8%	4.1	3.9	2.4	-40.7%	-37.6%
African American and Other males	2002	23	37	37	+60.9%	+0.0%	5.3	9.7	9.3	74.5%	-4.6%
African American and Other females	2002	10	15	8	-20.0%	-46.7%	2.5	4.8	2.2	-13.5%	-55.0%

*Closest available data to this year was used in many cases.

**BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Kids Count 2003

Chesterfield County

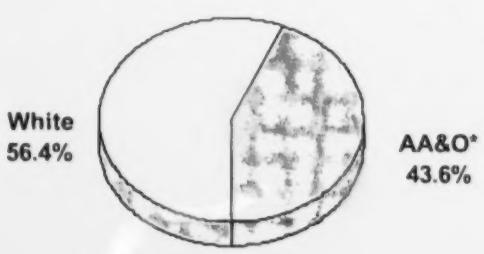
DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2000 there were an estimated 11,391 children under age 18 in the county. Of these, 6,419 were White, 4,587 were African-American, and 385 were other races. There were 10,614 children under age 18 in 1990, 12,271 in 1980, 13,038 in 1970, and 14,893 in 1960.

Children represent a shrinking portion of the county's population. Those under 18 constituted 26.6% of the population in 2000, down from 44.2% in 1960, 38.7% in 1970, and 32.2% in 1980.

In 2000 the 3,522 pre-schoolers under age 6 were 8.2% of the overall population: 7.2% of Whites and 9.7% of African Americans.

Figure 1: Population Ages 0-17 in 2000



* In all charts African-American is combined with other races, and often abbreviated as AA&O. Other races comprise 3.4% of children in the county, with "two or more races" at 1.4% and "some other race alone" at 1.2% as the largest Other groups.

FAMILY

Families have always been the most important influence in a child's life. Children depend on their families for material needs, stimulation and guidance. Family life is different in numerous ways from previous generations, and many families now face exceptional challenges.

Families with children now make up a smaller share of all households. Only 33.4% of all households in 2000, as compared with 48.0% of households in 1960, had children below the age of 18.

Births to Teen Mothers: In 2001, 33 babies were born to mothers younger than age 18. They were 5.8% of all babies born in the county; 2.3% of all White and 11.1% of all African-American and Other babies were born to teen mothers under the age of 18. Of the babies born to these teens in 2001, 100.0% were born to single mothers, including babies whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers.

In 2001, 98 babies were born to mothers younger than age 20. These babies were 17.1% of all born in the county; 13.0% of all White and 23.5% of all African-American and Other babies were born to mothers under the age of 20. Of the babies born to these mothers in 2001, 84.7% were born to single mothers, including paternity acknowledeged babies.

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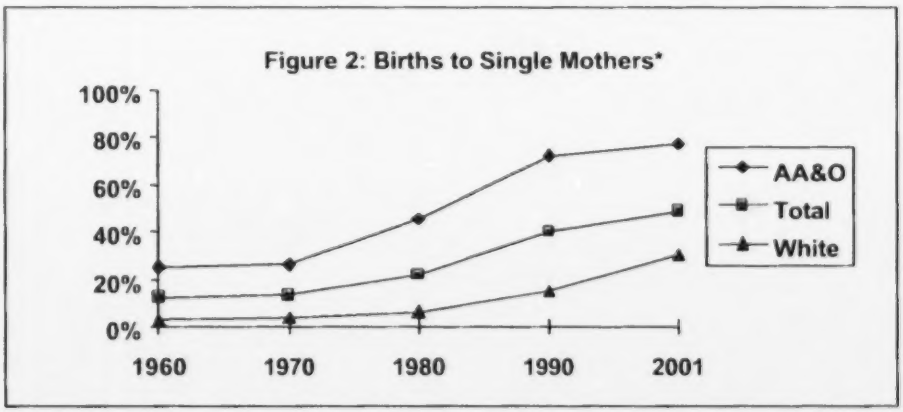
Education of Mothers Giving Birth: Children's success is strongly influenced by the education of their parents. In 2001, 151 babies, 26.4% of all babies, were born to mothers of all ages who had not completed the 12th grade. In 2001, 21.4% of White and 34.2% of African-American and Other babies were born to mothers who had completed less than the 12th grade. This is a substantial improvement from 53.2% in 1970. In addition, during 2001, 44.3% had completed 12 grades (42.5% of Whites and 47.1% of African Americans and Others) and 29.2% had more than a high school degree (36.1% of Whites and 18.7% of African American and Others).

Births to Single Mothers: Births to single mothers have increased steadily over four decades. In 2001, 220 babies, 38.4% of all babies, were recorded as born to single mothers. A decade earlier in 1990, the percentage was 37.2% and in 1960 it was 12.5%. In 2001, 20.5% of White children and 65.9% of African-American and Other children were born to single mothers. These numbers, however, do not include paternity acknowlegement births.

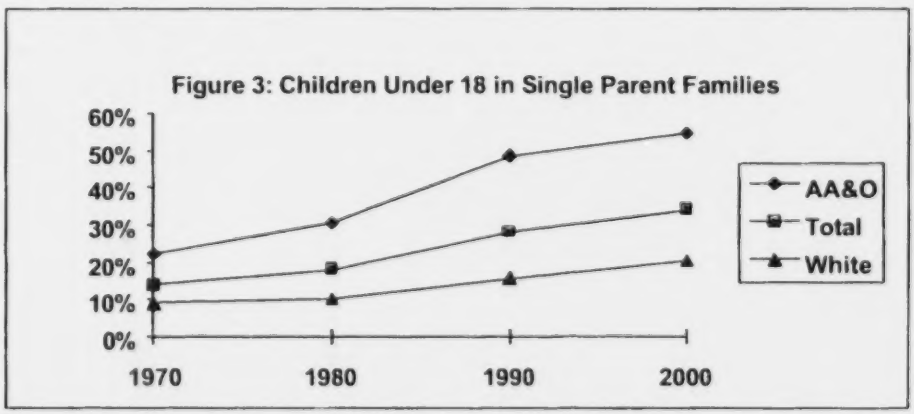
Thus, to these numbers should be added an additional group of 59 babies, 10.3% of all born in 2001, whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers. When the paternity-acknowledged babies are added, the total number born to single mothers in 2001 was 279, constituting 48.7% of all babies, 30.0% of White babies, and 77.4% of African-American and Others.



*Includes paternity acknowleged babies in 1980, 1990 and 2001. Prior to 1979, paternity acknowleged cases were not a statistical category, and thus were included in births to single mothers.

Divorce Rate: In 2001, 437 marriage licenses were issued, while 162 divorce decrees involving 122 children were filed. In 1970, only 26 children were in families involved in divorce.

Single-Parent Family: Increasing numbers of children live in single-parent families. In 2000, 3,275 children lived with only one parent. This was 34.0% of all children, up from 28.0% in 1990, 18.1% in 1980, and 13.8% in 1970. In 2000, 20.4% of White and 54.7% of African-American and Other children lived in single-parent families. Also in 2000, 845 or 33.8% of children under age 6 lived in single parent families: 19.3% of White and 56.7% of African American and Other pre-schoolers.



Parents Working and Child Care: Increasingly, parents must divide their time between children and employers. In order to meet family financial needs, most parents must work and thus have less time for family life. In 2000, 67.5% of mothers with children under 6 and 73.5% with children 6 - 17 were in the labor force. This has increased substantially from 1960 when 35.6% of mothers with children under 6 were in the labor force. Most fathers also work: 63.1% of children under 6 are in families where the single parent or both parents work. Caring for children is a problem for parents unable to obtain quality, affordable daycare while they are at work.

Overall, there are 961 spaces in state-regulated childcare facilities* in the county, 88.6% of these are in licensed programs and 11.4% are in registered programs. Of the spaces, 76.9% are in licensed childcare centers serving more than 12 children, 9.4% are in registered or licensed family childcare homes serving six or fewer children, 1.2% are in licensed group childcare homes serving 7-12 children, and 12.5% are in registered or licensed church programs.

The homes and centers are severely constrained by the limited ability of parents to pay. In the county, the average weekly charge is $ 60.47 for centers and $ 52.22 for homes. Consequently, center wages are low: 0% of centers with pre-school staff and 66.7% of centers with assistant pre-school staff report paying these staff under $6 per hour. Paying $6-$8 per hour are 71.4% of centers with pre-school staff and 33.3% of centers with assistants. Low wages attract workers with limited education. In 28.6% of centers, most pre-school staff and in 66.7% of centers most assistants have only a high school degree. In 42.9% of centers few to none of the pre-school staff have early childhood credentials. In childcare homes, 75% of lead providers have no more education than a high school degree or GED; 25% have less than a high school degree.

Family Violence: In 2000, 299 domestic assaults were recorded by law enforcement officials. These domestic assaults comprised 25.9% of all assaults, which include aggravated assaults, simple assaults, and intimidation. Overall, 54.5% of all domestic assaults involve spouse abuse which constitutes 14.1% of all assaults. Since most family violence is not reported, the true incidence of family disruption is much more widespread than even the large number of reported cases would indicate.

Separation from Parents: Some children do not live with their natural parents. In 2000, 9.6% of all children did not live with their natural parents. Approximately 822 or 7.2% of all children lived with relatives, 193 or 1.7% lived with non-relatives, 21 or 0.2% were householders or spouses, and 60 or 0.5% were in institutional facilities.

Abuse and Neglect: In 2000-01, there were 336 investigations into reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children. Through its investigations, the Department of Social Services (DSS) determined that 91 of the investigations were indicated for abuse or neglect: 14.3% for physical abuse, 4.3% for sexual abuse, 0.0% for mental injury, 61.4% for physical neglect, 0.0% for educational neglect, 1.4% for medical neglect, 18.6% for threat of harm for physical/sexual abuse, and 0.0% for other types of abuse.

In the indicated cases of abuse and neglect, DSS determined there were 168 children who were victims of abuse or neglect. Of these, 51.2% were male, 48.8% were female; 50.0% were White, 50.0% were African-American and Other. By age, 44.0% were ages 0 - 5, 41.1% were ages 6 - 12, and 14.9% were ages 13 - 17. In the indicated cases, 19.6% of the children lived in two-parent families, 54.2% in single parent families, 25.6% with unmarried couples, and 0.6% in other circumstances.

Out of Home Placements: As of June 2001, 81 children lived in foster care. The median age at first placement in the county is 6.1 years. The ages of children in foster care were 28.4% 0-2, 14.8% 3-5, 25.9% 6-10, 9.9% 11-13, and 21.0% 14 and above. The foster care population is 45.7% males and 54.3% females. Regarding their future, 24.7% were under a plan for placement in adoptive homes, 51.9% for return to a parent or guardian, 11.1% for placement with a relative, 7.4% for independent living, 3.7% for permanent foster care, and 1.2% for other circumstances.

Adult/Child Ratio: A measure of potential adult attention for children from family and community is the ratio of adults to children and youth. In 2000 there were 2.75 adults for every person below age 18. This was up substantially from 1960, when there were only 1.26 adults for every person under the age 18. This indicates that today there are more adults potentially available to provide attention and care for each child than in the past.

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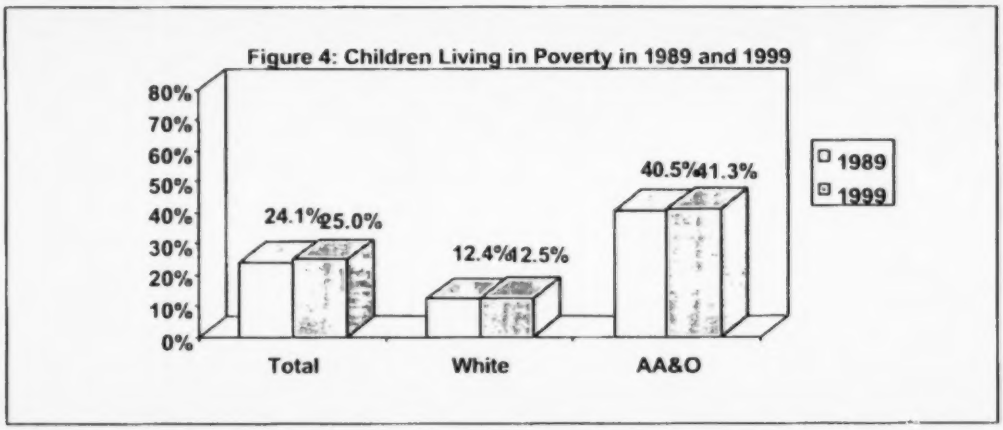
* This data is the best currently available; however, an effort is being made to check the coverage and improve the accuracy. As soon as more recent and complete data becomes available, it will be posted on the website.

ECONOMIC STATUS

Low income makes it difficult for many families to provide the material and environmental enrichment necessary for healthy child development.

Poverty: In 1999, 2,789 children and youth under the age of 18 lved in 1,376 families with incomes below poverty, comprising 25.0% of all children and youth: 12.5% of Whites and 41.3% of African-Americans and Others. A rough estimate of child poverty in 2001 calculated by the Census Bureau was 23.0%.



Poverty has always been a serious problem. While the rate among children under age 18 in 1989 was 24.1%, it was 21.7% in 1979 and 33.0% in 1969.

Children and the elderly are the age groups most seriously affected by poverty. In 1999, 29.7% of children 0 - 5 (15.7% White, 48.3% African-American and Other), and 23.2% of children 6 - 17 (11.2% White, 38.9% African-American and Other), lived in poverty; 24.2% of persons 65 years and older lived in poverty. Historically, the poverty rate among the elderly was much higher. During the last three decades, federal policy actions have substantially improved the economic status of older persons but have not done so for children.

Single-parent families are most likely to be poor. In 1999, 45.2% of children in single-parent families lived in poverty, but only 14.2% of children in married-couple families were poor. Children in single-parent families made up 66.3% of all the county's children living in poverty.

In 2002, the poverty level was $15,020 for a family of three and $18,100 for a family of four. The poverty threshold is often criticized as an arbitrary number. People can still be poor but may be just above the poverty level. Federal programs utilize varying thresholds. For example, in 1999 there were 5,536 children ages 0-17 who were less than 200 percent of poverty; thus an additional 2,747 children were above the poverty level but could still be considered poor or near-poor with incomes below $30,040 and $36,200 respectively for 3 and 4 person families.

Children Under 18 in Poverty in 1999

Percent of Poverty	Total		White		African American & Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 50%	1,405	12.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 100%	2,789	25.0%	793	12.5%	1,996	41.3%
Under 125%	3,511	31.4%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 150%	4,195	37.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 175%	4,750	42.5%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 185%	4,977	44.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 200%	5,536	49.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total Children	11,391		6,419		4,972	

Note: Missing data will be released by the Census Bureau later in 2003, and will be posted on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

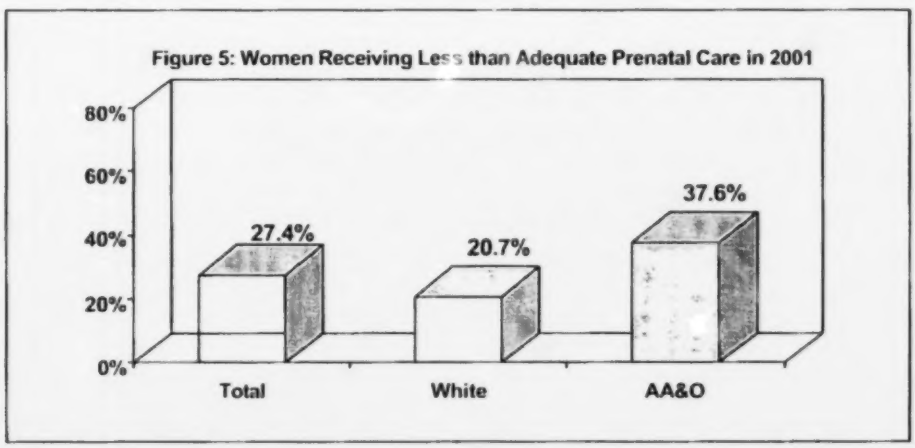
Income: The mean income of families with children in 1999 was $41,818. In 1989 it was $37,827, and 1979, it was $38,036, adjusted for inflation (i.e., in 1999 dollars). The mean income of single-parent families with children was $18,297 for single parents in 1999, as compared with $52,921 in married-couple families with children. From 1999 to 2000, Chesterfield County real dollar per capita income (eliminating inflation) increased by 0.8%.

Child Support Payments: There were 371[7] families receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families in fiscal year 2002, but only 29.1 % had child support court orders. Their average monthly payment of child support was $ 219, including child support receipts and tax refund intercepts. In addition, during fiscal year 2002, an estimated 967 parents in non-TANF families were obligated to pay a monthly average of $ 207. Information is not available regarding the amount actually paid.

HEALTH

Good health during a child's formative years helps children to reach their maximum potential. Good health requires healthy lifestyles and effective primary care, starting during the prenatal period and continuing through adolescence into adulthood. Children's health reflects the well-being of the community, as well as how adequately they are protected.

Prenatal Care: Early and continuous prenatal care can make a significant difference in assuring births of healthy babies. Delayed or insufficient prenatal care is associated with low birthweight and other health risks for infants. In 2001, 140, or 24.4% of pregnant women received no prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy. In 2001, 157, or 27.4% of pregnant women received less than adequate prenatal care: 72 or 20.7% of Whites and 85 or 37.6% of African-Americans and Others. In that same year, 7 women received no prenatal care at all.



Low Birthweight: Low birthweight of less than 5.5 pounds and very low birthweight of less than 3.3 pounds are associated with health risks and growth and development problems. In 2001, 77 or 13.4% of all babies in the county were born with low birthweight: 19.0% of African-American and Other babies and 9.8% of White babies. During 1999-2001, approximately 46 or 2.6% of all babies were born with very low birthweight and had the most serious complications: 1.2% of White babies and 4.5% of African-American and Other babies. The cost of hospitalization for each newborn low birthweight baby in the county in 1999 - 2001 was $9,978 and $82,760 for each very low birthweight baby, compared with $2,449 for a baby of normal birthweight. The result was excess cost in the county of $943,672 for all low birthweight babies, of which $722,804 was for very low birthweight babies.

Infant Mortality: During the decade since 1989-91, the overall infant mortality rate decreased by 14.2% from 11.8 to 10.2 per 1000 live births. For Whites, the rate decreased 28.0% from 8.1 to 5.9 per 1000 live births, while for African-Americans and Others the rate decreased 2.4% from 16.4 to 16.0 per 1000 live births. Over the three-year period 1999-2001, 6 White and 12 African-American and Other infants died before age one. By comparison, 8 White and 13 African-American and Other infants died during 1989-91.

[7] Number is an unduplicated count for the entire fiscal year.

Child Injuries and Deaths: Childhood deaths and injuries reflect whether communities are safe for children. In 2001, children in the Chesterfield County went to the emergency room 914 times because of injuries. Boys are injured more often than girls. Children visit the emergency room at comparable rates for each age from 0 to 17.

In South Carolina, the major causes of death among young children are unintentional injuries, cancer, homicide, and congenital anomalies. Over the three year period 1999-2001, 3 White and 9 African-American and Other children ages 1-14 died in the county. During 1989-91, 4 White and 4 African-American and Other children died.

Immunization: Immunization rates are an important indication of whether young children are receiving adequate preventive health care. During FY 1989-90, 65.6% of children less than two years old seen in public health clinics were not fully immunized against such preventable diseases as Polio, Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Haemophilus Influenza B and Whooping Cough. After a concerted statewide campaign to increase immunizations, the percentage of children seen in public health clinics who were not fully immunized in January 2001 had declined in the county to 0.0%. The DHEC statewide birth registry survey of all two year old children found that 88.1% were fully immunized in 2001. This success demonstrates the potential to improve the status of children when the leadership of the state and its communities act decisively together.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Children and youth are infected with sexually transmitted diseases through sexual abuse or irresponsible sexual activity. National prevalence rates indicate: a 1 in 8 chance that sexually active 15 year-old girls will develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), the most rapidly increasing cause of infertility; 10% of sexually active adolescent girls and boys are infected with chlamydia, the most common cause of PID; and as many as 15% of teen girls are infected with human papilloma virus, often with strains linked to cervical cancer. Furthermore, research evidence indicates that susceptibility to HIV/AIDS increases by 3 to 8 times through prior infection with various STDs.

According to national studies, approximately 1 in 4 sexually experienced youth aged 13-19 acquires a STD ever year; since two-thirds of all high school students have had sexual intercourse and half engage in intercourse over a thr month period, this would suggest that 10-15% of teens are infected with STDs annually. For 2000, this would indicate th an estimated 427 to 640 youth ages 13-19 in the county were infected with a STD. Many infections are either not identifi for treatment or not reported. In the county, there were 4 reported cases of children under age 15 and 22 youth ages 15 19 infected with gonorrhea; 5 youth under 15 and 62 ages 15 - 19 were reported infected with chlamydia. Youth wi undiagnosed and untreated STDs often spread their infections.

Healthy Lifestyles: Although no county data is available, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2001 found that mar high school students are not following good health habits. The YRBS revealed that 26% felt that they were overweight; 42 were trying to lose weight: 27% of boys and 57% of girls. Although during a week 79% of high school students ate fru 59% ate salad, and over 83% ate vegetables, only 17% ate the recommended five or more servings of fruit and vegetabl per day. During a week, 49% did stretching or muscle strengthening exercises, and 59% exercised three or more times f 20 minutes in sports that made them sweat or breathe hard. However, 11% of students engaged in no vigorous or modera activity at all during a week: 8% of boys and 13% of girls.

Tobacco Use:* Cigarette smoking starts at a young age and often becomes habitual. In the state during 2002 among all students 15 and older, 16.7% first smoked by age 11, 36.3% by age 13, and 51.4% by age 15. In a typical month, 17.1% of 7th and 8th graders and 25.3% of high school students smoked cigarettes. White youths were much more likely than African-Americans to smoke: 26.4% of White male and 27.2% of White female 7th to 12th graders used cigarettes, as compared with 18.9% of African-American males and 12.2% of African American females. A smaller but significant group of high school students (5.4%) used smokeless tobacco monthly; it was used primarily by White males (15.9% compared with 1.1% of all other race and sex groups).

* Schools in the county elected not to participate in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking. Therefore, data for all of South Carolina is presented here.

Disabilities: No data are collected on the true prevalence of disabilities within the county. According to national reported estimates, over 10% of children and youth have developmental disabilities at any point in time, and more than 17 are affected at some time before age 18 by deafness, blindness, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, speech defects, development delays, learning disabilities, and emotional or behavioral problems. For 2000 this suggests that at least 1,139 children ar youth under age 18 in the county are currently affected by disabilities.

Approximately 5% of children and youth nationally have serious disabilities which have lifelong implications f work, social life and community living. Typically among children and youth, there are 1 - 2% who are mentally retarded, - 3% with serious emotional disturbances, over 1% with orthopedic or multiple disabilities, including cerebral palsy an many hereditary conditions, and under 1% with visual or hearing impairments.

Other chronic health problems also affect the lives of many children. Over 3% of children have one or more these limitations. Such serious chronic conditions affect 1 - 2% who have respiratory problems (asthma and chron bronchitis), 0.5 - 1.0% with neurological problems (epilepsy and seizures), and less than 1% with circulatory problen (congenital heart defects and acquired diseases).

Other disabilities are identified primarily in school performance. These would include 747 students in grades 1- with learning disabilities and 220 students in grades 1-12 with speech/language deficits.

Disabilities are caused by genetics, disease, poor prenatal conditions, injuries, and environmental factors. For example, lead exposure, primarily from paint dust, was detected in over 1% of all children screened, including 7 in Chesterfield County.

Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: While over 20% of 9-17 year olds meet diagnostic criteria for some form of mental disorder, the number with serious emotional disturbance and impaired functioning in family, school, or community activities is: 9-13% for substantial functional impairment and 5-9% for extreme functional impairment. The rates among poor children are at the higher end of these ranges. Based on a federal formula for estimating prevalence, in the county there are 12% or 703 seriously emotionally disturbed 9-17 year olds with substantial functional impairment and 8% or 469 with extreme functional impairment during the course of a year. Conduct disorders, attention deficit, depression, and anxiety disorders are the most prevalent, each affecting 3% or more of school-aged children. These disorders may occur simultaneously in a child. The prevalence rates are highest among males, adolescents, and disadvantaged persons in communities under stress and lacking social cohesion; depression, however, is more prevalent among females. On the YRBS, 20% of boys and 33% of girls in high school reported that during the past year they felt so sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that they stopped doing some usual activities. Another indicator of emotional problems is the 8% of high school students in South Carolina who reported that they had "attempted suicide" in the past year: 5% of boys and 10% of girls. Suicide attempts resulted in 4% of high school students reporting that they required treatment by a doctor or nurse for injury, poisoning, or overdose.

Inadequate Healthcare: No county level data is routinely collected regarding the number of children and youth with inadequate healthcare. According to estimates for 2000-02 by the Bureau of the Census through the annual Current Population Survey, the statewide average rate of uninsured children and youth under age 18 in families with incomes under 200% of poverty in South Carolina was 16.6%, and 9.9% above 200% of poverty. If these rates are applied to the county, there are 920 children in the county below 200% of poverty with no health insurance, and 581 children above 200% of poverty with no health insurance, for a total of 1,501 uninsured children in Chesterfield County. The number lacking basic accessible primary care is at least double the number lacking insurance. Those lacking primary care are often dependent on health services at school. The ratio of students to nurses recommended nationally is 750:1. In the county, this would suggest the need for 11 nurses, compared with 5 currently working in the schools.

Medicaid: For several years, the State of South Carolina has emphasized enrolling eligible children into Medicaid. In late 1997, South Carolina implemented its version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, Partners for Healthy Children (PHC), and aggressively pursued outreach enrollment for PHC and Medicaid. As a result, enrollment of children ages 0 through 18 in Chesterfield County has increased by 72.7% from June 1997 to June 2001; thus Medicaid and PHC were serving 53.8% of all children in that age range. The total Medicaid expenditures in South Carolina for services provided to children ages 0 through 18 for state fiscal year 2002 were $991 million, at an average statewide expenditure of $2,343 per child enrolled, approximate Medicaid expenditure for children in the county would be $14.4 million.

In June 2001, the total number of Chesterfield County children, birth through 18, enrolled in Medicaid was 6,127. The total can be broken down into the following age and race groupings:

	White	African American	Hispanic	Other	Total
Children under 1	193	250	11	4	458
Children 1 - 5	714	945	41	59	1,759
Children 6 - 14	1,058	1,706	21	96	2,881
Children 15 - 18	397	619	3	10	1,029
Total	2,362	3,520	76	169	6,127

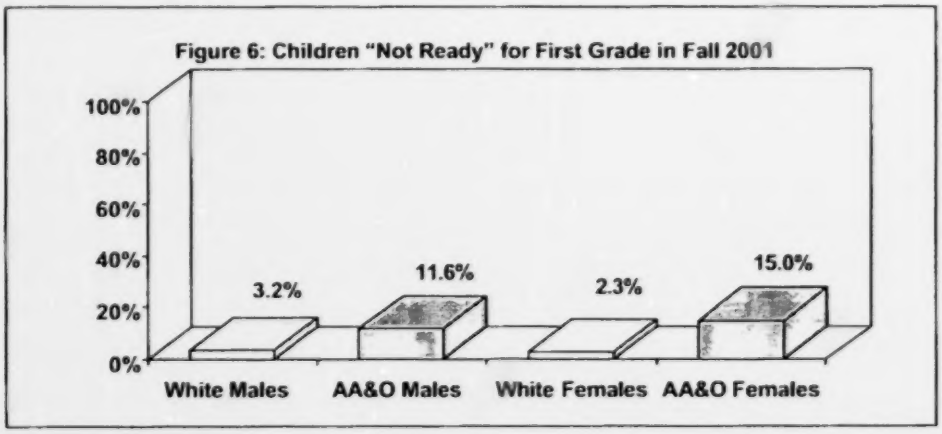
Ambulatory Care: When children lack adequate primary care, whether through lack of insurance, through limite access, or through failing to utilize available care, preventable and treatable conditions become serious and requi hospitalization. A useful indicator of inadequate primary care is the percentage of all hospitalizations that could typicall have been avoided through ambulatory care, especially for pneumonia, asthma, diarrhea and vomiting, dehydration, ar severe ear, nose, and throat infections. The share of hospitalizations for these types of conditions could normally be ke below 20%; for children in the county under the age of 18 during 2001, the share was 31.9% for Whites and 31.9% f African-Americans and Others.

READINESS AND EARLY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Too many children reach school without the readiness skills needed for success in learning, such as language, soc skills, visual and auditory discrimination, memory recall, and knowledge of colors, letters, numbers, names of objects, et Likewise, some schools are not ready to respond appropriately to the varying developmental levels of children in the ear grades. As a result, too many students do not experience the success needed to create the motivation and engagement th sustain learning.

1st Grade "Readiness" on 2001-02 Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB):

44 children not ready 7.9% children not ready



1st Grade Failures in 2002:

18 children failing 3.2% children failing

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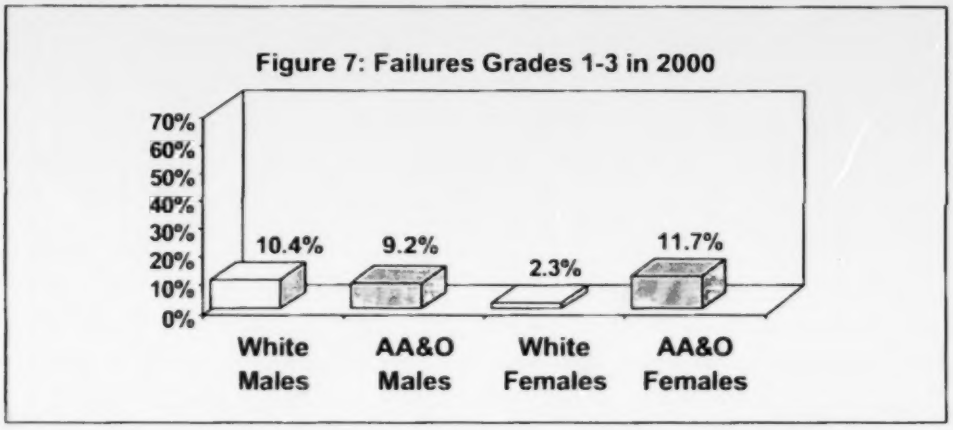
Failures Grades 1-3 in 2002 (approximate cumulative percentage of grades one, two and three):	
35 children failing	5.7% children failing



Over-age for Grade 3 in 2001	
93 children over-age	14.9% children over-age

Special Education: Large numbers of children are placed in special education classes. In elementary school, 180 six and seven year olds and 212 eight and nine year-olds were enrolled in special education classes during 2001-02, approximately 15.6% and 16.2% of their age groups respectively: 16.2% of White 8 – 9 year olds were in special education and 16.2% of African American and Others.

Readiness Summary: A serious problem exists in terms of student readiness and school success in the early grades. With 7.9% assessed not ready for the 1st grade, 14.9% over age in grade 3, and 16.2% of eight and nine year-olds placed in special education, unacceptably large numbers of students still begin school without good prospects of success in future school achievement and graduation; however, great improvement has occurred since the mid 1990s.

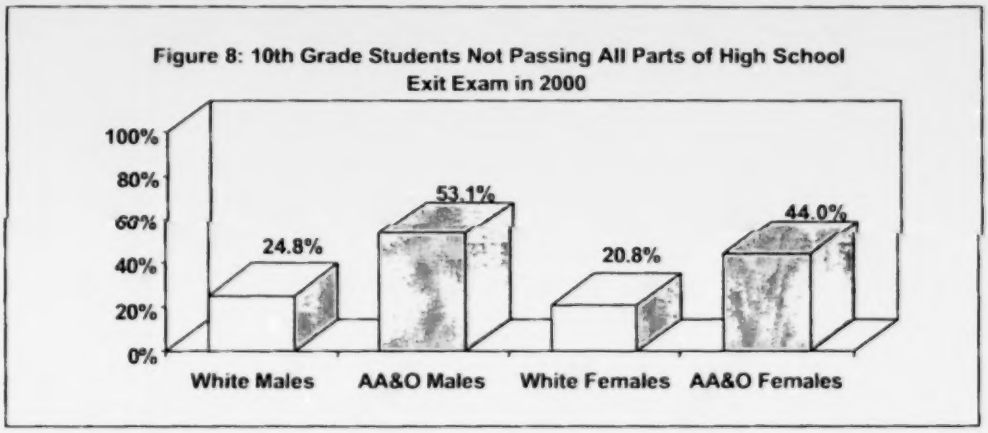
School Achievement

By the end of elementary school, significant numbers of students perform below minimum standards. The following standardized test measures, comparing student performance to state minimum standards, should be used in combination with routine classroom assessments more reflective of real-world performance skills.

Special Education: Special education placements reflect both the significant number of children with serious handicapping conditions and a large number of students with mild learning and behavioral problems that have not been accommodated successfully by the regular educational program. The result is a large system of self-contained, resource, and itinerant services to meet the needs of 220 speech and language impaired, 747 learning disabled, 47 emotionally disabled, 240 mentally impaired, and 62 physically handicapped, deaf, blind, and other handicapped students. Special education classes served approximately 16.6% of all students in grades 1 - 12 during 2001-2002.

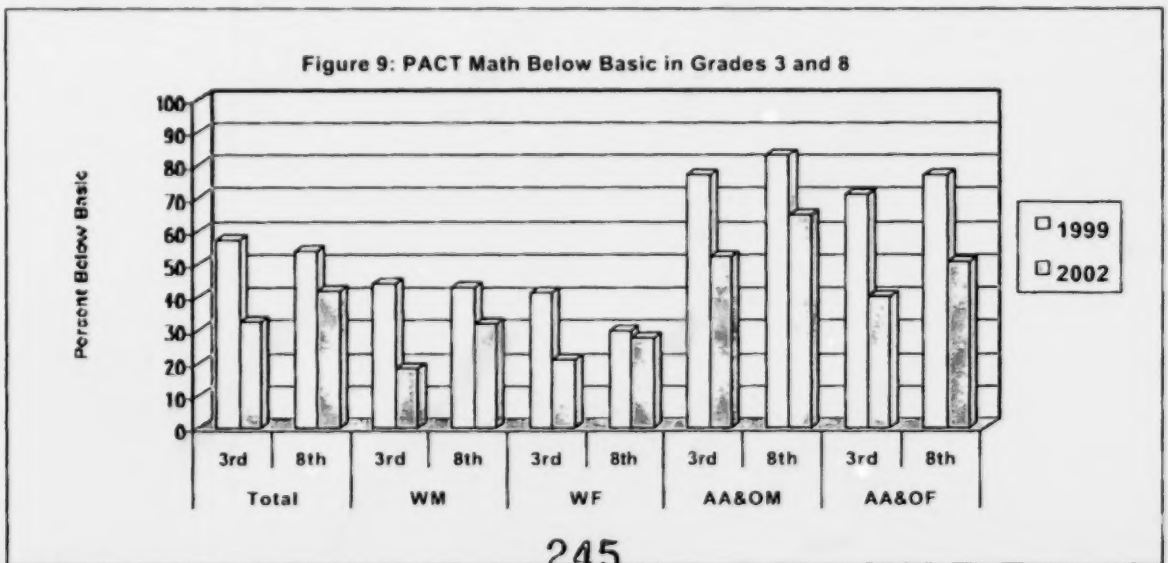
Exit Exam - not passing all parts of Exit Exam on first attempt in the 10th grade in 2002

155 students did not pass all parts — 33.6% of students did not pass all parts



Achievement Trends: How has performance on standardized achievement tests changed over the past 20 years? During the 1980s, student performance on the BSAP tests improved dramatically. Between 1981 and 1990, the percentage of 8th grade students in Chesterfield County who did not meet standards declined from 67.2% to 33.3% in math and from 57.1% to 32.5% in reading. During the 1990's the BSAP trend changed, with 41.4% not meeting 8th grade math standards in 1998 and 31.5% in reading. On standardized tests, the first year when South Carolina students take the exam is comparable to the challenge encountered by the national norm group which took the test only once. Looking at first year data, the percentage of 4th grade students at or below the 25th percentile of national norms was 31% in 1983 on the CTBS, 41.3% in 1990 on the Stanford, and 32.8% in 1995 on the Metropolitan; for 9th graders, the percentage in the bottom quarter was 41.5% in 1990 and 33.4% in 1995. Although not comparable, the percent below basic on the 4th grade PACT in 1999, the first year of administration, was 51.6%, but in 2002 29.7% of 4th graders were below basic in reading and math; the percentage of 8th graders below basic in reading and math averaged 48.7% in 1999 and 41.7% in 2002.

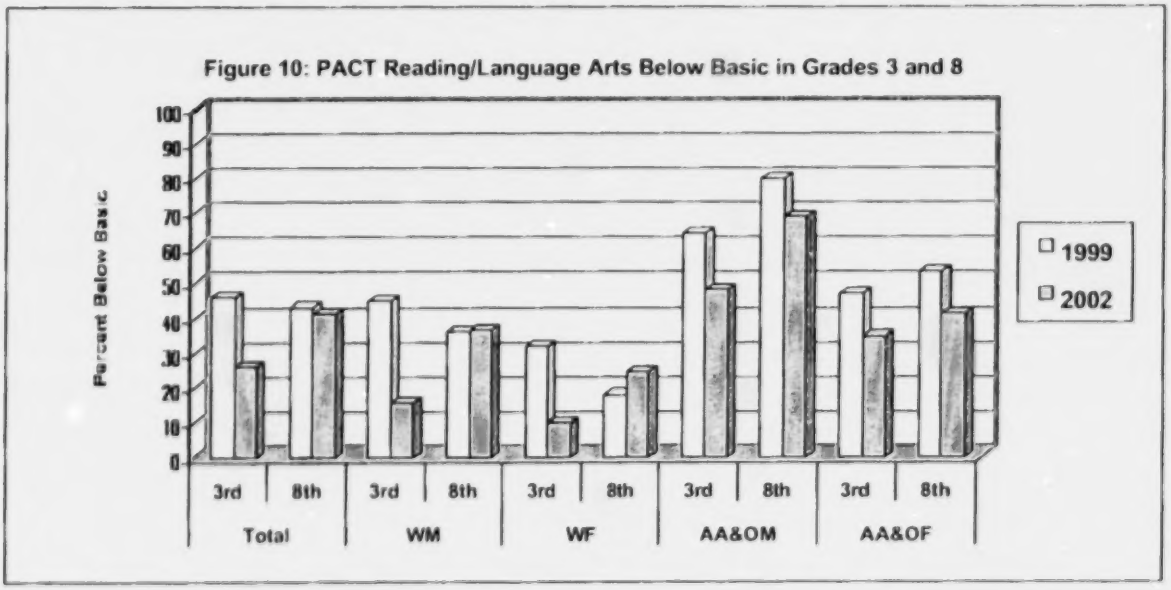
PACT: The Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) was first administered in 1999 for grades 3 - 8 in math and reading/language arts. Math assesses skills in numbers, numerical and algebraic concepts, patterns and functions, geometry, measurement, probability and statistics. The percentage of students scoring below basic in math has decreased by 28.2% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 914 students below basic in grades 3-8 but there would have been an additional 360 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
		Math (%)				
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	32.3	17.9	21.1	52.1	40.4
	4	30.9	18.5	17.6	48.7	42.2
	5	41.2	28.8	26.5	58.4	57.7
	6	37.4	32.8	25.5	54.8	40.5
	7	47.9	40.2	28.7	70.1	61.3
	8	42.0	31.9	27.3	65.0	50.4
Basic	3	41.1	43.6	40.0	38.7	42.3
	4	40.7	45.7	38.2	36.2	42.2
	5	40.3	44.5	45.8	33.6	34.6
	6	35.3	24.6	36.4	36.5	43.5
	7	32.1	32.1	43.6	23.6	25.0
	8	39.0	44.7	38.5	27.6	41.8
Proficient	3	18.3	24.3	24.3	8.5	14.7
	4	17.4	17.3	28.5	12.5	10.2
	5	12.5	15.8	18.1	6.2	7.7
	6	18.5	26.9	23.0	7.1	15.3
	7	11.7	14.1	16.6	3.5	10.5
	8	13.4	17.0	21.7	6.5	6.4
Advanced	3	8.3	14.3	14.6	0.7	2.6
	4	11.0	18.5	15.8	2.6	5.4
	5	6.1	11.0	9.7	1.8	0.0
	6	8.8	15.7	15.2	1.6	0.8
	7	8.4	13.6	11.0	2.8	3.2
	8	5.5	6.4	12.6	0.8	1.4

Reading/Language Arts assesses reading, listening, speaking, writing, research, and communication with technology. The first PACT assessment found a high percentage of elementary and middle grades students performing below standards and only a modest number above basic. The percentage of students scoring below basic in reading/language arts has decreased by 31.1% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 729 students below basic in grades 3 - 8 but there would have been an additional 329 at 1999 performance rates.

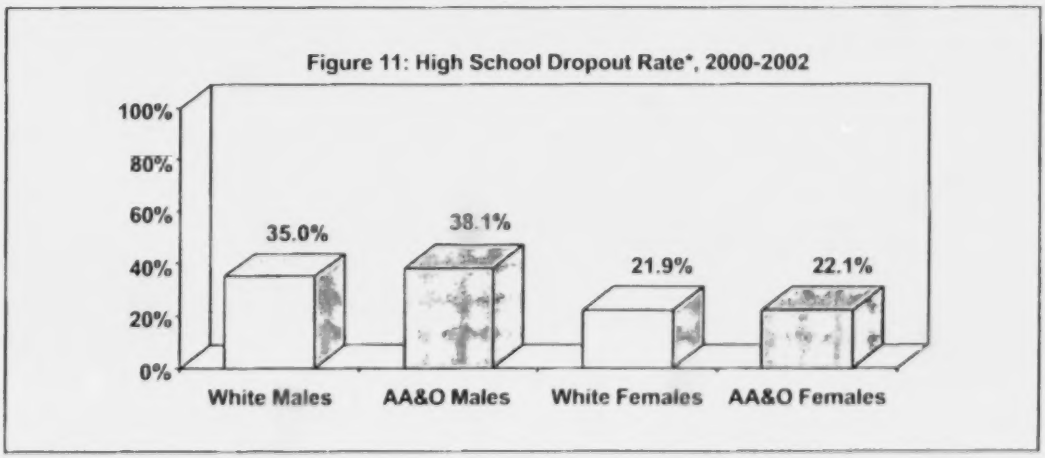
Figure 10: PACT Reading/Language Arts Below Basic in Grades 3 and 8



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
		Reading/Language Arts (%)				
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	26.0	15.7	9.7	47.9	34.6
	4	28.4	24.9	12.1	46.7	32.0
	5	34.4	30.1	17.4	57.5	39.5
	6	39.1	33.6	26.7	59.8	40.5
	7	35.1	33.2	14.4	60.8	38.7
	8	41.3	36.4	24.5	68.9	41.1
Basic	3	37.7	36.4	42.2	32.4	38.5
	4	45.4	46.8	41.2	44.1	49.7
	5	46.4	48.6	49.0	37.2	48.8
	6	35.7	31.3	35.8	31.5	44.3
	7	41.9	46.2	41.4	33.6	46.0
	8	35.6	41.7	30.8	23.8	42.6
Proficient	3	32.6	40.7	42.7	19.7	25.0
	4	24.6	26.6	43.0	9.2	17.7
	5	18.6	20.5	32.3	5.3	11.6
	6	20.8	29.9	28.5	7.9	14.5
	7	20.9	19.0	39.8	5.6	13.7
	8	20.1	18.7	37.1	7.4	15.6
Advanced	3	3.7	7.1	5.4	0.0	1.9
	4	1.6	1.7	3.6	0.0	0.7
	5	0.6	0.7	1.3	0.0	0.0
	6	4.3	5.2	9.1	0.8	0.8
	7	2.1	1.6	4.4	0.0	1.6
	8	3.0	3.2	7.7	0.0	0.7

Dropout Rate - 8th grade students no longer enrolled in grade 12
(average of students for the three years ending 2000-2002)

178 students drop out annually **29.4% students drop out?**



Dropouts: Distressing numbers of students drop out and fail to graduate. An average of 41.4% of 8th graders failed to graduate** from county schools five years later during the period 1980-84, 31.5% during 1985-89, and 28.2% during 1990-94, 29.3% during 1995-97 and 32.8% during 1998-2000***.

During 2001-02, 94.9% of all who did graduate received the State High School Diploma, while the remaining 5.1% received a State Certificate for meeting the required Carnegie units but not passing the Exit Exam.

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*12th grade enrollment compared to 8th grade enrollment four years earlier

** This is calculated by using 8th grade enrollment to graduation data.

*** 2001 data will be available soon and will be posted on the website.

Fortunately, many dropouts enroll in adult education programs and either earn a high school diploma or obtain a GED. During 2001-02, 0 Adult Education high school diplomas were awarded to school completers and in 2001 52 GEDs were awarded in the county. Over time, adult education high school diplomas and GEDs increase the effective school completion rate substantially. In the 2000 Census, 26.3% of county resident 25 - 34 year-olds said they had not completed either high school or a GED.

Achievement Summary: The numbers of students testing below basic on the PACT and dropping out range from 26.0% to 47.9%. Thus, far too many students fail to acquire the knowledge, skills, learning habits, and motivation necessary to compete in the economy or contribute to society in the 21st Century.

ADOLESCENT RISK BEHAVIORS

Academic achievement is greatly influenced by the prevailing youth culture which often promotes popularity with peers and partying rather than studying and doing well in school. The prevalence of adolescent risk-taking and under-achievement is illustrated by the poor grades of substance-abusing teens.

Substance Abuser Rates at Levels of Academic Performance

	Usual School Grades in Past Year					Total
	A Range	B Range	C Range	D Range	F Range	
Smoked Cigarettes (in past 30 days)	13.3%	22.4%	31.7%	42.8%	63.6%	25.3%
Drank 5 or More Drinks on One Occasion (in past 30 days)	12.4%	17.3%	22.6%	26.8%	43.5%	18.9%
Used Any Illicit Drug (in past 30 days)	11.5%	17.1%	25.1%	34.1%	53.0%	20.0%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

As influence from parents and other adults declines during adolescence, significant numbers of students engage in violence, crime, school offenses, depressive emotions and attempted suicide:

Risk Behaviors Participated in During Past 12 Months	White Male		White Female		African American Male		African American Female		Total		Total (Grade 7-12)
	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	
Carried a handgun or knife for self-defense?	22.5%	26.1%	5.3%	6.3%	14.6%	20.2%	5.0%	7.6%	12.2%	14.9%	13.7%
Carried a handgun or knife as a weapon?	6.8%	9.4%	1.3%	1.6%	9.0%	13.9%	3.0%	5.0%	4.8%	6.9%	5.9%
Been in a fight with someone?	40.1%	31.3%	18.5%	16.2%	41.4%	31.9%	29.4%	22.4%	31.7%	24.9%	28.0%
Hit your boyfriend or girlfriend?	2.0%	1.6%	6.9%	10.0%	5.7%	4.9%	17.7%	24.2%	7.4%	9.7%	8.7%
Been hit by your boyfriend or girlfriend?	7.1%	6.1%	6.1%	8.5%	11.5%	9.7%	9.5%	10.6%	8.1%	8.5%	8.3%
Rec'd detention or in-school suspension?	38.1%	37.3%	22.4%	25.0%	41.6%	37.6%	34.3%	30.7%	33.3%	32.1%	32.7%
Been suspended from school?	12.9%	13.9%	5.2%	7.2%	24.0%	22.6%	14.8%	15.4%	13.1%	13.8%	13.5%
Stolen anything worth > $5?	12.9%	17.6%	6.9%	10.7%	14.2%	15.6%	8.5%	8.4%	10.4%	13.1%	11.9%
Had an accident while driving?	NA	14.3%	NA	12.6%	NA	7.7%	NA	6.3%	NA	11.0%	NA
Been arrested and booked?	3.9%	6.1%	1.5%	2.7%	5.7%	8.1%	2.2%	2.9%	3.2%	4.7%	4.0%
Felt hopeless for two weeks or more?	14.8%	15.9%	21.8%	29.0%	14.0%	13.3%	22.0%	24.8%	18.2%	21.4%	19.9%
Seriously considered attempting suicide?	6.9%	8.4%	9.6%	14.3%	5.5%	5.4%	6.8%	8.7%	7.4%	9.7%	8.7%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

Adolescence is often a time of taking risks and asserting independence from adults. When asked whether they would tell an adult about a problem, the following percentages of state students said they would be "not likely" or "very unlikely" to tell if they:

-heard a student threaten to harm someone: 33.2% middle school, 47.0% high school;
-saw a student with a handgun at school: 22.7% middle school, 20.5% high school;
-saw a student with a knife at school: 24.7% middle school, 31.6% high school;
-saw a student with drugs at school: 33.7% middle school, 61.9% high school;

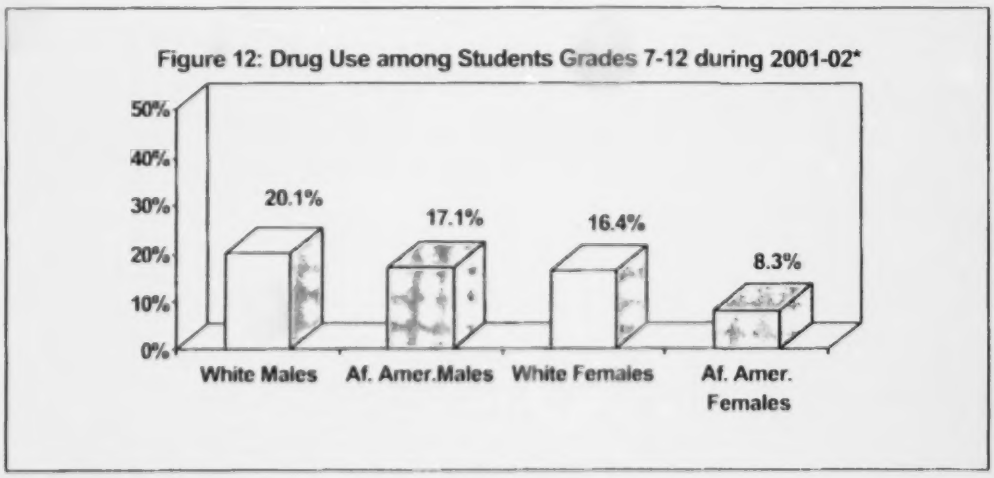
Alcohol Use:* In the state during 2001-02, 21.0% of 7th and 8th graders and 37.1% of high schoolers said they had used alcohol in the past month. Of White males in grades 7 - 12, 33.8% had used it in the past month, compared with 26.0% of African-American males; likewise, 34.5% of White females said they had used alcohol, compared with 26.4% of African-American females. Many youth first used alcohol at an early age: 14.2% had used alcohol by age 11 or younger, 33.0% by age 13, and 61.1% by age 15.

During the previous year, 21.0% of 7th and 8th graders and 30.4% of high schoolers said they had ridden with a drinking driver. Of seniors who drive, 19.4% said they had driven after drinking. Widespread use is encouraged by the ready availability and perceived low risk of alcohol use. Among students who expressed an opinion, 43.6% of eighth graders and 75.4% of seniors felt that beer was easy to get. Also, 71.6% of eighth graders and 70.7% of seniors felt there was not a great risk in drinking two drinks a day, and 47.3% of eighth graders and 53.1% of high schoolers felt there was not a great risk in drinking 5 drinks every weekend.

Heavy Drinking:* In 2001-02, 7.7% of 7th and 8th graders and 18.9% of high school students in the state repor drinking 5 or more drinks in a day during the past month. When asked how many drinks, if any, they usually consur 13.7% of all state students in grades 7 - 12 in 2001-02 responded 3 or more drinks at a time and 7.1% reported usually 5 more drinks. Among high school students, 18.6% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 10.0% 5 or mc Among seniors, 24.7% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 13.7% 5 or more; however 22.9% of seni said that they drank 5 or more drinks in a day once or more during the past month.

Drugs:* In 2001-02, 9.5% of 7th and 8th graders and 20.1% of high schoolers in the state reported using ille drugs during the previous month. Among students in grades 7 - 12, use was reported by 20.1% of White males, 16.4% Wl females, 17.1% of African-American males, and 8.3% of African-American females. Some young people initiated drug u at an early age: 5.3% had experienced their first use by age 11 or sooner; 16.3% had used a drug by age 13, and 34.7% by a 15.

In the past year, 10.3% of all high school students in the state who drive and 15.4% of seniors who drive said that they had driven after using drugs. Such use is encouraged by the ready availability of drugs: 22.3% of 8th graders who had an opinion said it is easy to get marijuana and 8.4% said it is easy to get cocaine or crack; 65.0% of seniors said it is easy to get marijuana and 29.5% said it was easy to get cocaine or crack.



* Schools in the county elected not to participate in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking. Therefore, data for all of South Carolina is presented here. The latest Chesterfield County data, for 1992-93, is available on the Kids Count website at www.sckidscount.org.

Sexual Activity and Pregnancy: Many teenagers now engage in sexual activity. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) administered to a representative sample of high school students throughout South Carolina in 2001 showed that sexual activity begins at an early age: 7% of female and 21% of male students have engaged in intercourse before age 13; by age 15, 38% the females and 49% of males have engaged in sexual intercourse. Statewide, 48% of females and 50% of males in the 11th and 12th grades reported engaging in intercourse during the past three months. Furthermore, 27% of female and 33% of male 12th graders have had intercourse with four or more partners during their lifetimes.

Premature sexual activity often results in pregnancy. In the county, 55 girls between the ages of 14 and 17 became pregnant in 1999, 63 in 2000 and 36 in 2001. This represented 3.0% of all girls ages 14 – 17 in 2001; several times this percentage become pregnant at least once by age 18. The 2001 pregnancy rate for ages 14 - 17 was 1.4% for Whites and 5.2% for African-Americans and Others. Of all pregnancies of 14-17 year olds, 91.7% resulted in live births, with almost all other pregnancies ending in abortions.

Teen pregnancy rates increased substantially across the state during the 1980s; as a result, greater emphasis v devoted to preventing teen pregnancy. Since 1989, the teen pregnancy rate in Chesterfield County has decreased by 32.1 Overall, it has decreased by 48.1% for Whites, and decreased by 22.4% for African Americans and Others.

Juvenile Delinquency: In 2001-02, 200 individual juvenile offenders in the county were referred to the Solicitor for delinquency; of these, 15.5% were age 12 or younger, 38.5% were 13 or 14, and 46.0% were 15 or older.

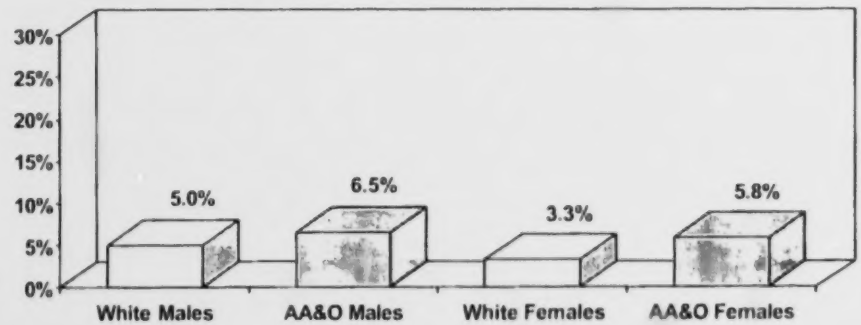
Of the referrals to the family court, 12.0% of all referrals were for violent and serious crimes which include drug trafficking, acts against persons for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and serious property offenses for arson and burglary. Also, 57 juvenile cases constituting 21.3% of all referrals were for status offenses. Status offenses include truancy, running away, incorrigibility, and other offenses that would not be crimes for adults.

Delinquents are likely to live in families with low income: 40.0% lived in families with income under $10,000, 38.6% with $10,000-$19,999 and 21.4% with $20,000 or more. Furthermore, only 11.4% of delinquents lived with both natural parents, while 64.6% lived in a single parent household, 17.7% lived with other relatives, and 6.3% in other situations including parent plus step-parent. Delinquency or criminal activity occurs among many related family members: 41.4% had at least one family member who was delinquent or had some criminal record.

Youth referred to the family courts are likely to have been there before. In 2001-02, 44.5% had at least one prior referral and 11.5% had been referred to court 3 times or more. Many were referred at an early age. For delinquents 15 - 17 years old, 0.7% had been referred by the age of 10, 7.5% by the age of 12, and 23.1% by the age of 14.

During 2001-02, 92 youth ages 15 to 17 were referred to the family courts. In the county, 5.0% of all youth 15 to 17 were referred to court in one year and roughly double that percentage are referred at least once by age 18. Furthermore, the National Youth Survey indicates that typically across the United States the proportion of youth engaging in crime is two or three times the number ever apprehended. In 2001-02, there were 25 juveniles committed from the county to DJJ custody and placed in residential programs.

Figure 13: Percentage of 15 - 17 Year Olds Referred to Court in 2001-02



Not in School or Employed: During 2000, 322 teenagers ages 16-19 were idle, meaning they neither worked any hours nor were enrolled in school, even part-time. Idle teens comprised 13.9% of their age group: 9.7% for White and 18.8% African-American & Other teens. A much larger number, perhaps twice as many, were not engaged in either school full time or work full time. The data reflect a serious failure in both school completion and the critical transition from school to work, significantly affecting their development as future workers. For an in-depth description of the problems of young adults seeking to enter the labor force, visit our website at www.scyoungadults.org for our state and county reports on 18-29 year olds.

Deaths: During 1997-2001, 24 youth ages 15 to 19 died. Historically, automobile accidents have been the major cause, resulting in 8 deaths between 1996 and 2000; homicides killed 5 youth 15 to 19 years old during the five-year period, and 2 youth committed suicide. Alcohol use is often a significant factor in deaths among teenagers.

Summary

Facing the Scope of Problems: The data on families, economic status, health, readiness, school achievement, and adolescent risk behaviors provide a troublesome picture of the condition of children in Chesterfield County. The 34.0% of children in single-parent families, 25.0% in poverty, 32.8% not graduating from school, 37.1% of high school students using alcohol and 20.1% using drugs each month, and other data profiled in this report suggest that too many children are at risk of not growing up to become self-supporting adults, good family members, and responsible community citizens.

Emphasizing the Positive: South Carolina Kids Count reports have been developed to describe the problems of children in each of the counties. Fortunately, the majority of children and youth are doing well, and some very well. One simple description is the percentage of children who do not fall into the problem categories reported. For the county, 82.9% of children are born to non-teen mothers ages 20 or older, 51.3% are born to married parents, and 66.0% lived in two-parent families; 75.0% were not poor and 50.4% lived in families with incomes above twice the poverty level for a family of three, $30,040 in 2002; 86.6% of babies were born with normal birthweights; 92.1% were assessed as ready for the first grade, 58.0% scored basic or better on PACT for 8th grade math and 58.7% for 8th grade reading, 66.4% passed all parts of the Exit Exam in the 10th grade, and 67.2% graduated with their class. In a typical month, 62.9% of high school students do not drink alcohol, 79.9% do not use drugs, and 74.7% do not smoke. Unfortunately, the absence of a problem is not always an indicator of success. Some data is available for exemplary performance: for example, 36.3% of 3rd graders and 23.1% of 8th graders scored proficient or advanced on PACT in reading and 26.6% of 3rd graders and 18.9% of 8th graders in math. Unfortunately, data on success is not generally available.

Despite the limitations of success data, we must emphasize the positive in providing good support and appropriate influences for children and youth. Recent philosophy and publications such as those of the Search Institute (700 South Third Street, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN, 55415-1138, tel. 1-800-888-7828, www.search-institute.org), emphasize the critical importance of "developmental assets" to promote and support positive development. One short book from the Search Institute, (What Kids Need to Succeed, by Peter J. Benson, Judy Gailbraith, and Pamela Espeland, 1995) presents an excellent array of suggestions for promoting developmental assets through families, community, faith congregations, and schools. If each family, school, religious congregation and community organization assertively worked to build such assets, the problems described in this report would be reduced dramatically. Such positive family-school-community efforts could improve South Carolina's national Kids Count ranking from the bottom 10 to the average or even into the top 10 by prevention of unnecessary problems affecting children and youth, as shown on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

All data presented in this report is the most recent available at the date it goes to the printer. This version of the Kids Count report will be revised as more recent and additional data become available. Please send us your corrections and suggestions for improvement. We welcome your ideas for ways to make the state and county reports more useful and accurate. Please utilize local data sources whenever possible to supplement the profile provided through our report.

Data related inquiries should be directed to:

Anne Wilson, Data Manager (awilson@drss.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-4810

Calls for **copies of reports** for other counties and inquiries regarding more recent reports should be made to:

Kim Hazel-Lohr, Project Manager (khazel@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-1295

For **policy questions and general comments**, please contact:

Dr. A. Baron Holmes, Project Director (bholmes@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-2291

Comparable reports for all 46 counties and for the state can also be found on the World Wide Web at

www.sckidscount.org

Our website also provides: links to other websites for indicators in our report; high to low rankings for individual indicators; information on how to improve SC's national rank; and a glossary of definitions.

The national Kids Count Report can be found on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website at

www.aecf.org

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Chesterfield County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Indicators		Number					Percent					R	
	Most Recent Year	1980*	1990*	Most Recent Data	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980 Rank	199
Health													
Low Birth Weight	2001	58	50	77	+32.8%	+54.0%	9.1	8.1	13.4	47.6%	64.8%	28	
White babies	*2001*	*15*	*20*	*34*	*+126.7%*	*+70.0%*	*4.2*	*5.8*	*9.8*	*133.3%*	*70.0%*	*6*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*43*	*30*	*43*	*+0.0%*	*+43.3%*	*15.2*	*11.2*	*19.0*	*24.8%*	*70.0%*	*45*	
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	2001	239	251	157	+34.3%	-37.5%	37.4	40.8	27.4	-26.7%	-32.9%	17	
White babies	*2001*	*84*	*93*	*72*	*-14.3%*	*-22.6%*	*23.5*	*26.8*	*20.7*	*-11.9%*	*-22.8%*	*15*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*155*	*158*	*85*	*-45.2%*	*-46.2%*	*55.0*	*59.0*	*37.6*	*-31.6%*	*-36.2%*	*23*	
Infant Mortality	2001	40	21	18	55.0%	-14.3%	2.1	1.2	1.0	-52.0%	-14.2%	35	
White babies	*2001*	*16*	*8*	*6*	*-62.5%*	*-25.0%*	*1.5*	*0.8*	*0.6*	*-60.9%*	*-28.0%*	*34*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*24*	*13*	*12*	*-50.0%*	*-7.7%*	*2.9*	*1.6*	*1.6*	*-45.1%*	*-2.4%*	*40*	
Family													
Births to mothers under 18	2001	62	51	33	-46.8%	-35.3%	9.7	8.3	5.8	-40.2%	-30.1%	33	
White babies	*2001*	*22*	*16*	*8*	*-63.6%*	*-50.0%*	*6.2*	*4.6*	*2.3*	*-62.7%*	*-50.1%*	*28*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*40*	*35*	*25*	*-37.5%*	*-28.6%*	*14.2*	*13.1*	*11.1*	*-22.0%*	*-15.3%*	*33*	
Births to mothers under 20	2001	127	109	98	-22.8%	-10.1%	19.9	17.7	17.1	-14.0%	-3.5%	16	
White babies	*2001*	*57*	*39*	*45*	*-21.1%*	*-15.4%*	*16.0*	*11.2*	*13.0*	*-18.6%*	*15.7%*	*21*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*70*	*70*	*53*	*-24.3%*	*+24.3%*	*24.8*	*26.1*	*23.5*	*-5.5%*	*-10.2%*	*16*	
Births to mothers with less than a high school education	2001	249	221	151	-39.4%	-31.7%	39.0	35.9	26.4	-32.3%	-26.5%	35	
White babies	*2001*	*102*	*104*	*74*	*-27.5%*	*-28.8%*	*28.6*	*30.0*	*21.3*	*-25.5%*	*-28.9%*	*24*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*147*	*117*	*77*	*-47.6%*	*-34.2%*	*52.1*	*43.7*	*34.1*	*-34.6%*	*-22.0%*	*25*	
Births to single mothers****	2001	151	247	279	+84.8%	+13.0%	23.6	40.2	48.7	106.1%	21.3%	18	
White babies	*2001*	*22*	*53*	*104*	*+372.7%*	*+96.2%*	*6.2*	*15.3*	*30.0*	*386.8%*	*96.4%*	*18*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*129*	*194*	*175*	*+35.7%*	*-9.8%*	*45.7*	*72.4*	*77.4*	*69.3%*	*7.0%*	*18*	
Children in single parent families	2000	2,041	2,578	3,275	+60.5%	+27.0%	18.1	28.0	34.0	87.9%	21.5%	20	
White	*2000*	*745*	*896*	*1,185*	*+59.1%*	*+32.3%*	*10.2*	*15.6*	*20.4*	*99.9%*	*30.7%*	*25*	
African American and Other	*2000*	*1,292*	*1,676*	*2,090*	*+61.8%*	*+24.7%*	*30.5*	*48.6*	*54.7*	*79.5%*	*12.6%*	*21*	
Education													
Not Ready for Grade 1	2001	284	233	44	-84.5%	-81.1%	45.5	33.5	7.9	-82.6%	-76.4%	34	
White males	*2001*	*72*	*46*	*5*	*-93.1%*	*-89.1%*	*38.3*	*23.8*	*3.2*	*-91.6%*	*-86.6%*	*42*	
White females	*2001*	*36*	*29*	*3*	*-91.7%*	*-89.7%*	*24.2*	*16.5*	*2.3*	*-90.5%*	*-86.1%*	*34*	
African American and Other males	*2001*	*104*	*95*	*15*	*-85.6%*	*-84.2%*	*66.2*	*54.0*	*11.6*	*-82.5%*	*-78.5%*	*39*	
African American and Other females	*2001*	*72*	*63*	*21*	*-70.8%*	*-66.7%*	*55.4*	*41.7*	*15.0*	*-72.9%*	*-64.0%*	*39*	
Repeating Grades 1-3	2000	106	106	52	-50.9%	-50.9%	17.1	15.2	8.2	-52.0%	-46.1%	21	
White males	*2000*	*23*	*19*	*18*	*-21.7%*	*-5.3%*	*12.2*	*9.9*	*10.4*	*-14.8%*	*5.1%*	*6*	
White females	*2000*	*11*	*12*	*4*	*-63.6%*	*-66.7%*	*7.1*	*6.7*	*2.3*	*-67.6%*	*-65.7%*	*9*	
African American and Other males	*2000*	*44*	*44*	*13*	*-70.5%*	*-70.5%*	*28.5*	*25.4*	*9.2*	*-67.7%*	*-63.8%*	*26*	
African American and Other females	*2000*	*28*	*31*	*17*	*-39.3%*	*-45.2%*	*22.0*	*20.6*	*11.7*	*-46.8%*	*-43.2%*	*32*	
Grade 3 Math below standards****	2002	244	161	201	-17.6%	+24.8%	38.7	23.1	32.3	-16.5%	39.8%	17	
White males	*2002*	*62*	*28*	*25*	*-59.7%*	*-10.7%*	*30.4*	*14.3*	*17.9*	*-41.1%*	*25.2%*	*25*	
White females	*2002*	*33*	*26*	*39*	*+18.2%*	*+50.0%*	*20.3*	*13.5*	*21.1*	*3.9%*	*56.3%*	*6*	
African American and Other males	*2002*	*96*	*56*	*74*	*-22.9%*	*+32.1%*	*59.6*	*37.3*	*52.1*	*-12.6%*	*39.7%*	*24*	
African American and Other females	*2002*	*53*	*51*	*63*	*+18.9%*	*+23.5%*	*51.5*	*31.9*	*40.4*	*-21.6%*	*26.6%*	*25*	
Grade 3 Reading below standards****	2002	252	148	162	-35.7%	+9.5%	39.9	21.2	26.0	-34.8%	22.6%	28	
White males	*2002*	*62*	*34*	*22*	*-64.5%*	*-35.3%*	*30.4*	*17.4*	*15.7*	*-48.4%*	*-9.8%*	*26*	
White females	*2002*	*36*	*17*	*18*	*-50.0%*	*+5.9%*	*22.1*	*8.9*	*9.7*	*-56.1%*	*9.0%*	*30*	
African American and Other males	*2002*	*107*	*59*	*68*	*-36.4%*	*+15.3%*	*66.5*	*39.3*	*47.9*	*-28.0%*	*21.9%*	*40*	
African American and Other females	*2002*	*47*	*38*	*54*	*+14.9%*	*+42.1%*	*45.6*	*23.8*	*34.6*	*-24.1%*	*45.4%*	*30*	
Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT Grade 4	1998	183	289	178	-2.7%	-38.4%	31.0	41.3	33.2	7.1%	-19.6%	21	
White males	*1998*	*47*	*75*	*26*	*-44.7%*	*-65.3%*	*25.5*	*35.4*	*16.4*	*-35.7%*	*-53.7%*	*24*	
White females	*1998*	*21*	*36*	*33*	*+57.1%*	*-8.3%*	*14.4*	*20.3*	*24.1*	*67.4%*	*18.7%*	*19*	
African American and Other males	*1998*	*66*	*99*	*61*	*-7.6%*	*-38.4%*	*51.2*	*62.3*	*58.1*	*13.5%*	*-6.7%*	*20*	
African American and Other females	*1998*	*49*	*79*	*57*	*+16.3%*	*-27.8%*	*37.7*	*52.0*	*43.8*	*16.2%*	*-15.8%*	*26*	

*Year of data is approximate in many cases.
**1 is best, 46 is worst.
*** Data include paternity acknowledgements.
**** BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Chesterfield County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Education (continued)

Indicators		Number					Percent				
	Most Recent Year	1980*	1990*	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres
Grade 8 Math below state standards**	2002	478	189	250	-47.7%	+32.3%	67.2	33.3	42.0	-37.5%	26.1%
White males	2002	132	32	60	-54.5%	+87.5%	59.2	20.4	31.9	-46.1%	56.4%
White females	2002	87	30	39	-55.2%	+30.0%	50.0	18.1	27.3	-45.4%	50.8%
African American and Other males	2002	145	70	80	-44.8%	+14.3%	84.3	55.6	65.0	-22.9%	16.9%
African American and Other females	2002	112	57	71	-36.6%	+24.6%	80.0	47.9	50.4	-37.0%	5.2%
Grade 8 Reading below state standards**	2002	406	183	245	-39.7%	+33.9%	57.1	32.5	41.3	-27.7%	27.1%
White males	2002	107	42	68	-36.4%	+61.9%	48.2	26.9	36.4	-24.5%	35.3%
White females	2002	57	31	35	-38.6%	+12.9%	32.6	18.9	24.5	-24.8%	29.6%
African American and Other males	2002	139	59	84	-39.6%	+42.4%	80.8	47.2	68.9	-14.7%	46.0%
African American and Other females	2002	102	51	58	-43.1%	+13.7%	72.9	43.2	41.1	-43.6%	-4.9%
Grade 9 Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT	1998	NA	255	189	NA	-25.9%	NA	41.5	31.9	NA	-23.1%
White males	1998	NA	74	NA	NA	NA	NA	38.7	23.8	NA	-38.5%
White females	1998	NA	36	NA	NA	NA	NA	22.8	17.1	NA	-25.0%
African American and Other males	1998	NA	83	NA	NA	NA	NA	56.1	59.3	NA	5.7%
African American and Other females	1998	NA	62	NA	NA	NA	NA	53	39.2	NA	-26.0%
Exit Exam (not passing all parts on 1st attempt)	2002	266	159	155	-41.7%	-2.5%	47.0	33.1	33.6	-28.5%	1.5%
White males	2002	64	26	30	-53.1%	+15.4%	38.1	20.5	24.8	-34.9%	21.0%
White females	2002	48	39	30	-37.5%	-23.1%	28.1	25.3	20.8	-26.0%	-17.8%
African American and Other males	2002	90	55	51	-43.3%	-7.3%	73.2	54.5	53.1	-27.5%	-2.6%
African American and Other females	2002	64	38	44	-31.3%	+15.8%	61.5	39.2	44.0	-28.5%	12.2%
Dropout Rate (8th graders no longer enrolled in 12th grade 4 years later)	2000-02	255	206	178	-30.2%	-13.8%	35.0	31.0	29.4	-15.9%	-5.2%
White males	2000-02	85	67	66	-22.0%	-0.3%	37.5	31.7	35.0	-6.8%	10.4%
White females	2000-02	51	41	36	-28.7%	-12.2%	25.5	24.3	21.9	-14.3%	-9.9%
African American and Other males	2000-02	66	64	48	-26.2%	-23.9%	45.3	41.2	38.1	-16.0%	-7.7%
African American and Other females	2000-02	54	35	27	-49.5%	-22.9%	33.9	26.8	22.1	-34.8%	-17.7%
Young Adults Not Completing High School (18-24)	2000	1,810	1,375	1,523	-15.9%	+10.8%	41.3	36.5	26.3	-36.3%	-27.9%
White males	NA	542	463	NA	NA	NA	38.6	38.8	NA	NA	NA
White females	NA	478	289	NA	NA	NA	35.5	25.7	NA	NA	NA
African American and Other males	NA	474	283	NA	NA	NA	59.8	43.0	NA	NA	NA
African American and Other females	NA	316	340	NA	NA	NA	37.8	42.9	NA	NA	NA

Economics

Poverty Rate	2000	2,638	2,574	2,789	+5.7%	+8.4%	21.7	24.1	25.0	15.2%	3.7%
White children	2000	832	774	793	-4.7%	+2.5%	11.4	12.4	12.5	9.6%	0.8%
African American and Other children	2000	1,774	1,800	1,996	+12.5%	+10.9%	37.2	40.5	41.3	11.1%	2.0%
Income of Families w/children (1999 $)	2000	$ 38,036	$ 37,827	$ 41,818	+9.9%	+10.5%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
White families	2000	$ 41,689	$ 43,848	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
African American and Other families	2000	$ 29,349	$ 25,369	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Adolescent Risk Factors

Teenage Pregnancy (ages 14-17)	2001	65	62	36	-44.6%	-41.9%	4.4	5.3	3.0	-32.1%	-43.4%
White	2001	22	23	10	-54.5%	-56.5%	2.5	3.3	1.4	-43.3%	-57.6%
African American and Other	2001	43	39	26	-39.5%	-33.3%	7.4	8.0	5.2	-29.8%	-35.0%
Delinquency	2002	51	96	92	+80.4%	-4.2%	2.4	5.4	5.0	109.5%	-6.9%
White males	2002	18	45	27	+50.0%	-40.0%	2.8	8.6	5.0	78.6%	-41.9%
White females	2002	8	9	17	+112.5%	+88.9%	1.3	1.9	3.3	156.4%	75.4%
African American and Other males	2002	21	31	26	+23.8%	-16.1%	4.9	7.9	6.5	32.7%	-17.7%
African American and Other females	2002	4	11	22	+450.0%	+100.0%	0.9	2.9	5.8	543.3%	99.6%

*Closest available data to this year was used in many cases.

**BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Kids Count 2003

Clarendon County

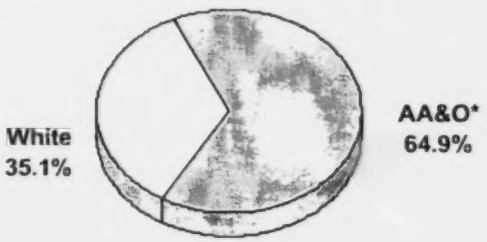
DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2000 there were an estimated 8,363 children under age 18 in the county. Of these, 2,933 were White, 5,208 were African-American, and 222 were other races. There were 8,428 children under age 18 in 1990, 9,170 in 1980, 11,365 in 1970, and 15,172 in 1960.

Children represent a shrinking portion of the county's population. Those under 18 constituted 25.7% of the population in 2000, down from 51.4% in 1960, 44.4% in 1970, and 33.4% in 1980.

In 2000 the 2,407 pre-schoolers under age 6 were 7.4% of the overall population: 6.4% of Whites and 8.1% of African Americans.

Figure 1: Population Ages 0-17 in 2000



* In all charts African-American is combined with other races, and often abbreviated as AA&O. Other races comprise 2.7% of children in the county, with "some other race alone" at 1.2% and 'two or more races" at 0.7% as the largest Other groups.

FAMILY

Families have always been the most important influence in a child's life. Children depend on their families for material needs, stimulation and guidance. Family life is different in numerous ways from previous generations, and many families now face exceptional challenges.

Families with children now make up a smaller share of all households. Only 31.4% of all households in 2000, as compared with 50.0% of households in 1960, had children below the age of 18.

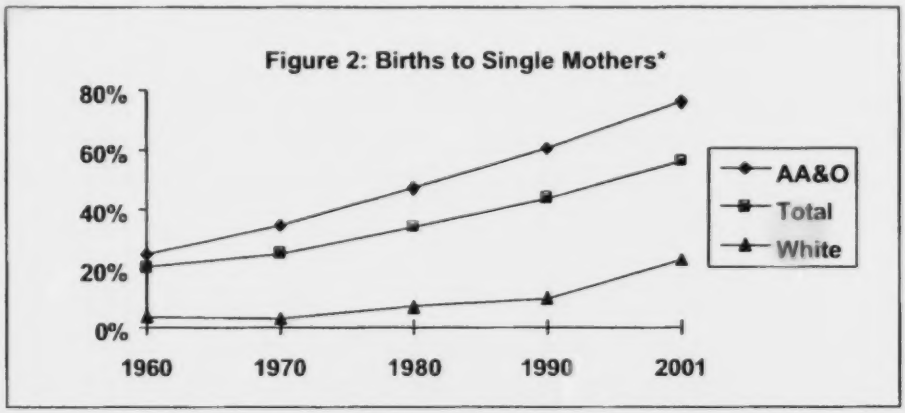
Births to Teen Mothers: In 2001, 29 babies were born to mothers younger than age 18. They were 6.5% of all babies born in the county; 3.6% of all White and 8.2% of all African-American and Other babies were born to teen mothers under the age of 18. Of the babies born to these teens in 2001, 96.6% were born to single mothers, including babies whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers.

In 2001, 80 babies were born to mothers younger than age 20. These babies were 17.8% of all born in the county; 10.1% of all White and 22.4% of all African-American and Other babies were born to mothers under the age of 20. Of the babies born to these mothers in 2001, 90.0% were born to single mothers, including paternity acknowledeged babies.

Education of Mothers Giving Birth: Children's success is strongly influenced by the education of their parents. In 2001, 97 babies, 21.9% of all babies, were born to mothers of all ages who had not completed the 12th grade. In 2001, 22.1% of White and 21.8% of African-American and Other babies were born to mothers who had completed less than the 12th grade. This is a substantial improvement from 59.4% in 1970. In addition, during 2001, 39.3% had completed 12 grades (23.3% of Whites and 48.6% of African Americans and Others) and 38.8% had more than a high school degree (54.6% of Whites and 29.6% of African American and Others).

Births to Single Mothers: Births to single mothers have increased steadily over four decades. In 2001, 206 babies, 45.9% of all babies, were recorded as born to single mothers. A decade earlier in 1990, the percentage was 42.4% and in 1960 it was 20.4%. In 2001, 15.5% of White children and 64.1% of African-American and Other children were born to single mothers. These numbers, however, do not include paternity acknowlegement births.

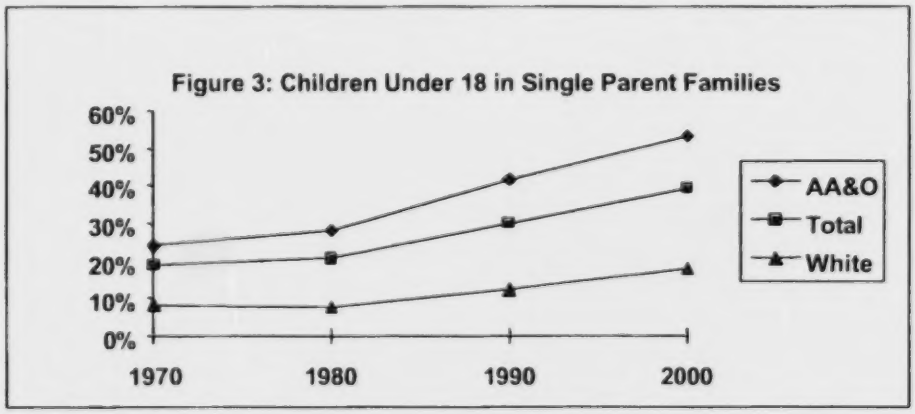
Thus, to these numbers should be added an additional group of 47 babies, 10.5% of all born in 2001, whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers. When the paternity-acknowledged babies are added, the total number born to single mothers in 2001 was 253, constituting 56.3% of all babies, 23.2% of White babies, and 76.2% of African-American and Others.



*Includes paternity acknowleged babies in 1980, 1990 and 2001. Prior to 1979, paternity acknowleged cases were not a statistical category, and thus were included in births to single mothers.

Divorce Rate: In 2001, 181 marriage licenses were issued, while 82 divorce decrees involving 75 children were filed. In 1970, only 22 children were in families involved in divorce.

Single-Parent Family: Increasing numbers of children live in single-parent families. In 2000, 2,630 children lived with only one parent. This was 39.3% of all children, up from 30.0% in 1990, 20.6% in 1980, and 18.8% in 1970. In 2000, 17.9% of White and 53.2% of African-American and Other children lived in single-parent families. Also in 2000, 652 or 38.2% of children under age 6 lived in single parent families: 16.1% of White and 57.4% of African American and Other pre-schoolers.



Parents Working and Child Care: Increasingly, parents must divide their time between children and employers. In order to meet family financial needs, most parents must work and thus have less time for family life. In 2000, 68.7% of mothers with children under 6 and 69.8% with children 6 - 17 were in the labor force. This has increased substantially from 1960 when 43.6% of mothers with children under 6 were in the labor force. Most fathers also work: 61.4% of children under 6 are in families where the single parent or both parents work. Caring for children is a problem for parents unable to obtain quality, affordable daycare while they are at work.

Overall, there are 731 spaces in state-regulated childcare facilities* in the county, 91.8% of these are in licensed programs and 8.2% are in registered programs. Of the spaces, 86.0% are in licensed childcare centers serving more than 12 children, 9.0% are in registered or licensed family childcare homes serving six or fewer children, 4.9% are in licensed group childcare homes serving 7-12 children, and 0.0% are in registered or licensed church programs.

The homes and centers are severely constrained by the limited ability of parents to pay. In the county, the average weekly charge is $ 58.75 for centers and $ 48.96 for homes. Consequently, center wages are low: 50% of centers with pre-school staff and 66.7% of centers with assistant pre-school staff report paying these staff under $6 per hour. Paying $6-$8 per hour are 25% of centers with pre-school staff and 33.3% of centers with assistants. Low wages attract workers with limited education. In 100% of centers, most pre-school staff and in 100% of centers most assistants have only a high school degree. In 25% of centers few to none of the pre-school staff have early childhood credentials. In childcare homes, 71.4% of lead providers have no more education than a high school degree or GED; 14.3% have less than a high school degree.

Family Violence: In 2000, 270 domestic assaults were recorded by law enforcement officials. These domestic assaults comprised 33.3% of all assaults, which include aggravated assaults, simple assaults, and intimidation. Overall, 50.7% of all domestic assaults involve spouse abuse which constitutes 16.9% of all assaults. Since most family violence is not reported, the true incidence of family disruption is much more widespread than even the large number of reported cases would indicate.

Separation from Parents: Some children do not live with their natural parents. In 2000, 10.2% of all children did not live with their natural parents. Approximately 633 or 7.6% of all children lived with relatives, 135 or 1.6% lived with non-relatives, 9 or 0.1% were householders or spouses, and 76 or 0.9% were in institutional facilities.

Abuse and Neglect: In 2000-01, there were 150 investigations into reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children. Through its investigations, the Department of Social Services (DSS) determined that 73 of the investigations were indicated for abuse or neglect: 8.6% for physical abuse, 1.4% for sexual abuse, 0.0% for mental injury, 48.6% for physical neglect, 1.4% for educational neglect, 7.1% for medical neglect, 32.9% for threat of harm for physical/sexual abuse, and 0.0% for other types of abuse.

In the indicated cases of abuse and neglect, DSS determined there were 126 children who were victims of abuse or neglect. Of these, 52.4% were male, 47.6% were female; 38.1% were White, 61.9% were African-American and Other. By age, 34.4% were ages 0 - 5, 33.6% were ages 6 - 12, and 32.0% were ages 13 - 17. In the indicated cases, 19.8% of the children lived in two-parent families, 60.3% in single parent families, 13.5% with unmarried couples, and 6.4% in other circumstances.

Out of Home Placements: As of June 2001, 42 children lived in foster care. The median age at first placement in the county is 2.1 years. The ages of children in foster care were 33.3% 0-2, 19.1% 3-5, 11.9% 6-10, 9.5% 11-13, and 26.2% 14 and above. The foster care population is 40.5% males and 59.5% females. Regarding their future, 26.2% were under a plan for placement in adoptive homes, 42.9% for return to a parent or guardian, 0.0% for placement with a relative, 19.1% for independent living, 11.9% for permanent foster care, and 0.0% for other circumstances.

Adult/Child Ratio: A measure of potential adult attention for children from family and community is the ratio of adults to children and youth. In 2000 there were 2.89 adults for every person below age 18. This was up substantially from 1960, when there were only 0.94 adults for every person under the age 18. This indicates that today there are more adults potentially available to provide attention and care for each child than in the past.

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* This data is the best currently available; however, an effort is being made to check the coverage and improve the accuracy. As soon as more recent and complete data becomes available, it will be posted on the website.

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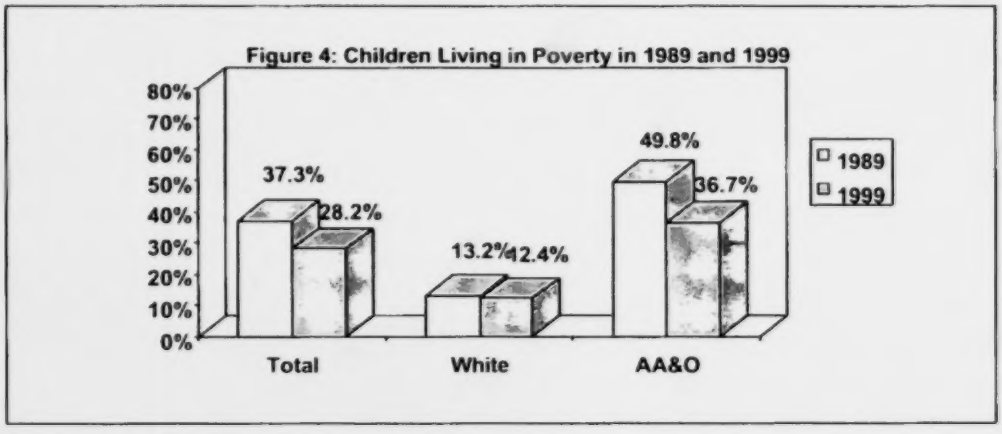
ECONOMIC STATUS

Low income makes it difficult for many families to provide the material and environmental enrichment necessary for healthy child development.

Poverty: In 1999, 2,331 children and youth under the age of 18 lved in 1,106 families with incomes below poverty, comprising 28.2% of all children and youth: 12.4% of Whites and 36.7% of African-Americans and Others. A rough estimate of child poverty in 2001 calculated by the Census Bureau was 23.0%.



Poverty has always been a serious problem. While the rate among children under age 18 in 1989 was 37.3%, it was 36.3% in 1979 and 58.8% in 1969.

Children and the elderly are the age groups most seriously affected by poverty. In 1999, 30.8% of children 0 - 5 (14.0% White, 41.3% African-American and Other), and 26.6% of children 6 - 17 (11.6% White, 34.4% African-American and Other), lived in poverty; 24.6% of persons 65 years and older lived in poverty. Historically, the poverty rate among the elderly was much higher. During the last three decades, federal policy actions have substantially improved the economic status of older persons but have not done so for children.

Single-parent families are most likely to be poor. In 1999, 45.8% of children in single-parent families lived in poverty, but only 14.7% of children in married-couple families were poor. Children in single-parent families made up 53.0% of all the county's children living in poverty.

In 2002, the poverty level was $15,020 for a family of three and $18,100 for a family of four. The poverty threshold is often criticized as an arbitrary number. People can still be poor but may be just above the poverty level. Federal programs utilize varying thresholds. For example, in 1999 there were 4,934 children ages 0-17 who were less than 200 percent of poverty; thus an additional 2,603 children were above the poverty level but could still be considered poor or near-poor with incomes below $30,040 and $36,200 respectively for 3 and 4 person families.

Children Under 18 in Poverty in 1999

Percent of Poverty	Total		White		African American & Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 50%	1,182	14.3%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 100%	2,331	28.2%	361	12.4%	1,970	36.7%
Under 125%	3,045	36.8%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 150%	3,714	44.9%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 175%	4,428	53.5%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 185%	4,602	55.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 200%	4,934	59.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total Children	8,363		2,933		5,430	

Note: Missing data will be released by the Census Bureau later in 2003, and will be posted on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

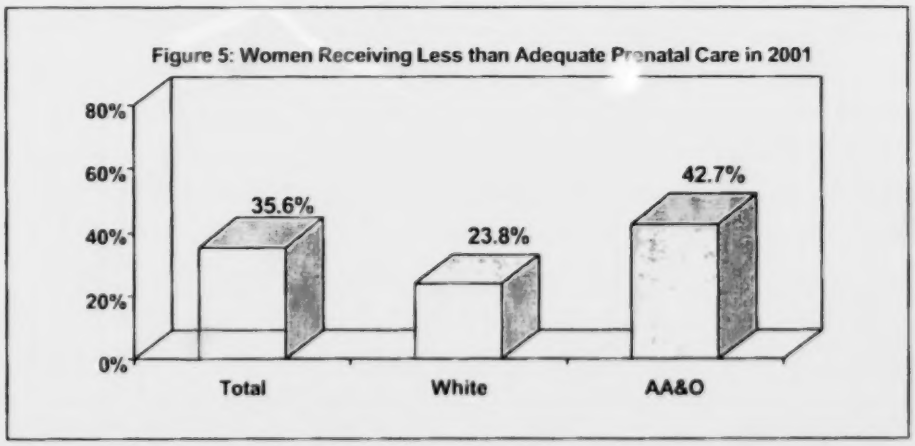
Income: The mean income of families with children in 1999 was $41,624. In 1989 it was $37,271, and 1979, it was $32,617, adjusted for inflation (i.e., in 1999 dollars). The mean income of single-parent families with children was $22,109 for single parents in 1999, as compared with $54,066 in married-couple families with children. From 1999 to 2000, Clarendon County real dollar per capita income (eliminating inflation) increased by 2.8%.

Child Support Payments: There were 582[7] families receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families in fiscal year 2002, but only 30.1 % had child support court orders. Their average monthly payment of child support was $ 277, including child support receipts and tax refund intercepts. In addition, during fiscal year 2002, an estimated 716 parents in non-TANF families were obligated to pay a monthly average of $ 224. Information is not available regarding the amount actually paid.

HEALTH

Good health during a child's formative years helps children to reach their maximum potential. Good health requires healthy lifestyles and effective primary care, starting during the prenatal period and continuing through adolescence into adulthood. Children's health reflects the well-being of the community, as well as how adequately they are protected.

Prenatal Care: Early and continuous prenatal care can make a significant difference in assuring births of healthy babies. Delayed or insufficient prenatal care is associated with low birthweight and other health risks for infants. In 2001, 144, or 32.1% of pregnant women received no prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy. In 2001, 160, or 35.6% of pregnant women received less than adequate prenatal care: 40 or 23.8% of Whites and 120 or 42.7% of African-Americans and Others. In that same year, 6 women received no prenatal care at all.



Low Birthweight: Low birthweight of less than 5.5 pounds and very low birthweight of less than 3.3 pounds are associated with health risks and growth and development problems. In 2001, 70 or 15.6% of all babies in the county were born with low birthweight: 18.5% of African-American and Other babies and 10.7% of White babies. During 1999-2001, approximately 34 or 2.6% of all babies were born with very low birthweight and had the most serious complications: 1.2% of White babies and 3.5% of African-American and Other babies. The cost of hospitalization for each newborn low birthweight baby in the county in 1999 - 2001 was $12,708 and $75,108 for each very low birthweight baby, compared with $1,674 for a baby of normal birthweight. The result was excess cost in the county of $718,882 for all low birthweight babies, of which $465,082 was for very low birthweight babies.

Infant Mortality: During the decade since 1989-91, the overall infant mortality rate decreased by 23.9% from 17.2 to 13.1 per 1000 live births. For Whites, the rate decreased 52.0% from 8.4 to 4.0 per 1000 live births, while for African-Americans and Others the rate decreased 13.1% from 21.5 to 18.7 per 1000 live births. Over the three-year period 1999-2001, 2 White and 15 African-American and Other infants died before age one. By comparison, 4 White and 21 African-American and Other infants died during 1989-91.

[7] Number is an unduplicated count for the entire fiscal year.

Child Injuries and Deaths: Childhood deaths and injuries reflect whether communities are safe for children. In 2001, children in the Clarendon County went to the emergency room 1,182 times because of injuries. Boys are injured more often than girls. Children visit the emergency room at comparable rates for each age from 0 to 17.

In South Carolina, the major causes of death among young children are unintentional injuries, cancer, homicide, and congenital anomalies. Over the three year period 1999-2001, 3 White and 2 African-American and Other children ages 1-14 died in the county. During 1989-91, 6 White and 8 African-American and Other children died.

Immunization: Immunization rates are an important indication of whether young children are receiving adequate preventive health care. During FY 1989-90, 39.2% of children less than two years old seen in public health clinics were not fully immunized against such preventable diseases as Polio, Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Haemophilus Influenza B and Whooping Cough. After a concerted statewide campaign to increase immunizations, the percentage of children seen in public health clinics who were not fully immunized in January 2001 had declined in the county to 9.2%. The DHEC statewide birth registry survey of all two year old children found that 88.1% were fully immunized in 2001. This success demonstrates the potential to improve the status of children when the leadership of the state and its communities act decisively together.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Children and youth are infected with sexually transmitted diseases through sexual abuse or irresponsible sexual activity. National prevalence rates indicate: a 1 in 8 chance that sexually active 15 year-old girls will develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), the most rapidly increasing cause of infertility; 10% of sexually active adolescent girls and boys are infected with chlamydia, the most common cause of PID; and as many as 15% of teen girls are infected with human papilloma virus, often with strains linked to cervical cancer. Furthermore, research evidence indicates that susceptibility to HIV/AIDS increases by 3 to 8 times through prior infection with various STDs.

According to national studies, approximately 1 in 4 sexually experienced youth aged 13-19 acquires a STD ever year; since two-thirds of all high school students have had sexual intercourse and half engage in intercourse over a thr month period, this would suggest that 10-15% of teens are infected with STDs annually. For 2000, this would indicate th an estimated 369 to 554 youth ages 13-19 in the county were infected with a STD. Many infections are either not identifi for treatment or not reported. In the county, there were 1 reported cases of children under age 15 and 28 youth ages 15 19 infected with gonorrhea; 2 youth under 15 and 60 ages 15 - 19 were reported infected with chlamydia. Youth wi undiagnosed and untreated STDs often spread their infections.

Healthy Lifestyles: Although no county data is available, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2001 found that ma high school students are not following good health habits. The YRBS revealed that 26% felt that they were overweight; 42 were trying to lose weight: 27% of boys and 57% of girls. Although during a week 79% of high school students ate fru 59% ate salad, and over 83% ate vegetables, only 17% ate the recommended five or more servings of fruit and vegetabl per day. During a week, 49% did stretching or muscle strengthening exercises, and 59% exercised three or more times f 20 minutes in sports that made them sweat or breathe hard. However, 11% of students engaged in no vigorous or modera activity at all during a week: 8% of boys and 13% of girls.

Tobacco Use:* Cigarette smoking starts at a young age and often becomes habitual. In the county during 2002 among all students 15 and older, 15.6% first smoked by age 11, 33.4% by age 13, and 48.9% by age 15. In a typical month, 22.6% of 7th and 8th graders and 23.1% of high school students smoked cigarettes. White youths were much more likely than African-Americans to smoke: 38.8% of White male and 38.6% of White female 7th to 12th graders used cigarettes, as compared with 23.0% of African-American males and 11.4% of African American females. A smaller but significant group of high school students (4.7%) used smokeless tobacco monthly; it was used primarily by White males (20.5% compared with 2.0% of all other race and sex groups).

* County participation in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking was not complete but county data is presented to provide the best available picture of teen risk-taking attitudes and behavior in Clarendon County. Three of three districts participated, but District 3 included grades 9 - 12 only.

Disabilities: No data are collected on the true prevalence of disabilities within the county. According to national reported estimates, over 10% of children and youth have developmental disabilities at any point in time, and more than 17 are affected at some time before age 18 by deafness, blindness, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, speech defects, development delays, learning disabilities, and emotional or behavioral problems. For 2000 this suggests that at least 836 children ar youth under age 18 in the county are currently affected by disabilities.

Approximately 5% of children and youth nationally have serious disabilities which have lifelong implications fo work, social life and community living. Typically among children and youth, there are 1 - 2% who are mentally retarded, - 3% with serious emotional disturbances, over 1% with orthopedic or multiple disabilities, including cerebral palsy an many hereditary conditions, and under 1% with visual or hearing impairments.

Other chronic health problems also affect the lives of many children. Over 3% of children have one or more these limitations. Such serious chronic conditions affect 1 - 2% who have respiratory problems (asthma and chron bronchitis), 0.5 - 1.0% with neurological problems (epilepsy and seizures), and less than 1% with circulatory problen (congenital heart defects and acquired diseases).

Other disabilities are identified primarily in school performance. These would include 347 students in grades 1- with learning disabilities and 212 students in grades 1-12 with speech/language deficits.

Disabilities are caused by genetics, disease, poor prenatal conditions, injuries, and environmental factors. For example, lead exposure, primarily from paint dust, was detected in over 1% of all children screened, including 17 in Clarendon County.

Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: While over 20% of 9-17 year olds meet diagnostic criteria for some form of mental disorder, the number with serious emotional disturbance and impaired functioning in family, school, or community activities is: 9-13% for substantial functional impairment and 5-9% for extreme functional impairment. The rates among poor children are at the higher end of these ranges. Based on a federal formula for estimating prevalence, in the county there are 12% or 557 seriously emotionally disturbed 9-17 year olds with substantial functional impairment and 8% or 371 with extreme functional impairment during the course of a year. Conduct disorders, attention deficit, depression, and anxiety disorders are the most prevalent, each affecting 3% or more of school-aged children. These disorders may occur simultaneously in a child. The prevalence rates are highest among males, adolescents, and disadvantaged persons in communities under stress and lacking social cohesion; depression, however, is more prevalent among females. On the YRBS, 20% of boys and 33% of girls in high school reported that during the past year they felt so sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that they stopped doing some usual activities. Another indicator of emotional problems is the 8% of high school students in South Carolina who reported that they had "attempted suicide" in the past year: 5% of boys and 10% of girls. Suicide attempts resulted in 4% of high school students reporting that they required treatment by a doctor or nurse for injury, poisoning, or overdose.

Inadequate Healthcare: No county level data is routinely collected regarding the number of children and youth with inadequate healthcare. According to estimates for 2000-02 by the Bureau of the Census through the annual Current Population Survey, the statewide average rate of uninsured children and youth under age 18 in families with incomes under 200% of poverty in South Carolina was 16.6%, and 9.9% above 200% of poverty. If these rates are applied to the county, there are 820 children in the county below 200% of poverty with no health insurance, and 340 children above 200% of poverty with no health insurance, for a total of 1,160 uninsured children in Clarendon County. The number lacking basic accessible primary care is at least double the number lacking insurance. Those lacking primary care are often dependent on health services at school. The ratio of students to nurses recommended nationally is 750:1. In the county, this would suggest the need for 8 nurses, compared with 8 currently working in the schools.

Medicaid: For several years, the State of South Carolina has emphasized enrolling eligible children into Medicaid. In late 1997, South Carolina implemented its version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, Partners for Healthy Children (PHC), and aggressively pursued outreach enrollment for PHC and Medicaid. As a result, enrollment of children ages 0 through 18 in Clarendon County has increased by 80.4% from June 1997 to June 2001; thus Medicaid and PHC were serving 67.4% of all children in that age range. The total Medicaid expenditures in South Carolina for services provided to children ages 0 through 18 for state fiscal year 2002 were $991 million, at an average statewide expenditure of $2,343 per child enrolled, approximate Medicaid expenditure for children in the county would be $13.2 million.

In June 2001, the total number of Clarendon County children, birth through 18, enrolled in Medicaid was 5,633. The total can be broken down into the following age and race groupings:

	White	African American	Hispanic	Other	Total
Children under 1	68	259	22	14	363
Children 1 - 5	316	1,069	49	52	1,486
Children 6 - 14	508	2,044	49	104	2,705
Children 15 - 18	194	852	9	24	1,079
Total	1,086	4,224	129	194	5,633

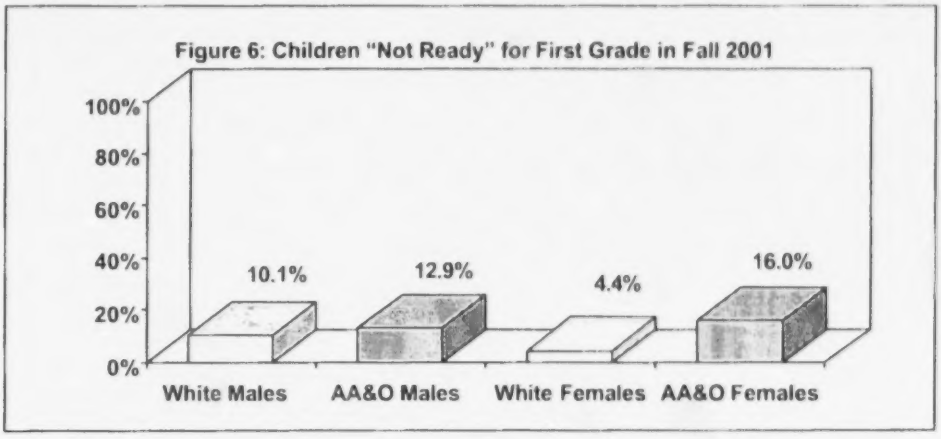
Ambulatory Care: When children lack adequate primary care, whether through lack of insurance, through limite access, or through failing to utilize available care, preventable and treatable conditions become serious and requi hospitalization. A useful indicator of inadequate primary care is the percentage of all hospitalizations that could typicall have been avoided through ambulatory care, especially for pneumonia, asthma, diarrhea and vomiting, dehydration, ar severe ear, nose, and throat infections. The share of hospitalizations for these types of conditions could normally be ke below 20%; for children in the county under the age of 18 during 2001, the share was 30.4% for Whites and 26.5% f African-Americans and Others.

READINESS AND EARLY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Too many children reach school without the readiness skills needed for success in learning, such as language, soci skills, visual and auditory discrimination, memory recall, and knowledge of colors, letters, numbers, names of objects, et Likewise, some schools are not ready to respond appropriately to the varying developmental levels of children in the ear grades. As a result, too many students do not experience the success needed to create the motivation and engagement th sustain learning.

1st Grade "Readiness" on 2001-02 Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB):

58 children not ready 12.5% children not ready



1st Grade Failures in 2002:

39 children failing 8.5% children failing

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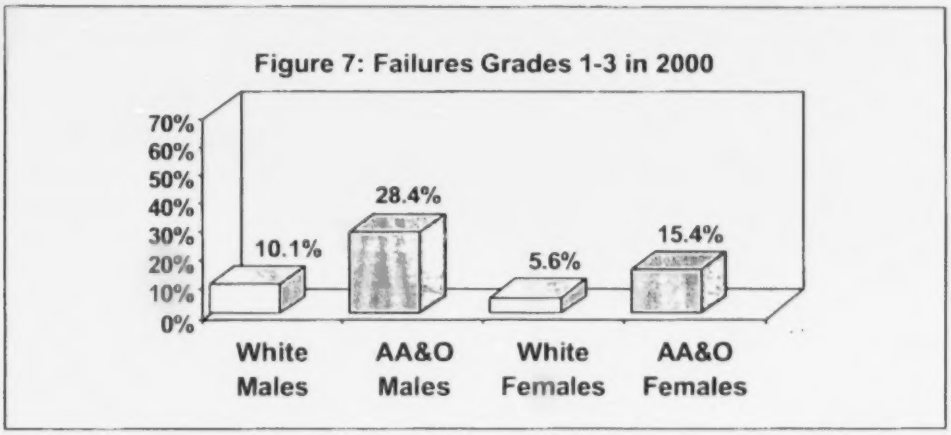
Failures Grades 1-3 in 2002 (approximate cumulative percentage of grades one, two and three):

89 children failing 20.0% children failing



Over-age for Grade 3 in 2001

103 children over-age 24.7% children over-age

Special Education: Large numbers of children are placed in special education classes. In elementary school, 138 six and seven year olds and 112 eight and nine year-olds were enrolled in special education classes during 2001-02, approximately 16.4% and 12.9% of their age groups respectively: 13.8% of White 8 – 9 year olds were in special education and 12.5% of African American and Others.

Readiness Summary: A serious problem exists in terms of student readiness and school success in the early grades. With 12.5% assessed not ready for the 1st grade, 24.7% over age in grade 3, and 12.9% of eight and nine year-olds placed in special education, unacceptably large numbers of students still begin school without good prospects of success in future school achievement and graduation; however, great improvement has occurred since the mid 1990s.

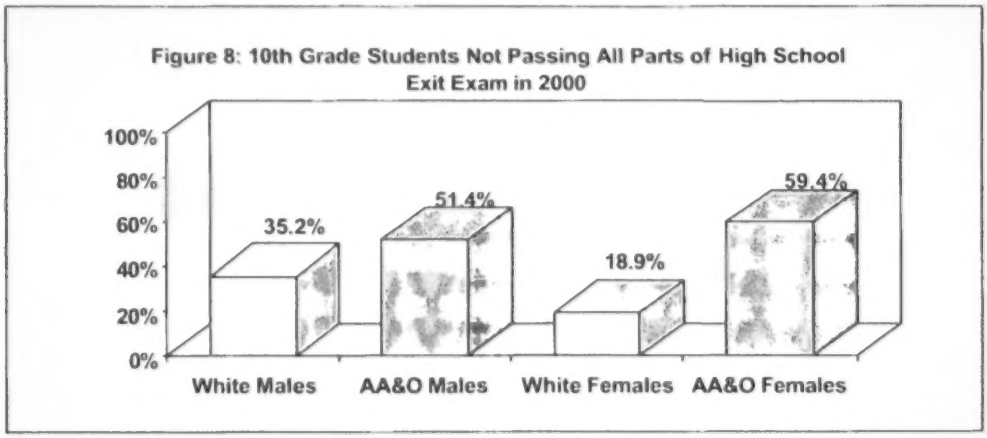
SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

By the end of elementary school, significant numbers of students perform below minimum standards. The following standardized test measures, comparing student performance to state minimum standards, should be used in combination with routine classroom assessments more reflective of real-world performance skills.

Special Education: Special education placements reflect both the significant number of children with serious handicapping conditions and a large number of students with mild learning and behavioral problems that have not been accommodated successfully by the regular educational program. The result is a large system of self-contained, resource, and itinerant services to meet the needs of 212 speech and language impaired, 347 learning disabled, 28 emotionally disabled, 226 mentally impaired, and 47 physically handicapped, deaf, blind, and other handicapped students. Special education classes served approximately 14.4% of all students in grades 1 - 12 during 2001-2002.

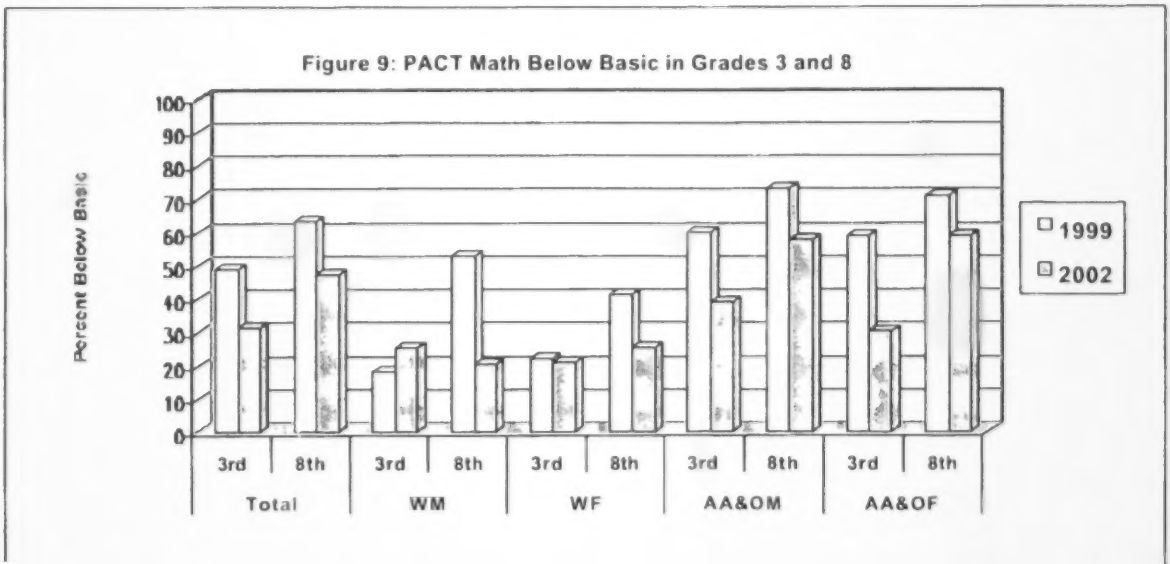
Exit Exam - not passing all parts of Exit Exam on first attempt in the 10th grade in 2002

165 students did not pass all parts — 46.2% of students did not pass all parts



Achievement Trends: How has performance on standardized achievement tests changed over the past 20 years? During the 1980s, student performance on the BSAP tests improved dramatically. Between 1981 and 1990, the percentage of 8th grade students in Clarendon County who did not meet standards declined from 71.2% to 26.9% in math and from 70.7% to 26.1% in reading. During the 1990's the BSAP trend changed, with 44.8% not meeting 8th grade math standards in 1998 and 37.1% in reading. On standardized tests, the first year when South Carolina students take the exam is comparable to the challenge encountered by the national norm group which took the test only once. Looking at first year data, the percentage of 4th grade students at or below the 25th percentile of national norms was 44.7% in 1983 on the CTBS, 42.4% in 1990 on the Stanford, and 46.9% in 1995 on the Metropolitan; for 9th graders, the percentage in the bottom quarter was 40.6% in 1990 and 45.0% in 1995. Although not comparable, the percent below basic on the 4th grade PACT in 1999, the first year of administration, was 48.3%, but in 2002 30.1% of 4th graders were below basic in reading and math; the percentage of 8th graders below basic in reading and math averaged 54.1% in 1999 and 41.8% in 2002.

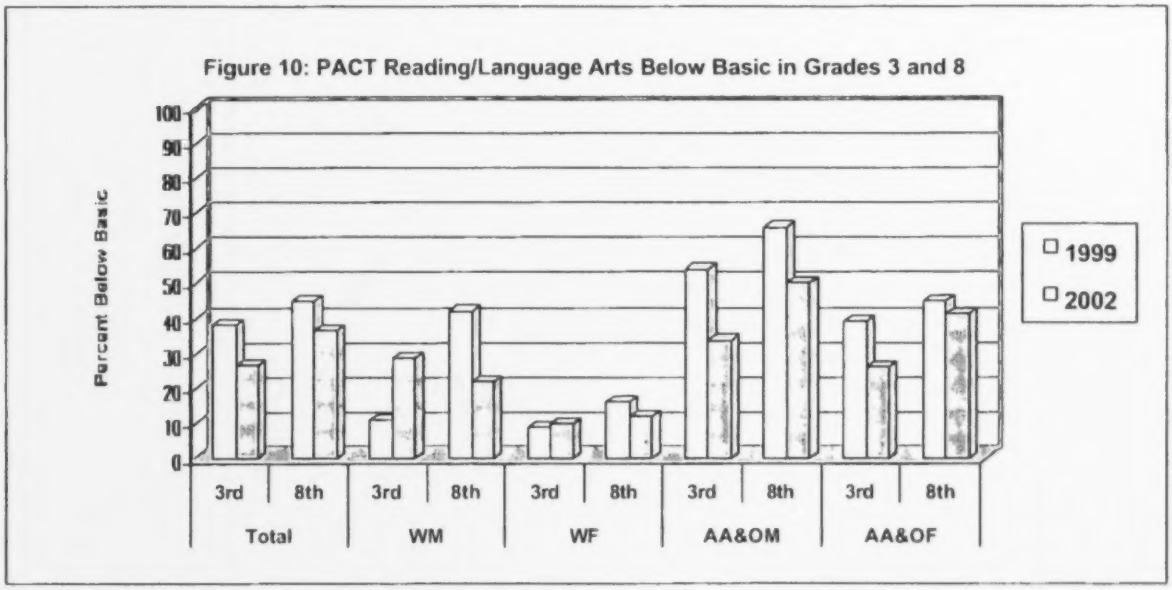
PACT: The Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) was first administered in 1999 for grades 3 - 8 in math and reading/language arts. Math assesses skills in numbers, numerical and algebraic concepts, patterns and functions, geometry, measurement, probability and statistics. The percentage of students scoring below basic in math has decreased by 26.0% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 784 students below basic in grades 3-8 but there would have been an additional 275 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
		Math (%)				
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	31.4	25.0	21.0	39.0	30.5
	4	35.4	13.6	26.0	49.6	36.4
	5	42.1	37.1	18.9	49.0	48.0
	6	44.3	30.0	31.0	52.6	47.0
	7	53.3	38.7	36.1	58.9	59.9
	8	47.2	20.5	25.0	57.9	58.8
Basic	3	47.2	50.0	41.9	42.5	53.2
	4	42.1	31.8	39.7	38.1	51.3
	5	42.4	43.5	54.1	37.9	40.7
	6	41.2	46.7	38.0	39.9	41.7
	7	31.6	37.1	32.8	32.8	27.2
	8	45.7	68.5	55.9	38.6	37.6
Proficient	3	15.1	14.3	19.4	15.8	12.8
	4	15.3	31.8	21.9	10.1	9.7
	5	10.9	14.5	10.8	10.3	10.2
	6	11.2	16.7	23.9	6.4	8.6
	7	9.3	11.3	21.3	6.7	6.8
	8	4.9	6.8	11.8	2.8	3.0
Advanced	3	6.4	10.7	17.7	2.7	3.5
	4	7.2	22.7	12.3	2.2	2.6
	5	4.6	4.8	16.2	2.8	1.1
	6	3.3	6.7	7.0	1.2	2.6
	7	5.8	12.9	9.8	1.7	6.1
	8	2.2	4.1	7.4	0.7	0.6

Reading/Language Arts assesses reading, listening, speaking, writing, research, and communication with technology. The first PACT assessment found a high percentage of elementary and middle grades students performing below standards and only a modest number above basic. The percentage of students scoring below basic in reading/language arts has decreased by 23.4% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 631 students below basic in grades 3 - 8 but there would have been an additional 193 at 1999 performance rates.

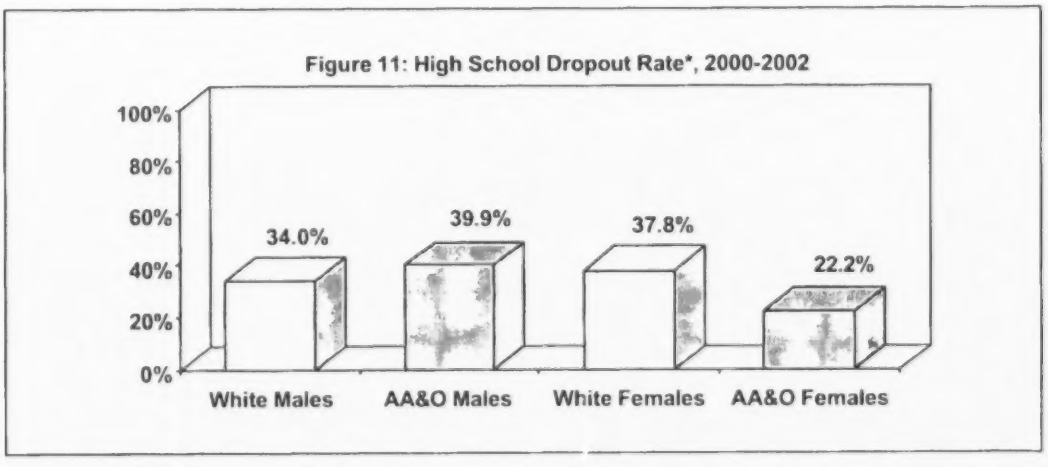
Figure 10: PACT Reading/Language Arts Below Basic in Grades 3 and 8



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
		Reading/Language Arts (%)				
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	26.7	28.6	9.8	33.6	26.2
	4	24.7	15.6	6.8	41.3	22.1
	5	39.3	37.1	17.6	50.3	40.1
	6	41.9	21.7	19.7	60.1	39.7
	7	40.4	27.4	9.8	56.7	38.6
	8	36.4	21.9	11.8	50.0	41.2
Basic	3	45.0	42.9	31.1	44.5	52.5
	4	52.4	34.4	57.5	50.7	59.1
	5	49.8	50.0	58.1	42.8	52.0
	6	38.2	56.7	35.2	28.3	43.0
	7	46.4	59.7	57.4	38.3	46.2
	8	44.7	47.9	44.1	46.5	41.8
Proficient	3	27.0	25.0	55.7	21.9	20.6
	4	22.6	50.0	35.6	7.2	18.8
	5	10.7	12.9	23.0	6.9	7.9
	6	17.5	21.7	36.6	10.4	15.2
	7	11.6	12.9	27.9	5.0	12.4
	8	16.9	28.8	32.4	3.5	17.0
Advanced	3	1.2	3.6	3.3	0.0	0.7
	4	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.0
	5	0.2	0.0	1.4	0.0	0.0
	6	2.4	0.0	8.5	1.2	2.0
	7	1.6	0.0	4.9	0.0	2.8
	8	2.0	1.4	11.8	0.0	0.0

Dropout Rate - 8th grade students no longer enrolled in grade 12
(average of students for the three years ending 2000-2002)

169 students drop out annually **32.6% students drop out?**



Dropouts: Distressing numbers of students drop out and fail to graduate. An average of 40.2% of 8th graders failed to graduate** from county schools five years later during the period 1980-84, 24.2% during 1985-89, and 21.6% during 1990-94, 26.2% during 1995-97 and 35.3% during 1998-2000***.

During 2001-02, 92.0% of all who did graduate received the State High School Diploma, while the remaining 8.0% received a State Certificate for meeting the required Carnegie units but not passing the Exit Exam.

*12th grade enrollment compared to 8th grade enrollment four years earlier

** This is calculated by using 8th grade enrollment to graduation data.

*** 2001 data will be available soon and will be posted on the website.

Fortunately, many dropouts enroll in adult education programs and either earn a high school diploma or obtain a GED. During 2001-02, 54 Adult Education high school diplomas were awarded to school completers and in 2001 33 GEDs were awarded in the county. Over time, adult education high school diplomas and GEDs increase the effective school completion rate substantially. In the 2000 Census, 29.8% of county resident 25 - 34 year-olds said they had not completed either high school or a GED.

Achievement Summary: The numbers of students testing below basic on the PACT and dropping out range from 24.7% to 53.3%. Thus, far too many students fail to acquire the knowledge, skills, learning habits, and motivation necessary to compete in the economy or contribute to society in the 21st Century.

ADOLESCENT RISK BEHAVIORS

Academic achievement is greatly influenced by the prevailing youth culture which often promotes popularity with peers and partying rather than studying and doing well in school. The prevalence of adolescent risk-taking and under-achievement is illustrated by the poor grades of substance-abusing teens.

Substance Abuser Rates at Levels of Academic Performance

	Usual School Grades in Past Year					Total
	A Range	B Range	C Range	D Range	F Range	
Smoked Cigarettes (in past 30 days)	15.2%	18.2%	27.9%	35.1%	54.9%	23.3%
Drank 5 or More Drinks on One Occasion (in past 30 days)	13.2%	12.7%	18.8%	17.2%	21.2%	15.6%
Used Any Illicit Drug (in past 30 days)	12.1%	13.1%	14.4%	23.2%	9.6%	14.2%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

As influence from parents and other adults declines during adolescence, significant numbers of students engage in violence, crime, school offenses, depressive emotions and attempted suicide:

Risk Behaviors Participated in During Past 12 Months	White Male		White Female		African American Male		African American Female		Total		Total (Grade 7-12)
	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	
Carried a handgun or knife for self-defense?	31.6%	24.7%	8.4%	4.5%	19.5%	20.0%	6.3%	5.8%	14.6%	12.8%	13.5%
Carried a handgun or knife as a weapon?	9.1%	14.2%	2.8%	0.6%	12.9%	12.6%	1.7%	4.5%	6.7%	7.8%	7.4%
Been in a fight with someone?	57.8%	38.7%	24.4%	11.8%	47.7%	24.7%	31.9%	19.6%	39.8%	22.8%	29.4%
Hit your boyfriend or girlfriend?	3.1%	1.2%	5.5%	9.3%	6.6%	4.6%	19.6%	22.1%	10.8%	11.6%	11.3%
Been hit by your boyfriend or girlfriend?	13.4%	8.3%	6.7%	5.6%	12.3%	10.5%	11.6%	10.0%	11.4%	9.2%	10.0%
Rec'd detention or in-school suspension?	40.2%	25.3%	19.9%	19.0%	37.0%	33.3%	25.2%	23.5%	30.6%	26.0%	27.8%
Been suspended from school?	29.5%	15.9%	12.8%	9.2%	29.7%	23.1%	19.2%	12.2%	23.3%	15.6%	18.6%
Stolen anything worth > $5?	15.0%	14.9%	4.5%	6.0%	21.5%	12.1%	6.5%	6.6%	12.6%	9.4%	10.7%
Had an accident while driving?	NA	13.0%	NA	14.2%	NA	6.7%	NA	6.3%	NA	8.9%	NA
Been arrested and booked?	3.0%	5.4%	0.9%	0.7%	4.8%	5.1%	2.2%	2.0%	3.1%	3.2%	3.2%
Felt hopeless for two weeks or more?	26.0%	14.1%	24.6%	29.0%	16.8%	11.7%	20.7%	17.8%	20.6%	17.2%	18.5%
Seriously considered attempting suicide?	11.4%	8.7%	12.4%	12.5%	8.7%	5.7%	7.6%	5.5%	9.2%	7.1%	7.9%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

Adolescence is often a time of taking risks and asserting independence from adults. When asked whether they would tell an adult about a problem, the following percentages of county students said they would be "not likely" or "very unlikely" to tell if they:

-heard a student threaten to harm someone: 40.4% middle school, 48.2% high school;
-saw a student with a handgun at school: 30.7% middle school, 30.6% high school;
-saw a student with a knife at school: 33.6% middle school, 37.1% high school;
-saw a student with drugs at school: 42.5% middle school, 57.7% high school;

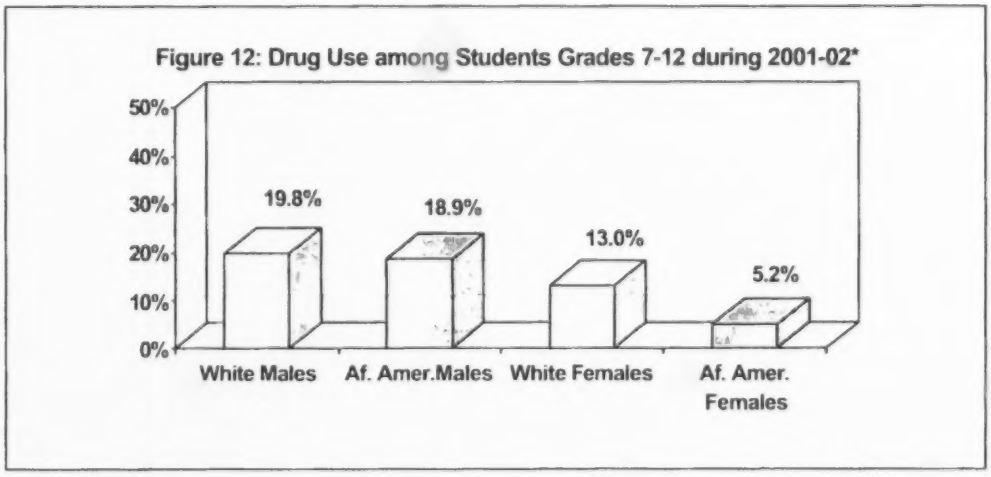
Alcohol Use:* In the county during 2001-02, 27.6% of 7th and 8th graders and 30.2% of high schoolers said they had used alcohol in the past month. Of White males in grades 7 - 12, 42.7% had used it in the past month, compared with 28.8% of African-American males; likewise, 39.3% of White females said they had used alcohol, compared with 22.3% of African-American females. Many youth first used alcohol at an early age: 12.0% had used alcohol by age 11 or younger, 26.6% by age 13, and 50.7% by age 15.

During the previous year, 21.5% of 7th and 8th graders and 23.0% of high schoolers said they had ridden with a drinking driver. Of seniors who drive, 10.3% said they had driven after drinking. Widespread use is encouraged by the ready availability and perceived low risk of alcohol use. Among students who expressed an opinion, 36.9% of eighth graders and 63.8% of seniors felt that beer was easy to get. Also, 69.5% of eighth graders and 61.3% of seniors felt there was not a great risk in drinking two drinks a day, and 52.0% of eighth graders and 45.5% of high schoolers felt there was not a great risk in drinking 5 drinks every weekend.

Heavy Drinking:* In 2001-02, 11.5% of 7th and 8th graders and 15.8% of high school students in the county repor drinking 5 or more drinks in a day during the past month. When asked how many drinks, if any, they usually consur 10.2% of all county students in grades 7 - 12 in 2001-02 responded 3 or more drinks at a time and 5.1% reported usually 5 more drinks. Among high school students, 11.9% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 6.4% 5 or mc Among seniors, 18.4% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 12.5% 5 or more; however 22.2% of seni said that they drank 5 or more drinks in a day once or more during the past month.

Drugs:* In 2001-02, 11.1% of 7th and 8th graders and 14.1% of high schoolers in the county reported using ille drugs during the previous month. Among students in grades 7 - 12, use was reported by 19.8% of White males, 13.0% Wh females, 18.9% of African-American males, and 5.2% of African-American females. Some young people initiated drug u at an early age: 5.3% had experienced their first use by age 11 or sooner; 13.3% had used a drug by age 13, and 25.7% by a 15.

In the past year, 6.9% of all high school students in the county who drive and 10.3% of seniors who drive said that they had driven after using drugs. Such use is encouraged by the ready availability of drugs: 19.8% of 8th graders who had an opinion said it is easy to get marijuana and 8.9% said it is easy to get cocaine or crack; 51.8% of seniors said it is easy to get marijuana and 27.5% said it was easy to get cocaine or crack.



* County participation in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking was not complete but county data is presented to provide the best available picture of teen risk-taking attitudes and behavior in Clarendon County. Three of three districts participated, but District 3 included grades 9 - 12 only.

Sexual Activity and Pregnancy: Many teenagers now engage in sexual activity. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) administered to a representative sample of high school students throughout South Carolina in 2001 showed that sexual activity begins at an early age: 7% of female and 21% of male students have engaged in intercourse before age 13; by age 15, 38% the females and 49% of males have engaged in sexual intercourse. Statewide, 48% of females and 50% of males in the 11th and 12th grades reported engaging in intercourse during the past three months. Furthermore, 27% of female and 33% of male 12th graders have had intercourse with four or more partners during their lifetimes.

Premature sexual activity often results in pregnancy. In the county, 47 girls between the ages of 14 and 17 became pregnant in 1999, 36 in 2000 and 37 in 2001. This represented 3.8% of all girls ages 14 – 17 in 2001; several times this percentage become pregnant at least once by age 18. The 2001 pregnancy rate for ages 14 - 17 was 2.8% for Whites and 4.3% for African-Americans and Others. Of all pregnancies of 14-17 year olds, 75.7% resulted in live births, with almost all other pregnancies ending in abortions.

Teen pregnancy rates increased substantially across the state during the 1980s; as a result, greater emphasis v devoted to preventing teen pregnancy. Since 1989, the teen pregnancy rate in Clarendon County has decreased by 44.9 Overall, it has increased by 12.0% for Whites, and decreased by 56.6% for African Americans and Others.

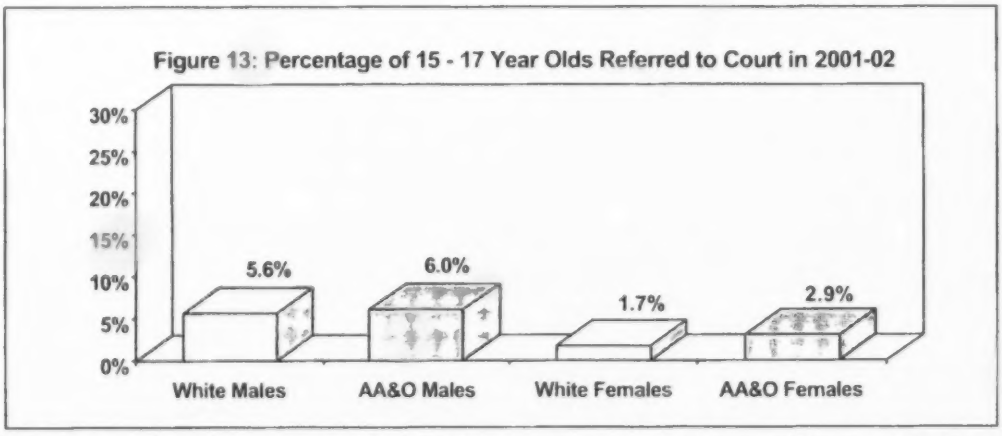
Juvenile Delinquency: In 2001-02, 143 individual juvenile offenders in the county were referred to the Solicitor for delinquency; of these, 14.0% were age 12 or younger, 35.0% were 13 or 14, and 51.0% were 15 or older.

Of the referrals to the family court, 13.3% of all referrals were for violent and serious crimes which include drug trafficking, acts against persons for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and serious property offenses for arson and burglary. Also, 17 juvenile cases constituting 9.4% of all referrals were for status offenses. Status offenses include truancy, running away, incorrigibility, and other offenses that would not be crimes for adults.

Delinquents are likely to live in families with low income: 61.1% lived in families with income under $10,000, 13.9% with $10,000-$19,999 and 25.0% with $20,000 or more. Furthermore, only 28.6% of delinquents lived with both natural parents, while 45.5% lived in a single parent household, 20.8% lived with other relatives, and 5.2% in other situations including parent plus step-parent. Delinquency or criminal activity occurs among many related family members: 15.8% had at least one family member who was delinquent or had some criminal record.

Youth referred to the family courts are likely to have been there before. In 2001-02, 44.8% had at least one prior referral and 9.8% had been referred to court 3 times or more. Many were referred at an early age. For delinquents 15 - 17 years old, 1.1% had been referred by the age of 10, 3.3% by the age of 12, and 17.6% by the age of 14.

During 2001-02, 71 youth ages 15 to 17 were referred to the family courts. In the county, 4.4% of all youth 15 to 17 were referred to court in one year and roughly double that percentage are referred at least once by age 18. Furthermore, the National Youth Survey indicates that typically across the United States the proportion of youth engaging in crime is two or three times the number ever apprehended. In 2001-02, there were 7 juveniles committed from the county to DJJ custody and placed in residential programs.



Not in School or Employed: During 2000, 281 teenagers ages 16-19 were idle, meaning they neither worked any hours nor were enrolled in school, even part-time. Idle teens comprised 13.5% of their age group: 16.0% for White and 12.5% African-American & Other teens. A much larger number, perhaps twice as many, were not engaged in either school full time or work full time. The data reflect a serious failure in both school completion and the critical transition from school to work, significantly affecting their development as future workers. For an in-depth description of the problems of young adults seeking to enter the labor force, visit our website at www.scyoungadults.org for our state and county reports on 18-29 year olds.

Deaths: During 1997-2001, 16 youth ages 15 to 19 died. Historically, automobile accidents have been the major cause, resulting in 6 deaths between 1996 and 2000; homicides killed 3 youth 15 to 19 years old during the five-year period, and 0 youth committed suicide. Alcohol use is often a significant factor in deaths among teenagers.

SUMMARY

Facing the Scope of Problems: The data on families, economic status, health, readiness, school achievement, and adolescent risk behaviors provide a troublesome picture of the condition of children in Clarendon County. The 39.3% of children in single-parent families, 28.2% in poverty, 35.3% not graduating from school, 30.2% of high school students using alcohol and 14.1% using drugs each month, and other data profiled in this report suggest that too many children are at risk of not growing up to become self-supporting adults, good family members, and responsible community citizens.

Emphasizing the Positive: South Carolina Kids Count reports have been developed to describe the problems of children in each of the counties. Fortunately, the majority of children and youth are doing well, and some very well. One simple description is the percentage of children who do not fall into the problem categories reported. For the county, 82.2% of children are born to non-teen mothers ages 20 or older, 43.7% are born to married parents, and 60.7% lived in two-parent families; 71.8% were not poor and 40.4% lived in families with incomes above twice the poverty level for a family of three, $30,040 in 2002; 84.4% of babies were born with normal birthweights; 87.5% were assessed as ready for the first grade, 52.8% scored basic or better on PACT for 8th grade math and 63.6% for 8th grade reading, 53.8% passed all parts of the Exit Exam in the 10th grade, and 64.7% graduated with their class. In a typical month, 69.8% of high school students do not drink alcohol, 85.9% do not use drugs, and 76.9% do not smoke. Unfortunately, the absence of a problem is not always an indicator of success. Some data is available for exemplary performance: for example, 28.2% of 3rd graders and 18.9% of 8th graders scored proficient or advanced on PACT in reading and 21.5% of 3rd graders and 7.1% of 8th graders in math. Unfortunately, data on success is not generally available.

Despite the limitations of success data, we must emphasize the positive in providing good support and appropriate influences for children and youth. Recent philosophy and publications such as those of the Search Institute (700 South Third Street, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN, 55415-1138, tel. 1-800-888-7828, www.search-institute.org), emphasize the critical importance of "developmental assets" to promote and support positive development. One short book from the Search Institute, (What Kids Need to Succeed, by Peter J. Benson, Judy Gailbraith, and Pamela Espeland, 1995) presents an excellent array of suggestions for promoting developmental assets through families, community, faith congregations, and schools. If each family, school, religious congregation and community organization assertively worked to build such assets, the problems described in this report would be reduced dramatically. Such positive family-school-community efforts could improve South Carolina's national Kids Count ranking from the bottom 10 to the average or even into the top 10 by prevention of unnecessary problems affecting children and youth, as shown on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

All data presented in this report is the most recent available at the date it goes to the printer. This version of the Kids Count report will be revised as more recent and additional data become available. Please send us your corrections and suggestions for improvement. We welcome your ideas for ways to make the state and county reports more useful and accurate. Please utilize local data sources whenever possible to supplement the profile provided through our report.

Data related inquiries should be directed to:

Anne Wilson, Data Manager (awilson@drss.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-4810

Calls for **copies of reports** for other counties and inquiries regarding more recent reports should be made to:

Kim Hazel-Lohr, Project Manager (khazel@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-1295

For **policy questions and general comments**, please contact:

Dr. A. Baron Holmes, Project Director (bholmes@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-2291

Comparable reports for all 46 counties and for the state can also be found on the World Wide Web at

www.sckidscount.org

Our website also provides: links to other websites for indicators in our report; high to low rankings for individual indicators; information on how to improve SC's national rank; and a glossary of definitions.

The national Kids Count Report can be found on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website at

www.aecf.org

Clarendon County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Indicators	Most Recent Year	Number					Percent					R
		1980*	1990*	Most Recent Data	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980 Rank	199
Health													
Low Birth Weight	2001	67	54	70	+4.5%	+29.6%	13.2	10.5	15.6	18.5%	48.5%	45	
White babies	*2001*	*14*	*12*	*18*	*+28.6%*	*+50.0%*	*8.8*	*7.0*	*10.7*	*21.6%*	*53.4%*	*45*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*53*	*42*	*52*	*-1.9%*	*+23.8%*	*15.1*	*12.3*	*18.5*	*22.2%*	*50.7%*	*44*	
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	2001	275	297	160	+41.8%	-46.1%	54.0	57.8	35.6	-34.1%	-38.4%	41	
White babies	*2001*	*44*	*72*	*40*	*-9.1%*	*-44.4%*	*27.7*	*41.9*	*23.8*	*-14.1%*	*-43.1%*	*27*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*231*	*225*	*120*	*-48.1%*	*-46.7%*	*66.0*	*65.8*	*42.7*	*-35.3%*	*-35.1%*	*39*	
Infant Mortality	2001	28	25	17	-39.3%	-32.0%	1.9	1.7	1.3	-32.1%	-23.9%	31	
White babies	*2001*	*4*	*4*	*2*	*-50.0%*	*-50.0%*	*0.9*	*0.8*	*0.4*	*-55.7%*	*-52.0%*	*7*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*24*	*21*	*15*	*-37.5%*	*-28.6%*	*2.4*	*2.2*	*1.9*	*-21.0%*	*-13.1%*	*28*	
Family													
Births to mothers under 18	2001	49	45	29	-40.8%	-35.6%	9.6	8.8	6.5	-32.5%	-25.8%	32	
White babies	*2001*	*5*	*13*	*6*	*+20.0%*	*-53.8%*	*3.1*	*7.6*	*3.6*	*14.5%*	*-52.4%*	*7*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*44*	*32*	*23*	*-47.7%*	*-28.1%*	*12.6*	*9.4*	*8.2*	*-34.9%*	*-12.5%*	*23*	
Births to mothers under 20	2001	120	106	80	-33.3%	-24.5%	23.6	20.6	17.8	-24.5%	-13.7%	35	
White babies	*2001*	*27*	*31*	*17*	*-37.0%*	*+45.2%*	*17.0*	*18.0*	*10.1*	*-40.5%*	*-44.0%*	*29*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*93*	*75*	*63*	*-32.3%*	*+16.0%*	*26.6*	*21.9*	*22.4*	*-15.6%*	*2.2%*	*24*	
Births to mothers with less than a high school education	2001	191	147	97	-49.2%	-34.0%	37.5	28.6	21.6	-42.4%	-24.5%	33	
White babies	*2001*	*36*	*51*	*36*	*+0.0%*	*-29.4%*	*22.6*	*29.7*	*21.4*	*-5.5%*	*-27.8%*	*9*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*155*	*96*	*61*	*-60.6%*	*-36.5%*	*44.3*	*28.1*	*21.7*	*-51.0%*	*-22.7%*	*26*	
Births to single mothers****	2001	175	225	253	+44.6%	+12.4%	34.4	43.8	56.3	63.8%	28.6%	38	
White babies	*2001*	*11*	*17*	*39*	*+254.5%*	*+129.4%*	*6.9*	*9.9*	*23.2*	*235.3%*	*134.7%*	*29*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*164*	*208*	*214*	*+30.5%*	*+2.9%*	*46.9*	*60.8*	*76.2*	*62.5%*	*25.2%*	*23*	
Children in single parent families	2000	1,700	1,988	2,630	+54.7%	+32.3%	20.6	30.0	39.3	90.6%	30.9%	29	
White	*2000*	*243*	*320*	*471*	*+93.8%*	*+47.2%*	*7.6*	*12.3*	*17.9*	*134.9%*	*45.2%*	*6*	
African American and Other	*2000*	*1,457*	*1,665*	*2,159*	*+48.2%*	*+29.7%*	*28.1*	*41.5*	*53.2*	*89.3%*	*28.2%*	*25*	
Education													
Not Ready for Grade 1	2001	122	149	58	-52.5%	-61.1%	31.9	27.1	12.5	-60.8%	-53.9%	10	
White males	*2001*	*20*	*12*	*7*	*-65.0%*	*-41.7%*	*27.8*	*11.8*	*10.1*	*-63.7%*	*-14.4%*	*15*	
White females	*2001*	*9*	*12*	*3*	*-66.7%*	*-75.0%*	*18.0*	*16.0*	*4.4*	*-75.6%*	*-72.5%*	*12*	
African American and Other males	*2001*	*55*	*69*	*21*	*-61.8%*	*-69.6%*	*36.2*	*37.7*	*12.9*	*-64.4%*	*-65.8%*	*1*	
African American and Other females	*2001*	*38*	*56*	*26*	*-31.6%*	*-53.6%*	*35.5*	*29.5*	*16.0*	*-54.9%*	*-45.8%*	*5*	
Repeating Grades 1-3	2000	85	123	86	+1.2%	-30.1%	21.4	24.0	17.9	-16.4%	-25.4%	31	
White males	*2000*	*16*	*20*	*6*	*-62.5%*	*-70.0%*	*23.2*	*20.5*	*10.1*	*-56.5%*	*-50.7%*	*34*	
White females	*2000*	*6*	*9*	*4*	*-33.3%*	*-55.6%*	*11.5*	*13.8*	*5.6*	*-51.3%*	*-59.4%*	*30*	
African American and Other males	*2000*	*41*	*68*	*50*	*+22.0%*	*-26.5%*	*26.6*	*40.0*	*28.4*	*6.8%*	*-29.0%*	*24*	
African American and Other females	*2000*	*22*	*26*	*26*	*+18.2%*	*+0.0%*	*18.8*	*14.6*	*15.4*	*-18.1%*	*5.5%*	*24*	
Grade 3 Math below standards****	2002	217	63	127	-41.5%	+101.6%	51.7	13.7	31.4	-39.3%	129.2%	41	
White males	*2002*	*21*	*4*	*14*	*-33.3%*	*+250.0%*	*31.3*	*5.1*	*25.0*	*-20.1%*	*390.2%*	*28*	
White females	*2002*	*18*	*4*	*13*	*-27.8%*	*+225.0%*	*34.0*	*6.8*	*21.0*	*-38.2%*	*208.8%*	*38*	
African American and Other males	*2002*	*103*	*29*	*57*	*-44.7%*	*+96.6%*	*62.1*	*18.6*	*39.0*	*-37.2%*	*109.7%*	*30*	
African American and Other females	*2002*	*74*	*26*	*43*	*-41.9%*	*+65.4%*	*55.6*	*15.8*	*30.5*	*-45.1%*	*93.0%*	*31*	
Grade 3 Reading below standards****	2002	194	65	108	-44.3%	+66.2%	45.9	14.1	26.7	-41.8%	89.4%	39	
White males	*2002*	*24*	*6*	*16*	*-33.3%*	*+166.7%*	*35.3*	*7.5*	*28.6*	*-19.0%*	*281.3%*	*36*	
White females	*2002*	*13*	*2*	*6*	*-53.8%*	*+200.0%*	*24.5*	*3.4*	*9.8*	*-60.0%*	*188.2%*	*37*	
African American and Other males	*2002*	*100*	*36*	*49*	*-51.0%*	*+36.1%*	*60.2*	*23.2*	*33.6*	*-44.2%*	*44.8%*	*30*	
African American and Other females	*2002*	*57*	*21*	*37*	*-35.1%*	*+76.2%*	*42.2*	*12.7*	*26.2*	*-37.9%*	*106.3%*	*26*	
Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT Grade 4	1998	170	205	125	-26.5%	-39.0%	44.7	42.4	29.6	-33.8%	-30.2%	41	
White males	*1998*	*19*	*14*	*6*	*-68.4%*	*-57.1%*	*33.3*	*14.9*	*8.8*	*-73.6%*	*-40.9%*	*40*	
White females	*1998*	*10*	*15*	*4*	*-60.0%*	*-73.3%*	*22.2*	*27.8*	*6.9*	*-68.9%*	*-75.2%*	*37*	
African American and Other males	*1998*	*76*	*90*	*56*	*-26.3%*	*-37.8%*	*52.8*	*54.9*	*41.2*	*-22.0%*	*-25.0%*	*24*	
African American and Other females	*1998*	*65*	*84*	*58*	*-10.8%*	*-31.0%*	*48.5*	*49.7*	*37.4*	*-22.9%*	*-24.7%*	*44*	

*Year of data is approximate in many cases.
**1 is best, 46 is worst.
*** Data include paternity acknowledgements.
**** BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Clarendon County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Education (continued)

Indicators		Number					Percent				
	Most Recent Year	1980*	1990*	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres
Grade 8 Math below state standards**	2002	327	96	213	-34.9%	+121.9%	71.2	26.9	47.2	-33.7%	75.5%
White males	2002	17	13	15	-11.8%	+15.4%	40.5	15.5	20.5	-49.4%	32.3%
White females	2002	23	6	17	-26.1%	+183.3%	45.1	9.2	25.0	-44.6%	171.7%
African American and Other males	2002	143	42	84	-41.3%	+100.0%	77.7	39.2	57.9	-25.5%	47.7%
African American and Other females	2002	138	35	97	-29.7%	+177.1%	78.4	35.0	58.8	-25.0%	68.0%
Grade 8 Reading below state standards**	2002	324	93	164	-49.4%	+76.3%	70.7	26.1	36.4	-48.5%	39.5%
White males	2002	21	13	16	-23.8%	+23.1%	50.0	15.5	21.9	-56.2%	41.3%
White females	2002	15	7	8	-46.7%	+14.3%	30.0	10.8	11.8	-60.7%	9.3%
African American and Other males	2002	152	43	72	-52.6%	+67.4%	82.6	40.2	50.0	-39.5%	24.4%
African American and Other females	2002	131	30	68	-48.1%	+126.7%	74.4	30.0	41.2	-44.6%	37.3%
Grade 9 Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT	1998	NA	163	243	NA	+49.1%	NA	40.6	43.1	NA	6.2%
White males	1998	NA	19	NA	NA	NA	NA	25.3	25.9	NA	2.4%
White females	1998	NA	9	NA	NA	NA	NA	13.4	16.9	NA	26.1%
African American and Other males	1998	NA	85	NA	NA	NA	NA	61.1	62.2	NA	1.8%
African American and Other females	1998	NA	50	NA	NA	NA	NA	42	43.4	NA	3.3%
Exit Exam (not passing all parts on 1st attempt)	2002	272	142	165	-39.3%	+16.2%	56.6	41.5	46.2	-18.4%	11.3%
White males	2002	22	20	25	+13.6%	+25.0%	27.5	29.9	35.2	28.0%	17.7%
White females	2002	18	4	10	-44.4%	+150.0%	24.7	7.3	18.9	-23.5%	158.9%
African American and Other males	2002	146	71	54	-63.0%	-23.9%	82.5	58.7	51.4	-37.7%	-12.4%
African American and Other females	2002	84	46	76	-9.5%	+65.2%	56.4	46.9	59.4	5.3%	26.7%
Dropout Rate (8th graders no longer enrolled in 12th grade 4 years later)	2000-02	176	133	169	-3.8%	+27.8%	31.2	28.5	32.6	4.6%	14.5%
White males	2000-02	23	19	30	+31.9%	+64.0%	32.9	23.4	34.0	3.3%	45.0%
White females	2000-02	14	15	30	+122.2%	+106.9%	20.3	23.2	37.8	86.3%	63.0%
African American and Other males	2000-02	90	65	71	-21.0%	+8.7%	38.8	37.7	39.9	2.8%	6.0%
African American and Other females	2000-02	50	35	38	-23.3%	+11.1%	25.3	22.9	22.2	-12.5%	-3.3%
Young Adults Not Completing High School (18-24)	2000	1,278	776	1,079	-15.6%	+39.0%	36.5	29.6	29.8	-18.5%	0.5%
White males	NA	240	83	NA	NA	NA	38.6	17.1	NA	NA	NA
White females	NA	181	59	NA	NA	NA	29.4	13.3	NA	NA	NA
African American and Other males	NA	474	370	NA	NA	NA	43.7	46.6	NA	NA	NA
African American and Other females	NA	383	264	NA	NA	NA	32.4	29.3	NA	NA	NA

Economics

Poverty Rate	2000	3,315	3,084	2,331	-29.7%	-24.4%	36.3	37.3	28.2	-22.3%	-24.4%
White children	2000	450	371	361	-19.8%	-2.7%	14.3	13.2	12.4	-13.3%	-6.1%
African American and Other children	2000	2,865	2,713	1,970	-31.2%	-27.4%	47.7	49.8	36.7	-23.0%	-26.3%
Income of Families w/children (1999 $)	2000	$ 32,617	$ 37,271	$ 41,624	+27.6%	+11.7%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
White families	2000	$ 41,542	$ 55,616	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
African American and Other families	2000	$ 25,083	$ 23,608	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Adolescent Risk Factors

Teenage Pregnancy (ages 14-17)	2001	57	56	37	-35.1%	-33.9%	5.0	6.5	3.8	-23.4%	-41.5%
White	2001	5	14	9	+80.0%	-35.7%	1.4	4.5	2.8	95.8%	-37.8%
African American and Other	2001	52	42	28	-46.2%	-33.3%	6.6	7.6	4.3	-34.7%	-43.4%
Delinquency	2002	21	54	71	+238.1%	+31.5%	1.2	4.0	4.4	267.5%	10.2%
White males	2002	8	11	18	+125.0%	+63.6%	2.8	3.9	5.6	100.9%	44.2%
White females	2002	-	5	4	NA	-20.0%	0.0	1.8	1.7	NA	-3.4%
African American and Other males	2002	11	30	35	+218.2%	+16.7%	1.9	7.2	6.0	217.6%	-16.2%
African American and Other females	2002	2	8	14	+600.0%	+75.0%	0.4	2.2	2.9	629.2%	32.6%

*Closest available data to this year was used in many cases.
**BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Kids Count 2003

Colleton County

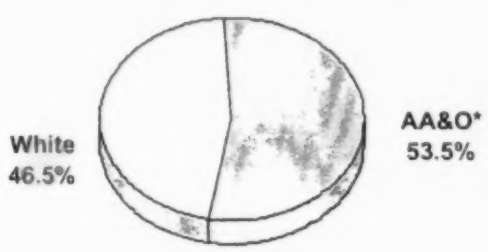
DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2000 there were an estimated 10,515 children under age 18 in the county. Of these, 4,890 were White, 5,331 were African-American, and 294 were other races. There were 10,106 children under age 18 in 1990, 10,338 in 1980, 10,919 in 1970, and 12,329 in 1960.

Children represent a shrinking portion of the county's population. Those under 18 constituted 27.5% of the population in 2000, down from 44.3% in 1960, 39.5% in 1970, and 32.5% in 1980.

In 2000 the 3,186 pre-schoolers under age 6 were 8.3% of the overall population: 7.2% of Whites and 9.5% of African Americans.

Figure 1: Population Ages 0-17 in 2000



* In all charts African-American is combined with other races, and often abbreviated as AA&O. Other races comprise 2.8% of children in the county, with "two or more races" at 1.2% and American Indian and Alaska Native Alone at 0.7% as the largest Other groups.

FAMILY

Families have always been the most important influence in a child's life. Children depend on their families for material needs, stimulation and guidance. Family life is different in numerous ways from previous generations, and many families now face exceptional challenges.

Families with children now make up a smaller share of all households. Only 33.1% of all households in 2000, as compared with 46.0% of households in 1960, had children below the age of 18.

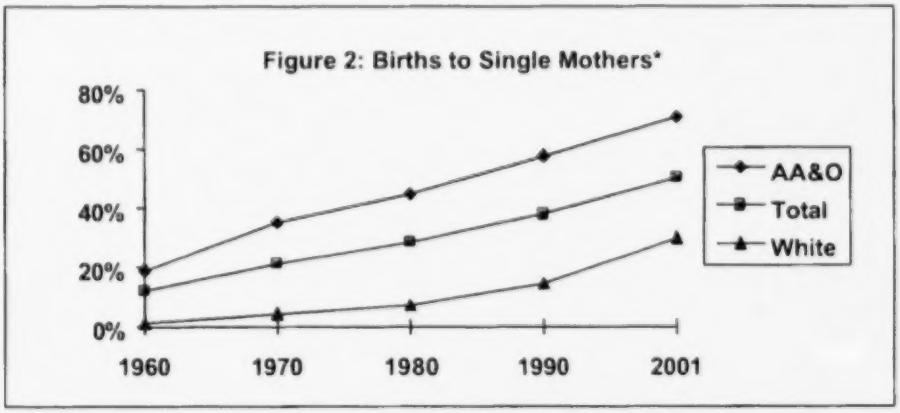
Births to Teen Mothers: In 2001, 46 babies were born to mothers younger than age 18. They were 7.6% of all babies born in the county; 3.9% of all White and 11.4% of all African-American and Other babies were born to teen mothers under the age of 18. Of the babies born to these teens in 2001, 93.5% were born to single mothers, including babies whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers.

In 2001, 125 babies were born to mothers younger than age 20. These babies were 20.6% of all born in the county; 16.1% of all White and 25.2% of all African-American and Other babies were born to mothers under the age of 20. Of the babies born to these mothers in 2001, 84.0% were born to single mothers, including paternity acknowledeged babies.

Education of Mothers Giving Birth: Children's success is strongly influenced by the education of their parents. In 2001, 171 babies, 28.3% of all babies, were born to mothers of all ages who had not completed the 12th grade. In 2001, 26.9% of White and 29.7% of African-American and Other babies were born to mothers who had completed less than the 12th grade. This is a substantial improvement from 52.9% in 1970. In addition, during 2001, 40.4% had completed 12 grades (37.3% of Whites and 43.6% of African Americans and Others) and 31.3% had more than a high school degree (35.7% of Whites and 26.7% of African American and Others).

Births to Single Mothers: Births to single mothers have increased steadily over four decades. In 2001, 232 babies, 38.2% of all babies, were recorded as born to single mothers. A decade earlier in 1990, the percentage was 35.0% and in 1960 it was 12.0%. In 2001, 17.4% of White children and 59.7% of African-American and Other children were born to single mothers. These numbers, however, do not include paternity acknowlegement births.

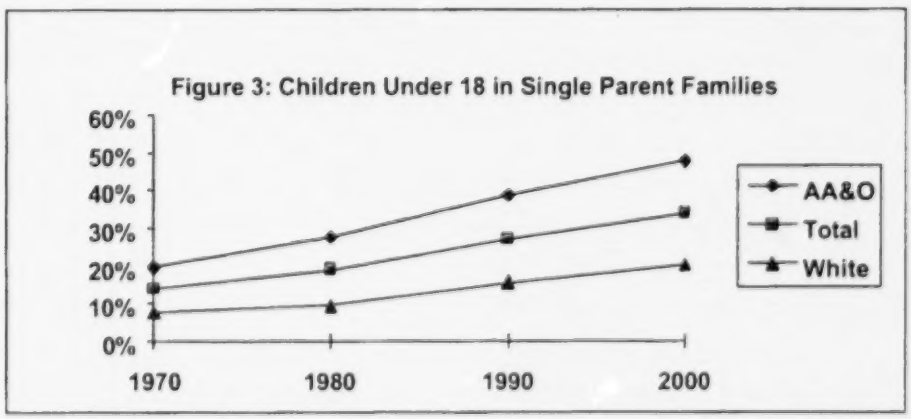
Thus, to these numbers should be added an additional group of 73 babies, 12.0% of all born in 2001, whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers. When the paternity-acknowledged babies are added, the total number born to single mothers in 2001 was 305, constituting 50.2% of all babies, 30.0% of White babies, and 71.1% of African-American and Others.



*Includes paternity acknowleged babies in 1980, 1990 and 2001. Prior to 1979, paternity acknowleged cases were not a statistical category, and thus were included in births to single mothers.

Divorce Rate: In 2001, 328 marriage licenses were issued, while 161 divorce decrees involving 153 children were filed. In 1970, only 35 children were in families involved in divorce.

Single-Parent Family: Increasing numbers of children live in single-parent families. In 2000, 2,923 children lived with only one parent. This was 33.7% of all children, up from 27.0% in 1990, 19.0% in 1980, and 14.0% in 1970. In 2000, 20.3% of White and 47.6% of African-American and Other children lived in single-parent families. Also in 2000, 940 or 33.4% of children under age 6 lived in single parent families: 19.9% of White and 49.4% of African American and Other pre-schoolers.



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Parents Working and Child Care: Increasingly, parents must divide their time between children and employers. In order to meet family financial needs, most parents must work and thus have less time for family life. In 2000, 61.0% of mothers with children under 6 and 65.8% with children 6 - 17 were in the labor force. This has increased substantially from 1960 when 30.1% of mothers with children under 6 were in the labor force. Most fathers also work: 56.2% of children under 6 are in families where the single parent or both parents work. Caring for children is a problem for parents unable to obtain quality, affordable daycare while they are at work.

Overall, there are 989 spaces in state-regulated childcare facilities* in the county, 83.6% of these are in licensed programs and 16.4% are in registered programs. Of the spaces, 75.1% are in licensed childcare centers serving more than 12 children, 16.4% are in registered or licensed family childcare homes serving six or fewer children, 8.5% are in licensed group childcare homes serving 7-12 children, and 0.0% are in registered or licensed church programs.

The homes and centers are severely constrained by the limited ability of parents to pay. In the county, the average weekly charge is $ 65.63 for centers and $ 62.54 for homes. Consequently, center wages are low: 40% of centers with pre-school staff and 0% of centers with assistant pre-school staff report paying these staff under $6 per hour. Paying $6-$8 per hour are 20% of centers with pre-school staff and 100% of centers with assistants. Low wages attract workers with limited education. In 60% of centers, most pre-school staff and in 0% of centers most assistants have only a high school degree. In 20% of centers few to none of the pre-school staff have early childhood credentials. In childcare homes, 71.4% of lead providers have no more education than a high school degree or GED; 50% have less than a high school degree.

Family Violence: In 2000, 806 domestic assaults were recorded by law enforcement officials. These domestic assaults comprised 46.7% of all assaults, which include aggravated assaults, simple assaults, and intimidation. Overall, 56.5% of all domestic assaults involve spouse abuse which constitutes 26.4% of all assaults. Since most family violence is not reported, the true incidence of family disruption is much more widespread than even the large number of reported cases would indicate.

Separation from Parents: Some children do not live with their natural parents. In 2000, 9.2% of all children did not live with their natural parents. Approximately 759 or 7.2% of all children lived with relatives, 193 or 1.8% lived with non-relatives, 11 or 0.1% were householders or spouses, and 7 or 0.1% were in institutional facilities.

Abuse and Neglect: In 2000-01, there were 266 investigations into reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children. Through its investigations, the Department of Social Services (DSS) determined that 70 of the investigations were indicated for abuse or neglect: 12.3% for physical abuse, 2.7% for sexual abuse, 0.0% for mental injury, 27.4% for physical neglect, 0.0% for educational neglect, 1.4% for medical neglect, 52.1% for threat of harm for physical/sexual abuse, and 4.1% for other types of abuse.

In the indicated cases of abuse and neglect, DSS determined there were 122 children who were victims of abuse or neglect. Of these, 49.2% were male, 50.8% were female; 40.2% were White, 59.8% were African-American and Other. By age, 52.5% were ages 0 - 5, 32.5% were ages 6 - 12, and 15.0% were ages 13 - 17. In the indicated cases, 31.2% of the children lived in two-parent families, 45.9% in single parent families, 18.0% with unmarried couples, and 4.9% in other circumstances.

Out of Home Placements: As of June 2001, 76 children lived in foster care. The median age at first placement in the county is 5.8 years. The ages of children in foster care were 15.8% 0-2, 15.8% 3-5, 25.0% 6-10, 6.6% 11-13, and 36.8% 14 and above. The foster care population is 50.0% males and 50.0% females. Regarding their future, 22.4% were under a plan for placement in adoptive homes, 44.7% for return to a parent or guardian, 1.3% for placement with a relative, 4.0% for independent living, 27.6% for permanent foster care, and 0.0% for other circumstances.

Adult/Child Ratio: A measure of potential adult attention for children from family and community is the ratio of adults to children and youth. In 2000 there were 2.64 adults for every person below age 18. This was up substantially from 1960, when there were only 1.26 adults for every person under the age 18. This indicates that today there are more adults potentially available to provide attention and care for each child than in the past.

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* This data is the best currently available; however, an effort is being made to check the coverage and improve the accuracy. As soon as more recent and complete data becomes available, it will be posted on the website.

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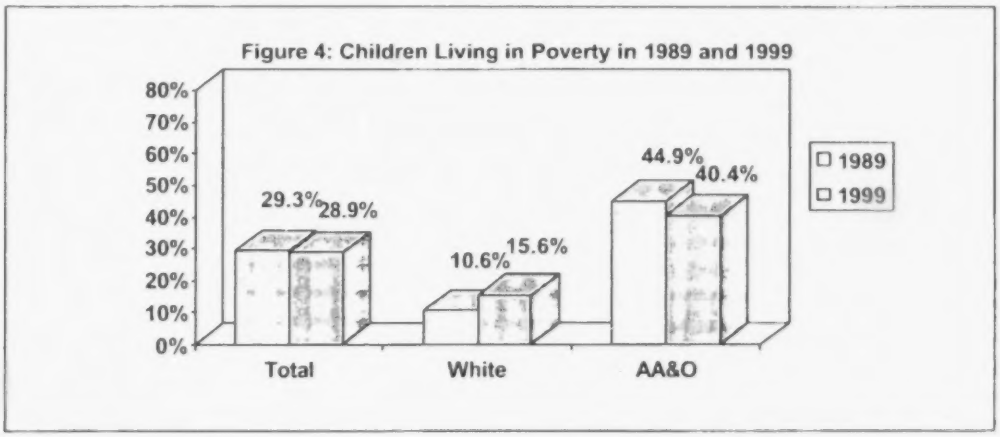
ECONOMIC STATUS

Low income makes it difficult for many families to provide the material and environmental enrichment necessary for healthy child development.

Poverty: In 1999, 2,993 children and youth under the age of 18 lved in 1,380 families with incomes below poverty, comprising 28.9% of all children and youth: 15.6% of Whites and 40.4% of African-Americans and Others. A rough estimate of child poverty in 2001 calculated by the Census Bureau was 23.0%.



Poverty has always been a serious problem. While the rate among children under age 18 in 1989 was 29.3%, it was 32.4% in 1979 and 45.5% in 1969.

Children and the elderly are the age groups most seriously affected by poverty. In 1999, 29.6% of children 0 - 5 (17.2% White, 41.2% African-American and Other), and 28.2% of children 6 - 17 (13.9% White, 40.1% African-American and Other), lived in poverty; 19.1% of persons 65 years and older lived in poverty. Historically, the poverty rate among the elderly was much higher. During the last three decades, federal policy actions have substantially improved the economic status of older persons but have not done so for children.

Single-parent families are most likely to be poor. In 1999, 52.0% of children in single-parent families lived in poverty, but only 13.5% of children in married-couple families were poor. Children in single-parent families made up 59.4% of all the county's children living in poverty.

In 2002, the poverty level was $15,020 for a family of three and $18,100 for a family of four. The poverty threshold is often criticized as an arbitrary number. People can still be poor but may be just above the poverty level. Federal programs utilize varying thresholds. For example, in 1999 there were 6,128 children ages 0-17 who were less than 200 percent of poverty; thus an additional 3,135 children were above the poverty level but could still be considered poor or near-poor with incomes below $30,040 and $36,200 respectively for 3 and 4 person families.

Children Under 18 in Poverty in 1999

Percent of Poverty	Total		White		African American & Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 50%	1,742	16.8%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 100%	2,993	28.9%	746	15.6%	2,247	40.4%
Under 125%	3,888	37.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 150%	4,720	45.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 175%	5,415	52.4%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 185%	5,744	55.5%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 200%	6,128	59.3%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total Children	10,515		4,890		5,625	

Note: Missing data will be released by the Census Bureau later in 2003, and will be posted on our website at www.sckidscount.org

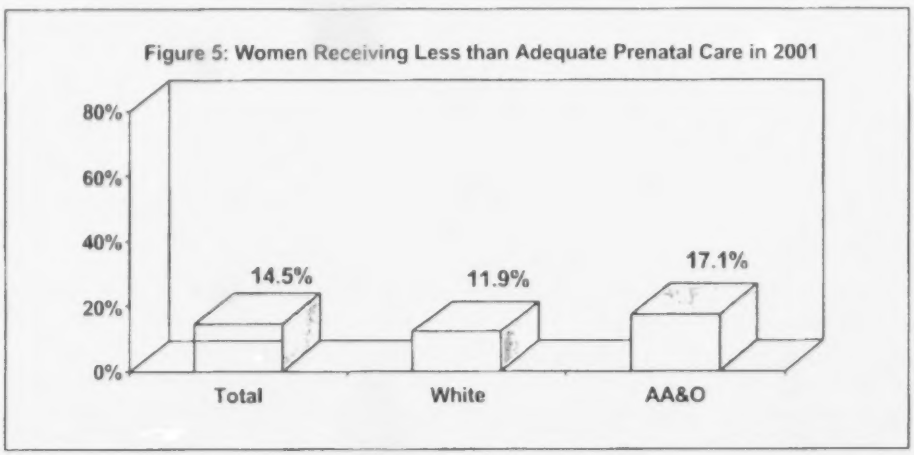
Income: The mean income of families with children in 1999 was $38,151. In 1989 it was $38,112, and 1979, it was $34,937, adjusted for inflation (i.e., in 1999 dollars). The mean income of single-parent families with children was $19,167 for single parents in 1999, as compared with $48,295 in married-couple families with children. From 1999 to 2000, Colleton County real dollar per capita income (eliminating inflation) increased by 1.0%.

Child Support Payments: There were 405[7] families receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families in fiscal year 2002, but only 25.7 % had child support court orders. Their average monthly payment of child support was $ 234, including child support receipts and tax refund intercepts. In addition, during fiscal year 2002, an estimated 827 parents in non-TANF families were obligated to pay a monthly average of $ 214. Information is not available regarding the amount actually paid.

HEALTH

Good health during a child's formative years helps children to reach their maximum potential. Good health requires healthy lifestyles and effective primary care, starting during the prenatal period and continuing through adolescence into adulthood. Children's health reflects the well-being of the community, as well as how adequately they are protected.

Prenatal Care: Early and continuous prenatal care can make a significant difference in assuring births of healthy babies. Delayed or insufficient prenatal care is associated with low birthweight and other health risks for infants. In 2001, 50, or 8.2% of pregnant women received no prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy. In 2001, 88, or 14.5% of pregnant women received less than adequate prenatal care: 37 or 11.9% of Whites and 51 or 17.1% of African-Americans and Others. In that same year, 3 women received no prenatal care at all.



Low Birthweight: Low birthweight of less than 5.5 pounds and very low birthweight of less than 3.3 pounds are associated with health risks and growth and development problems. In 2001, 58 or 9.5% of all babies in the county were born with low birthweight: 12.1% of African-American and Other babies and 7.1% of White babies. During 1999-2001, approximately 29 or 1.7% of all babies were born with very low birthweight and had the most serious complications: 1.0% of White babies and 2.4% of African-American and Other babies. The cost of hospitalization for each newborn low birthweight baby in the county in 1999 - 2001 was $7,278 and $94,430 for each very low birthweight baby, compared with $1,621 for a baby of normal birthweight. The result was excess cost in the county of $849,206 for all low birthweight babies, of which $711,536 was for very low birthweight babies.

Infant Mortality: During the decade since 1989-91, the overall infant mortality rate decreased by 55.8% from 16.8 to 7.4 per 1000 live births. For Whites, the rate decreased 94.2% from 19.2 to 1.1 per 1000 live births, while for African-Americans and Others the rate decreased 3.2% from 14.7 to 14.3 per 1000 live births. Over the three-year period 1999-2001, 1 White and 12 African-American and Other infants died before age one. By comparison, 15 White and 13 African-American and Other infants died during 1989-91.

[7] Number is an unduplicated count for the entire fiscal year.

Child Injuries and Deaths: Childhood deaths and injuries reflect whether communities are safe for children. In 2001, children in the Colleton County went to the emergency room 1,631 times because of injuries. Boys are injured more often than girls. Children visit the emergency room at comparable rates for each age from 0 to 17.

In South Carolina, the major causes of death among young children are unintentional injuries, cancer, homicide, and congenital anomalies. Over the three year period 1999-2001, 5 White and 2 African-American and Other children ages 1-14 died in the county. During 1989-91, 2 White and 9 African-American and Other children died.

Immunization: Immunization rates are an important indication of whether young children are receiving adequate preventive health care. During FY 1989-90, 47.5% of children less than two years old seen in public health clinics were not fully immunized against such preventable diseases as Polio, Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Haemophilus Influenza B and Whooping Cough. After a concerted statewide campaign to increase immunizations, the percentage of children seen in public health clinics who were not fully immunized in January 2001 had declined in the county to 10.3%. The DHEC statewide birth registry survey of all two year old children found that 88.1% were fully immunized in 2001. This success demonstrates the potential to improve the status of children when the leadership of the state and its communities act decisively together.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Children and youth are infected with sexually transmitted diseases through sexual abuse or irresponsible sexual activity. National prevalence rates indicate: a 1 in 8 chance that sexually active 15 year-old girls will develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), the most rapidly increasing cause of infertility; 10% of sexually active adolescent girls and boys are infected with chlamydia, the most common cause of PID; and as many as 15% of teen girls are infected with human papilloma virus, often with strains linked to cervical cancer. Furthermore, research evidence indicates that susceptibility to HIV/AIDS increases by 3 to 8 times through prior infection with various STDs.

According to national studies, approximately 1 in 4 sexually experienced youth aged 13-19 acquires a STD ever year; since two-thirds of all high school students have had sexual intercourse and half engage in intercourse over a three month period, this would suggest that 10-15% of teens are infected with STDs annually. For 2000, this would indicate that an estimated 412 to 618 youth ages 13-19 in the county were infected with a STD. Many infections are either not identified for treatment or not reported. In the county, there were 3 reported cases of children under age 15 and 39 youth ages 15 - 19 infected with gonorrhea; 2 youth under 15 and 68 ages 15 - 19 were reported infected with chlamydia. Youth with undiagnosed and untreated STDs often spread their infections.

Healthy Lifestyles: Although no county data is available, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2001 found that many high school students are not following good health habits. The YRBS revealed that 26% felt that they were overweight; 42% were trying to lose weight: 27% of boys and 57% of girls. Although during a week 79% of high school students ate fruit, 59% ate salad, and over 83% ate vegetables, only 17% ate the recommended five or more servings of fruit and vegetables per day. During a week, 49% did stretching or muscle strengthening exercises, and 59% exercised three or more times for 20 minutes in sports that made them sweat or breathe hard. However, 11% of students engaged in no vigorous or moderate activity at all during a week: 8% of boys and 13% of girls.

Tobacco Use:* Cigarette smoking starts at a young age and often becomes habitual. In the county during 2002 among all students 15 and older, 16.6% first smoked by age 11, 35.9% by age 13, and 49.8% by age 15. In a typical month, 20.7% of 7th and 8th graders and 24.3% of high school students smoked cigarettes. White youths were much more likely than African-Americans to smoke: 35.3% of White male and 38.9% of White female 7th to 12th graders used cigarettes, as compared with 17.1% of African-American males and 8.9% of African American females. A smaller but significant group of high school students (5.3%) used smokeless tobacco monthly; it was used primarily by White males (21.2% compared with 1.7% of all other race and sex groups).

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* Data is from the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking.

Disabilities: No data are collected on the true prevalence of disabilities within the county. According to national reported estimates, over 10% of children and youth have developmental disabilities at any point in time, and more than 17 are affected at some time before age 18 by deafness, blindness, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, speech defects, development delays, learning disabilities, and emotional or behavioral problems. For 2000 this suggests that at least 1,052 children ar youth under age 18 in the county are currently affected by disabilities.

Approximately 5% of children and youth nationally have serious disabilities which have lifelong implications f work, social life and community living. Typically among children and youth, there are 1 - 2% who are mentally retarded, - 3% with serious emotional disturbances, over 1% with orthopedic or multiple disabilities, including cerebral palsy an many hereditary conditions, and under 1% with visual or hearing impairments.

Other chronic health problems also affect the lives of many children. Over 3% of children have one or more these limitations. Such serious chronic conditions affect 1 - 2% who have respiratory problems (asthma and chron bronchitis), 0.5 - 1.0% with neurological problems (epilepsy and seizures), and less than 1% with circulatory problen (congenital heart defects and acquired diseases).

Other disabilities are identified primarily in school performance. These would include 380 students in grades 1- with learning disabilities and 152 students in grades 1-12 with speech/language deficits.

Disabilities are caused by genetics, disease, poor prenatal conditions, injuries, and environmental factors. For example, lead exposure, primarily from paint dust, was detected in over 1% of all children screened, including 8 in Colleton County.

Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: While over 20% of 9-17 year olds meet diagnostic criteria for some form of mental disorder, the number with serious emotional disturbance and impaired functioning in family, school, or community activities is: 9-13% for substantial functional impairment and 5-9% for extreme functional impairment. The rates among poor children are at the higher end of these ranges. Based on a federal formula for estimating prevalence, in the county there are 12% or 662 seriously emotionally disturbed 9-17 year olds with substantial functional impairment and 8% or 441 with extreme functional impairment during the course of a year. Conduct disorders, attention deficit, depression, and anxiety disorders are the most prevalent, each affecting 3% or more of school-aged children. These disorders may occur simultaneously in a child. The prevalence rates are highest among males, adolescents, and disadvantaged persons in communities under stress and lacking social cohesion; depression, however, is more prevalent among females. On the YRBS, 20% of boys and 33% of girls in high school reported that during the past year they felt so sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that they stopped doing some usual activities. Another indicator of emotional problems is the 8% of high school students in South Carolina who reported that they had "attempted suicide" in the past year: 5% of boys and 10% of girls. Suicide attempts resulted in 4% of high school students reporting that they required treatment by a doctor or nurse for injury, poisoning, or overdose.

Inadequate Healthcare: No county level data is routinely collected regarding the number of children and youth with inadequate healthcare. According to estimates for 2000-02 by the Bureau of the Census through the annual Current Population Survey, the statewide average rate of uninsured children and youth under age 18 in families with incomes under 200% of poverty in South Carolina was 16.6%, and 9.9% above 200% of poverty. If these rates are applied to the county, there are 1,019 children in the county below 200% of poverty with no health insurance, and 435 children above 200% of poverty with no health insurance, for a total of 1,454 uninsured children in Colleton County. The number lacking basic accessible primary care is at least double the number lacking insurance. Those lacking primary care are often dependent on health services at school. The ratio of students to nurses recommended nationally is 750:1. In the county, this would suggest the need for 9 nurses, compared with 6 currently working in the schools.

Medicaid: For several years, the State of South Carolina has emphasized enrolling eligible children into Medicaid. In late 1997, South Carolina implemented its version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, Partners for Healthy Children (PHC), and aggressively pursued outreach enrollment for PHC and Medicaid. As a result, enrollment of children ages 0 through 18 in Colleton County has increased by 60.4% from June 1997 to June 2001; thus Medicaid and PHC were serving 59.8% of all children in that age range. The total Medicaid expenditures in South Carolina for services provided to children ages 0 through 18 for state fiscal year 2002 were $991 million, at an average statewide expenditure of $2,343 per child enrolled, approximate Medicaid expenditure for children in the county would be $14.7 million.

In June 2001, the total number of Colleton County children, birth through 18, enrolled in Medicaid was 6,291. The total can be broken down into the following age and race groupings:

	White	African American	Hispanic	Other	Total
Children under 1	170	268	12	5	455
Children 1 - 5	691	1,016	12	59	1,778
Children 6 - 14	884	1,898	12	127	2,921
Children 15 - 18	384	722	0	31	1,137
Total	2,129	3,904	36	222	6,291

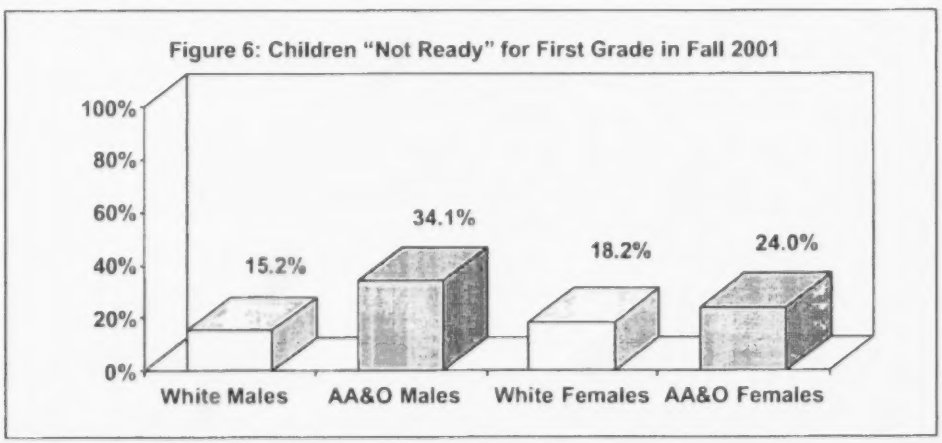
Ambulatory Care: When children lack adequate primary care, whether through lack of insurance, through limite access, or through failing to utilize available care, preventable and treatable conditions become serious and requi hospitalization. A useful indicator of inadequate primary care is the percentage of all hospitalizations that could typicall have been avoided through ambulatory care, especially for pneumonia, asthma, diarrhea and vomiting, dehydration, a severe ear, nose, and throat infections. The share of hospitalizations for these types of conditions could normally be ke below 20%; for children in the county under the age of 18 during 2001, the share was 29.3% for Whites and 22.7% f African-Americans and Others.

READINESS AND EARLY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Too many children reach school without the readiness skills needed for success in learning, such as language, soci skills, visual and auditory discrimination, memory recall, and knowledge of colors, letters, numbers, names of objects, et Likewise, some schools are not ready to respond appropriately to the varying developmental levels of children in the ear grades. As a result, too many students do not experience the success needed to create the motivation and engagement th sustain learning.

1st Grade "Readiness" on 2001-02 Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB):

127 children not ready 24.3% children not ready

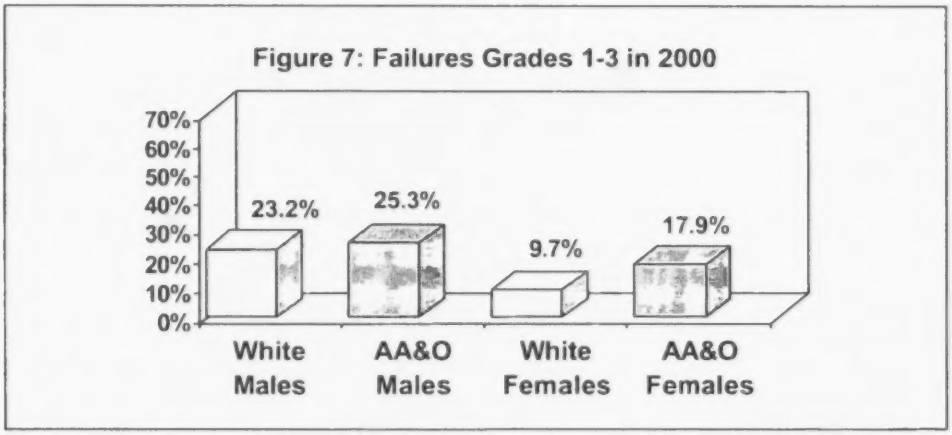


1st Grade Failures in 2002:

50 children failing 9.1% children failing

Failures Grades 1-3 in 2002 (approximate cumulative percentage of grades one, two and three):

122 children failing 22.4% children failing



Over-age for Grade 3 in 2001

114 children over-age 22.1% children over-age

Special Education: Large numbers of children are placed in special education classes. In elementary school, 124 six and seven year olds and 144 eight and nine year-olds were enrolled in special education classes during 2001-02, approximately 12.4% and 13.2% of their age groups respectively: 14.2% of White 8 – 9 year olds were in special education and 12.6% of African American and Others.

Readiness Summary: A serious problem exists in terms of student readiness and school success in the early grades. With 24.3% assessed not ready for the 1st grade, 22.1% over age in grade 3, and 13.2% of eight and nine year-olds placed in special education, unacceptably large numbers of students still begin school without good prospects of success in future school achievement and graduation; however, great improvement has occurred since the mid 1990s.

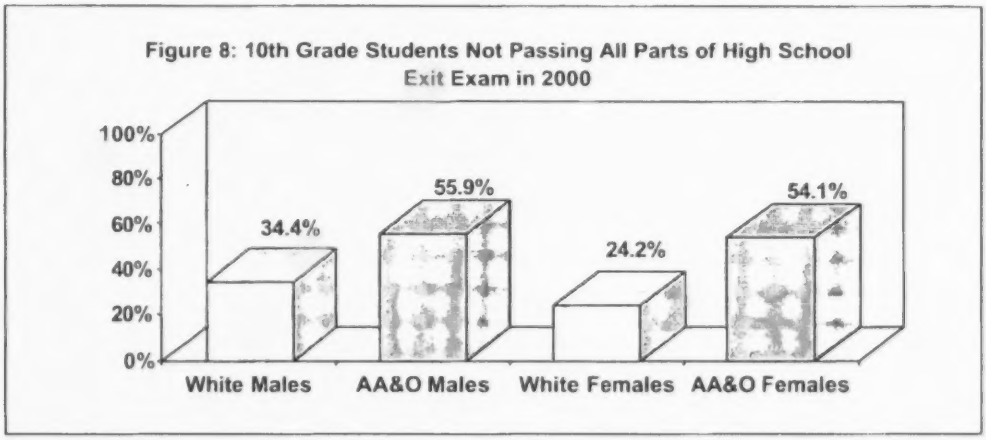
SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

By the end of elementary school, significant numbers of students perform below minimum standards. The following standardized test measures, comparing student performance to state minimum standards, should be used in combination with routine classroom assessments more reflective of real-world performance skills.

Special Education: Special education placements reflect both the significant number of children with serious handicapping conditions and a large number of students with mild learning and behavioral problems that have not been accommodated successfully by the regular educational program. The result is a large system of self-contained, resource, and itinerant services to meet the needs of 152 speech and language impaired, 380 learning disabled, 36 emotionally disabled, 238 mentally impaired, and 105 physically handicapped, deaf, blind, and other handicapped students. Special education classes served approximately 13.7% of all students in grades 1 - 12 during 2001-2002.

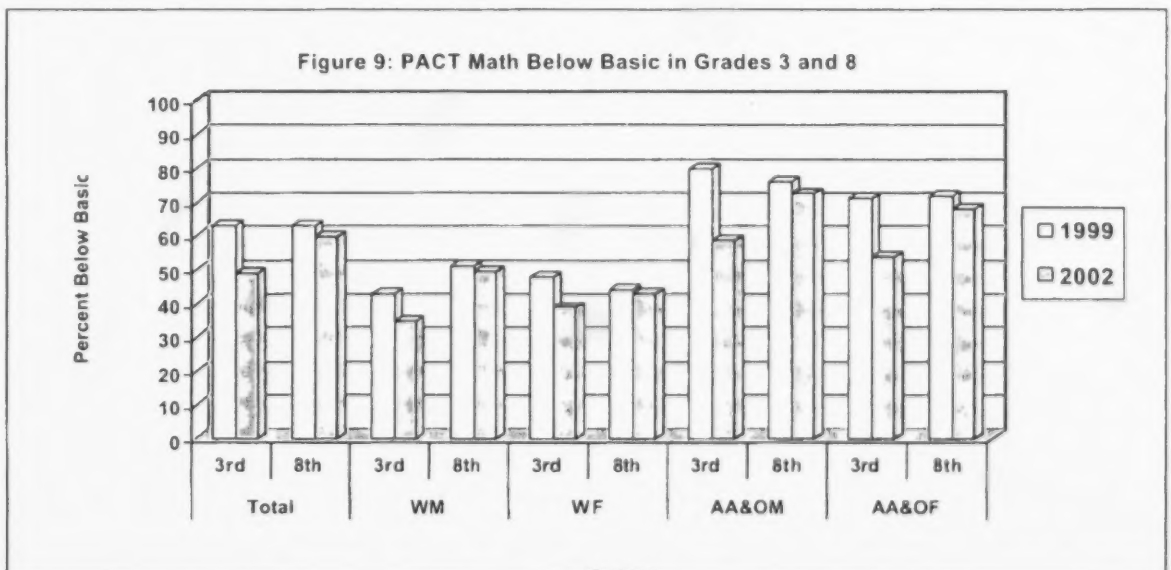
Exit Exam - not passing all parts of Exit Exam on first attempt in the 10th grade in 2002

156 students did not pass all parts 43.2% of students did not pass all parts



Achievement Trends: How has performance on standardized achievement tests changed over the past 20 years? During the 1980s, student performance on the BSAP tests improved dramatically. Between 1981 and 1990, the percentage of 8th grade students in Colleton County who did not meet standards declined from 62.3% to 41% in math and from 61.3% to 26.8% in reading. During the 1990's the BSAP trend changed, with 42.3% not meeting 8th grade math standards in 1998 and 36% in reading. On standardized tests, the first year when South Carolina students take the exam is comparable to the challenge encountered by the national norm group which took the test only once. Looking at first year data, the percentage of 4th grade students at or below the 25th percentile of national norms was 32.4% in 1983 on the CTBS, 42.5% in 1990 on the Stanford, and 42.4% in 1995 on the Metropolitan; for 9th graders, the percentage in the bottom quarter was 41.8% in 1990 and 37.3% in 1995. Although not comparable, the percent below basic on the 4th grade PACT in 1999, the first year of administration, was 59.1%, but in 2002 40.2% of 4th graders were below basic in reading and math; the percentage of 8th graders below basic in reading and math averaged 53.8% in 1999 and 50.8% in 2002.

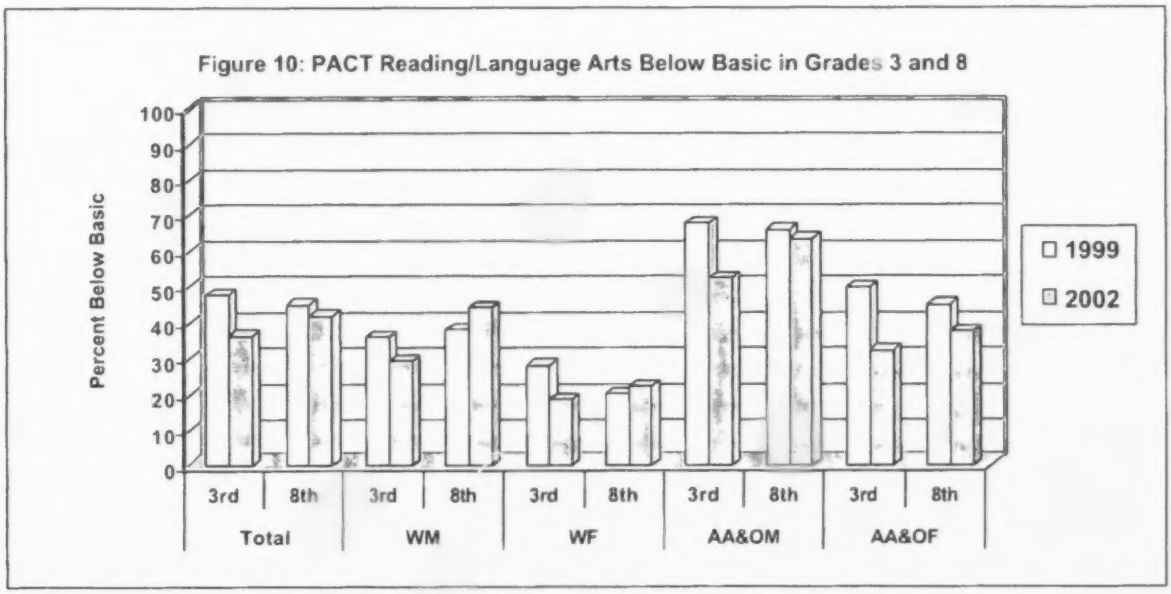
PACT: The Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) was first administered in 1999 for grades 3 - 8 in math and reading/language arts. Math assesses skills in numbers, numerical and algebraic concepts, patterns and functions, geometry, measurement, probability and statistics. The percentage of students scoring below basic in math has decreased by 13.4% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 1,066 students below basic in grades 3-8 but there would have been an additional 165 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
		Math (%)				
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	49.2	34.7	38.8	58.8	53.8
	4	46.2	30.4	35.2	56.6	54.9
	5	50.0	38.9	33.3	60.1	61.4
	6	45.9	28.3	25.0	59.4	57.7
	7	61.0	45.9	45.2	72.2	67.3
	8	59.7	49.5	42.9	72.6	68.3
Basic	3	38.0	42.1	43.9	33.0	37.8
	4	38.4	47.8	38.5	34.9	34.7
	5	38.4	42.5	43.4	36.2	33.3
	6	38.5	46.5	43.5	33.1	35.4
	7	28.7	34.9	42.9	22.2	23.8
	8	37.4	44.2	54.5	25.8	29.7
Proficient	3	9.8	15.8	14.3	7.1	6.3
	4	10.8	12.2	19.8	7.2	7.6
	5	8.3	14.2	16.2	2.2	3.8
	6	12.9	23.2	23.9	5.0	6.9
	7	7.5	13.8	9.5	3.3	6.8
	8	2.1	5.3	1.8	0.0	2.1
Advanced	3	2.9	7.4	3.1	1.1	2.1
	4	4.6	9.6	6.6	1.3	2.8
	5	3.3	4.4	7.1	1.4	1.5
	6	2.7	2.0	7.6	2.5	0.0
	7	2.9	5.5	2.4	2.2	2.0
	8	0.8	1.1	0.9	1.6	0.0

Reading/Language Arts assesses reading, listening, speaking, writing, research, and communication with technology. The first PACT assessment found a high percentage of elementary and middle grades students performing below standards and only a modest number above basic. The percentage of students scoring below basic in reading/language arts has decreased by 22.0% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 788 students below basic in grades 3 - 8 but there would have been an additional 222 at 1999 performance rates.

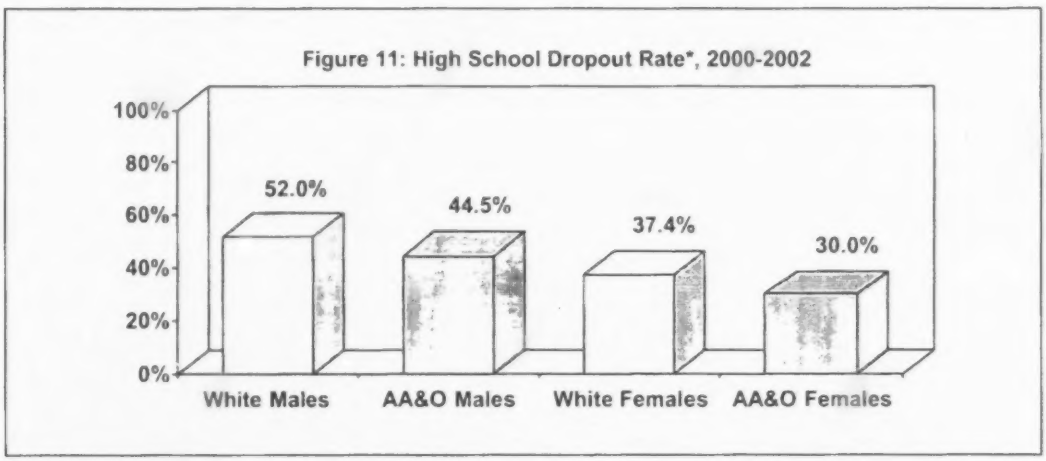
Figure 10: PACT Reading/Language Arts Below Basic in Grades 3 and 8



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
	Reading/Language Arts (%)					
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	36.2	29.5	18.4	52.5	32.2
	4	34.3	30.5	23.1	45.4	32.6
	5	43.7	41.6	25.3	53.6	48.9
	6	41.4	27.3	22.6	58.1	45.0
	7	44.6	30.2	19.0	61.3	49.0
	8	42.0	44.2	22.3	63.4	37.5
Basic	3	39.8	36.8	39.8	34.3	49.0
	4	48.1	52.5	42.9	44.7	51.4
	5	43.0	44.2	45.5	42.0	41.2
	6	37.7	49.5	29.0	31.9	42.0
	7	43.2	53.8	50.0	37.0	39.5
	8	42.4	44.2	43.8	32.5	48.6
Proficient	3	23.0	32.6	38.8	12.7	18.9
	4	17.0	16.9	31.9	9.9	15.3
	5	13.1	14.2	28.3	4.3	9.9
	6	17.8	22.2	36.6	9.4	11.5
	7	10.2	14.2	25.0	0.6	10.9
	8	14.3	10.5	32.1	4.1	11.8
Advanced	3	1.0	1.1	3.1	0.6	0.0
	4	0.6	0.0	2.2	0.0	0.7
	5	0.2	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
	6	3.1	1.0	11.8	0.6	1.5
	7	1.9	1.9	6.0	1.1	0.7
	8	1.3	1.1	1.8	0.0	2.1

Dropout Rate - 8th grade students no longer enrolled in grade 12
(average of students for the three years ending 2000-2002)

220 students drop out annually **40.5% students drop out***



Dropouts: Distressing numbers of students drop out and fail to graduate. An average of 25.0% of 8th graders failed to graduate** from county schools five years later during the period 1980-84, 27.6% during 1985-89, and 31.3% during 1990-94, 38.0% during 1995-97 and 33.0% during 1998-2000***.

During 2001-02, 91.0% of all who did graduate received the State High School Diploma, while the remaining 9.0% received a State Certificate for meeting the required Carnegie units but not passing the Exit Exam.

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* 12th grade enrollment compared to 8th grade enrollment four years earlier

** This is calculated by using 8th grade enrollment to graduation data.

*** 2001 data will be available soon and will be posted on the website.

Fortunately, many dropouts enroll in adult education programs and either earn a high school diploma or obtain a GED. During 2001-02, 53 Adult Education high school diplomas were awarded to school completers and in 2001 63 GEDs were awarded in the county. Over time, adult education high school diplomas and GEDs increase the effective school completion rate substantially. In the 2000 Census, 20.7% of county resident 25 - 34 year-olds said they had not completed either high school or a GED.

Achievement Summary: The numbers of students testing below basic on the PACT and dropping out range from 33.0% to 61.0%. Thus, far too many students fail to acquire the knowledge, skills, learning habits, and motivation necessary to compete in the economy or contribute to society in the 21st Century.

ADOLESCENT RISK BEHAVIORS

Academic achievement is greatly influenced by the prevailing youth culture which often promotes popularity with peers and partying rather than studying and doing well in school. The prevalence of adolescent risk-taking and under-achievement is illustrated by the poor grades of substance-abusing teens.

Substance Abuser Rates at Levels of Academic Performance

	Usual School Grades in Past Year					Total
	A Range	B Range	C Range	D Range	F Range	
Smoked Cigarettes (in past 30 days)	19.6%	20.6%	26.9%	49.2%	65.2%	24.5%
Drank 5 or More Drinks on One Occasion (in past 30 days)	12.3%	15.4%	20.6%	38.5%	43.6%	18.2%
Used Any Illicit Drug (in past 30 days)	16.7%	13.1%	21.5%	34.4%	55.9%	18.0%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

As influence from parents and other adults declines during adolescence, significant numbers of students engage in violence, crime, school offenses, depressive emotions and attempted suicide:

Risk Behaviors Participated in During Past 12 Months	White Male		White Female		African American Male		African American Female		Total		Total (Grade 7-12)
	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	
Carried a handgun or knife for self-defense?	28.6%	32.6%	12.9%	8.6%	15.0%	22.7%	6.4%	7.5%	14.9%	16.2%	15.7%
Carried a handgun or knife as a weapon?	10.0%	12.8%	2.0%	1.3%	11.0%	15.5%	5.0%	5.8%	7.2%	8.5%	8.0%
Been in a fight with someone?	50.3%	34.0%	29.5%	15.4%	43.4%	28.4%	28.6%	23.4%	37.7%	24.8%	30.1%
Hit your boyfriend or girlfriend?	2.6%	1.1%	10.0%	10.9%	5.9%	6.8%	21.4%	30.3%	10.5%	14.6%	13.0%
Been hit by your boyfriend or girlfriend?	9.8%	8.5%	8.3%	7.1%	11.8%	10.9%	9.2%	12.8%	9.9%	10.2%	10.1%
Rec'd detention or in-school suspension?	59.0%	37.4%	40.6%	19.1%	45.2%	40.0%	45.3%	29.7%	47.1%	31.3%	37.7%
Been suspended from school?	20.0%	20.8%	11.4%	6.8%	20.9%	24.1%	13.5%	15.1%	16.6%	16.5%	16.5%
Stolen anything worth > $5?	16.3%	22.8%	9.9%	10.4%	13.3%	16.0%	6.0%	5.9%	11.1%	12.6%	12.0%
Had an accident while driving?	NA	15.3%	NA	9.8%	NA	8.2%	NA	8.3%	NA	10.1%	NA
Been arrested and booked?	6.3%	7.3%	5.9%	1.6%	3.5%	9.9%	1.5%	3.3%	4.0%	5.3%	4.8%
Felt hopeless for two weeks or more?	17.9%	16.7%	28.3%	30.0%	13.9%	14.3%	20.1%	21.3%	19.5%	20.7%	20.2%
Seriously considered attempting suicide?	5.4%	9.0%	16.1%	15.7%	5.9%	4.1%	7.0%	7.2%	8.3%	8.7%	8.5%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

Adolescence is often a time of taking risks and asserting independence from adults. When asked whether they would tell an adult about a problem, the following percentages of county students said they would be "not likely" or "very unlikely" to tell if they:

-heard a student threaten to harm someone: 37.8% middle school, 49.3% high school;
-saw a student with a handgun at school: 30.0% middle school, 26.7% high school;
-saw a student with a knife at school: 31.5% middle school, 33.5% high school;
-saw a student with drugs at school: 39.5% middle school, 61.7% high school;

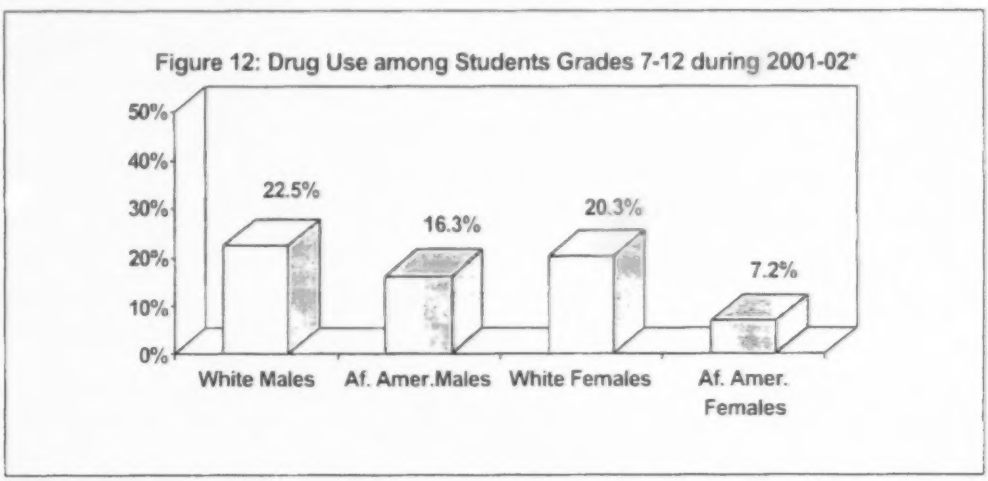
Alcohol Use:* In the county during 2001-02, 26.3% of 7th and 8th graders and 36.8% of high schoolers said they had used alcohol in the past month. Of White males in grades 7 - 12, 40.1% had used it in the past month, compared with 28.8% of African-American males; likewise, 42.3% of White females said they had used alcohol, compared with 26.8% of African-American females. Many youth first used alcohol at an early age: 16.8% had used alcohol by age 11 or younger, 36.0% by age 13, and 60.0% by age 15.

During the previous year, 22.6% of 7th and 8th graders and 30.2% of high schoolers said they had ridden with a drinking driver. Of seniors who drive, 16.5% said they had driven after drinking. Widespread use is encouraged by the ready availability and perceived low risk of alcohol use. Among students who expressed an opinion, 41.4% of eighth graders and 71.6% of seniors felt that beer was easy to get. Also, 70.4% of eighth graders and 68.5% of seniors felt there was not a great risk in drinking two drinks a day, and 51.0% of eighth graders and 50.9% of high schoolers felt there was not a great risk in drinking 5 drinks every weekend.

Heavy Drinking:* In 2001-02, 11.9% of 7th and 8th graders and 18.1% of high school students in the county repor drinking 5 or more drinks in a day during the past month. When asked how many drinks, if any, they usually consur 14.0% of all county students in grades 7 - 12 in 2001-02 responded 3 or more drinks at a time and 6.5% reported usually 5 more drinks. Among high school students, 16.7% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 8.1% 5 or mc Among seniors, 17.3% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 8.0% 5 or more; however 16.5% of seni said that they drank 5 or more drinks in a day once or more during the past month.

Drugs:* In 2001-02, 12.7% of 7th and 8th graders and 18.0% of high schoolers in the county reported using ille drugs during the previous month. Among students in grades 7 - 12, use was reported by 22.5% of White males, 20.3% Wl females, 16.3% of African-American males, and 7.2% of African-American females. Some young people initiated drug at an early age: 5.8% had experienced their first use by age 11 or sooner; 15.9% had used a drug by age 13, and 33.3% by 15.

In the past year, 8.6% of all high school students in the county who drive and 14.2% of seniors who drive said that they had driven after using drugs. Such use is encouraged by the ready availability of drugs: 22.6% of 8th graders who had an opinion said it is easy to get marijuana and 8.1% said it is easy to get cocaine or crack; 64.2% of seniors said it is easy to get marijuana and 30.6% said it was easy to get cocaine or crack.



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* Data is from the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking.

Sexual Activity and Pregnancy: Many teenagers now engage in sexual activity. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) administered to a representative sample of high school students throughout South Carolina in 2001 showed that sexual activity begins at an early age: 7% of female and 21% of male students have engaged in intercourse before age 13; by age 15, 38% the females and 49% of males have engaged in sexual intercourse. Statewide, 48% of females and 50% of males in the 11th and 12th grades reported engaging in intercourse during the past three months. Furthermore, 27% of female and 33% of male 12th graders have had intercourse with four or more partners during their lifetimes.

Premature sexual activity often results in pregnancy. In the county, 46 girls between the ages of 14 and 17 became pregnant in 1999, 46 in 2000 and 54 in 2001. This represented 4.5% of all girls ages 14 – 17 in 2001; several times this percentage become pregnant at least once by age 18. The 2001 pregnancy rate for ages 14 - 17 was 2.8% for Whites and 6.2% for African-Americans and Others. Of all pregnancies of 14-17 year olds, 85.2% resulted in live births, with almost all other pregnancies ending in abortions.

Teen pregnancy rates increased substantially across the state during the 1980s; as a result, greater emphasis v devoted to preventing teen pregnancy. Since 1989, the teen pregnancy rate in Colleton County has decreased by 25.7 Overall, it has decreased by 50.9% for Whites, and decreased by 3.1% for African Americans and Others.

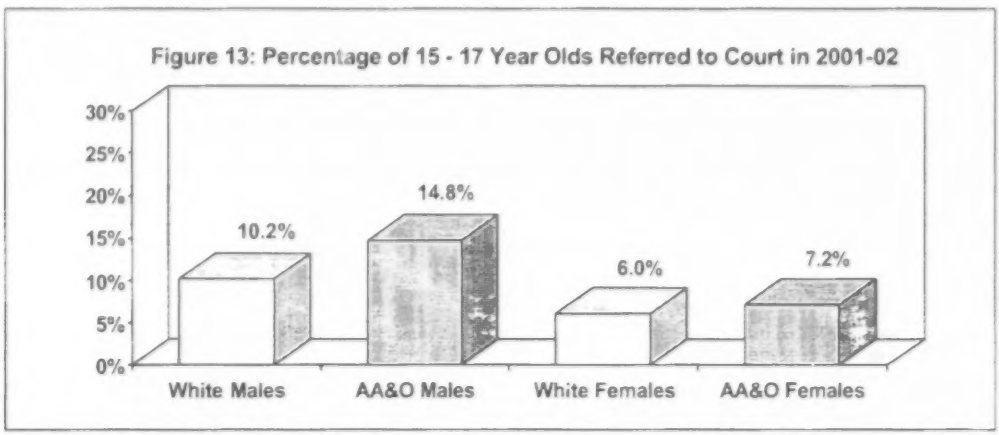
Juvenile Delinquency: In 2001-02, 294 individual juvenile offenders in the county were referred to the Solicitor for delinquency; of these, 9.2% were age 12 or younger, 32.0% were 13 or 14, and 58.8% were 15 or older.

Of the referrals to the family court, 8.3% of all referrals were for violent and serious crimes which include drug trafficking, acts against persons for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and serious property offenses for arson and burglary. Also, 55 juvenile cases constituting 14.3% of all referrals were for status offenses. Status offenses include truancy, running away, incorrigibility, and other offenses that would not be crimes for adults.

Delinquents are likely to live in families with low income: 29.3% lived in families with income under $10,000, 36.1% with $10,000-$19,999 and 34.6% with $20,000 or more. Furthermore, only 20.6% of delinquents lived with both natural parents, while 46.8% lived in a single parent household, 30.5% lived with other relatives, and 2.1% in other situations including parent plus step-parent. Delinquency or criminal activity occurs among many related family members: 41.8% had at least one family member who was delinquent or had some criminal record.

Youth referred to the family courts are likely to have been there before. In 2001-02, 44.2% had at least one prior referral and 14.3% had been referred to court 3 times or more. Many were referred at an early age. For delinquents 15 - 17 years old, 1.7% had been referred by the age of 10, 7.5% by the age of 12, and 20.7% by the age of 14.

During 2001-02, 169 youth ages 15 to 17 were referred to the family courts. In the county, 9.7% of all youth 15 to 17 were referred to court in one year and roughly double that percentage are referred at least once by age 18. Furthermore, the National Youth Survey indicates that typically across the United States the proportion of youth engaging in crime is two or three times the number ever apprehended. In 2001-02, there were 18 juveniles committed from the county to DJJ custody and placed in residential programs.



Not in School or Employed: During 2000, 365 teenagers ages 16-19 were idle, meaning they neither worked any hours nor were enrolled in school, even part-time. Idle teens comprised 17.0% of their age group: 12.8% for White and 20.7% African-American & Other teens. A much larger number, perhaps twice as many, were not engaged in either school full time or work full time. The data reflect a serious failure in both school completion and the critical transition from school to work, significantly affecting their development as future workers. For an in-depth description of the problems of young adults seeking to enter the labor force, visit our website at www.scyoungadults.org for our state and county reports on 18-29 year olds.

Deaths: During 1997-2001, 10 youth ages 15 to 19 died. Historically, automobile accidents have been the major cause, resulting in 5 deaths between 1996 and 2000; homicides killed 2 youth 15 to 19 years old during the five-year period, and 0 youth committed suicide. Alcohol use is often a significant factor in deaths among teenagers.

SUMMARY

Facing the Scope of Problems: The data on families, economic status, health, readiness, school achievement, and adolescent risk behaviors provide a troublesome picture of the condition of children in Colleton County. The 33.7% of children in single-parent families, 28.9% in poverty, 33.0% not graduating from school, 36.8% of high school students using alcohol and 18.0% using drugs each month, and other data profiled in this report suggest that too many children are at risk of not growing up to become self-supporting adults, good family members, and responsible community citizens.

Emphasizing the Positive: South Carolina Kids Count reports have been developed to describe the problems of children in each of the counties. Fortunately, the majority of children and youth are doing well, and some very well. One simple description is the percentage of children who do not fall into the problem categories reported. For the county, 79.4% of children are born to non-teen mothers ages 20 or older, 49.8% are born to married parents, and 66.3% lived in two-parent families; 71.1% were not poor and 40.7% lived in families with incomes above twice the poverty level for a family of three, $30,040 in 2002; 90.5% of babies were born with normal birthweights; 75.7% were assessed as ready for the first grade, 40.3% scored basic or better on PACT for 8th grade math and 58.0% for 8th grade reading, 56.8% passed all parts of the Exit Exam in the 10th grade, and 67.0% graduated with their class. In a typical month, 63.2% of high school students do not drink alcohol, 82.0% do not use drugs, and 75.7% do not smoke. Unfortunately, the absence of a problem is not always an indicator of success. Some data is available for exemplary performance: for example, 24.0% of 3rd graders and 15.6% of 8th graders scored proficient or advanced on PACT in reading and 12.7% of 3rd graders and 2.9% of 8th graders in math. Unfortunately, data on success is not generally available.

Despite the limitations of success data, we must emphasize the positive in providing good support and appropriate influences for children and youth. Recent philosophy and publications such as those of the Search Institute (700 South Third Street, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN, 55415-1138, tel. 1-800-888-7828, www.search-institute.org), emphasize the critical importance of "developmental assets" to promote and support positive development. One short book from the Search Institute, (What Kids Need to Succeed, by Peter J. Benson, Judy Gailbraith, and Pamela Espeland, 1995) presents an excellent array of suggestions for promoting developmental assets through families, community, faith congregations, and schools. If each family, school, religious congregation and community organization assertively worked to build such assets, the problems described in this report would be reduced dramatically. Such positive family-school-community efforts could improve South Carolina's national Kids Count ranking from the bottom 10 to the average or even into the top 10 by prevention of unnecessary problems affecting children and youth, as shown on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

All data presented in this report is the most recent available at the date it goes to the printer. This version of the Kids Count report will be revised as more recent and additional data become available. Please send us your corrections and suggestions for improvement. We welcome your ideas for ways to make the state and county reports more useful and accurate. Please utilize local data sources whenever possible to supplement the profile provided through our report.

Data related inquiries should be directed to:

Anne Wilson, Data Manager (awilson@drss.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-4810

Calls for **copies of reports** for other counties and inquiries regarding more recent reports should be made to:

Kim Hazel-Lohr, Project Manager (khazel@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-1295

For **policy questions and general comments**, please contact:

Dr. A. Baron Holmes, Project Director (bholmes@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-2291

Comparable reports for all 46 counties and for the state can also be found on the World Wide Web at

www.sckidscount.org

Our website also provides: links to other websites for indicators in our report; high to low rankings for individual indicators; information on how to improve SC's national rank; and a glossary of definitions.

The national Kids Count Report can be found on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website at www.aecf.org

Colleton County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Indicators		Number					Percent					R	
	Most Recent Year	1980*	1990*	Most Recent Data	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980 Rank	199
Health													
Low Birth Weight	2001	46	50	58	+26.1%	+16.0%	9.0	9.4	9.5	5.3%	1.1%	26	
White babies	2001	11	14	22	+100.0%	+57.1%	5.6	5.7	7.1	26.8%	24.8%	21	
African American and Other babies	2001	35	36	36	+2.9%	+0.0%	11.2	12.6	12.1	8.0%	-4.4%	18	
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	2001	233	187	88	-62.2%	-52.9%	45.7	35.2	14.5	-68.3%	-58.7%	33	
White babies	2001	48	54	37	-22.9%	-31.5%	24.4	22.0	11.9	-51.2%	-45.8%	16	
African American and Other babies	2001	185	133	51	-72.4%	-61.7%	59.1	46.7	17.1	-71.0%	-63.3%	31	
Infant Mortality	2001	23	28	13	-43.5%	-53.6%	15	17	0.7	-49.9%	-55.8%	14	
White babies	2001	6	15	1	-83.3%	-93.3%	0.9	1.9	0.1	-87.9%	-94.2%	8	
African American and Other babies	2001	17	13	12	-29.4%	-7.7%	1.9	1.5	1.4	-25.1%	-3.2%	12	
Family													
Births to mothers under 18	2001	58	40	46	-20.7%	+15.0%	11.4	7.5	7.6	-33.2%	1.1%	40	
White babies	2001	14	7	12	-14.3%	+71.4%	7.1	2.8	3.9	-45.1%	37.1%	36	
African American and Other babies	2001	44	33	34	-22.7%	+3.0%	14.1	11.6	11.4	-18.8%	-1.5%	32	
Births to mothers under 20	2001	111	95	125	+12.6%	+31.6%	21.8	17.9	20.6	-5.4%	15.4%	29	
White babies	2001	33	29	50	+51.5%	+72.4%	16.8	11.8	16.1	-3.9%	36.6%	28	
African American and Other babies	2001	78	65	75	-3.8%	+15.4%	24.9	22.8	25.2	1.0%	10.4%	17	
Births to mothers with less than a high school education	2001	189	151	171	-9.5%	+13.2%	37.1	28.4	28.1	-24.2%	-1.0%	32	
White babies	2001	72	70	83	+15.3%	+18.6%	36.5	28.5	26.8	-26.7%	-5.8%	39	
African American and Other babies	2001	117	81	88	-24.8%	+8.6%	37.4	28.4	29.5	-21.0%	3.9%	20	
Births to single mothers****	2001	154	201	305	+98.1%	+51.7%	30.2	37.8	50.2	66.2%	32.9%	34	
White babies	2001	14	36	93	+564.3%	+158.3%	7.1	14.6	30.0	322.1%	105.0%	32	
African American and Other babies	2001	140	165	212	+51.4%	+28.5%	44.7	57.9	71.1	59.1%	22.9%	13	
Children in single parent families	2000	1,772	2,255	2,923	+65.0%	+29.6%	19.0	27.0	33.7	77.2%	24.7%	25	
White	2000	447	666	900	+101.3%	+35.1%	9.4	15.6	20.3	115.9%	30.1%	15	
African American and Other	2000	1,311	1,578	2,023	+54.3%	+28.2%	27.7	38.7	47.6	71.9%	23.1%	22	
Education													
Not Ready for Grade 1	2001	266	172	127	-52.3%	-26.2%	54.0	29.8	24.3	-55.0%	-18.5%	43	
White males	2001	43	28	14	-67.4%	-50.0%	47.8	19.6	15.2	-68.2%	-22.4%	45	
White females	2001	31	18	20	-35.5%	+11.1%	33.0	16.2	18.2	-44.8%	12.3%	43	
African American and Other males	2001	97	68	57	-41.2%	-16.2%	61.8	40.2	34.1	-44.8%	-15.2%	34	
African American and Other females	2001	95	58	36	-62.1%	-37.9%	62.5	37.9	24.0	-61.6%	-36.7%	44	
Repeating Grades 1-3	2000	122	125	111	-9.0%	-11.2%	26.7	22.1	20.3	-24.0%	-8.1%	37	
White males	2000	27	30	27	+0.0%	-10.0%	33.1	22.3	23.2	-29.9%	4.0%	43	
White females	2000	14	17	9	-35.7%	-47.1%	15.8	15.4	9.7	-38.6%	-37.0%	39	
African American and Other males	2000	50	38	43	-14.0%	+13.2%	34.4	22.1	25.3	-26.5%	14.5%	32	
African American and Other females	2000	30	40	28	-6.7%	-30.0%	21.4	27.0	17.9	-16.4%	-33.7%	29	
Grade 3 Math below standards****	2002	211	79	255	+20.9%	+222.8%	47.6	14.0	49.2	3.4%	251.4%	33	
White males	2002	24	5	33	+37.5%	+560.0%	29.3	4.5	34.7	18.4%	671.1%	21	
White females	2002	19	11	38	+100.0%	+245.5%	27.1	8.2	38.8	43.2%	373.2%	22	
African American and Other males	2002	83	28	107	+28.9%	+282.1%	60.1	18.5	58.8	-2.2%	217.8%	25	
African American and Other females	2002	84	35	77	-8.3%	+120.0%	56.0	21.1	53.8	-3.9%	155.0%	33	
Grade 3 Reading below standards****	2002	181	95	187	+3.3%	+96.8%	40.8	16.9	36.2	-11.3%	114.2%	30	
White males	2002	25	10	28	+12.0%	+180.0%	30.1	8.9	29.5	-2.0%	231.5%	25	
White females	2002	16	10	18	+12.5%	+80.0%	22.9	7.5	18.4	-19.7%	145.3%	32	
African American and Other males	2002	79	40	95	+20.3%	+137.5%	57.2	26.7	52.5	-8.2%	96.6%	23	
African American and Other females	2002	60	35	46	-23.3%	+31.4%	40.0	21.1	32.2	-19.5%	52.6%	22	
Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT Grade 4	1998	145	225	249	+71.7%	+10.7%	32.4	42.5	46.7	44.1%	9.9%	22	
White males	1998	22	37	36	+63.6%	-2.7%	24.2	36.3	35.0	44.6%	-3.6%	21	
White females	1998	6	20	31	+416.7%	+55.0%	6.7	18.4	26.3	292.5%	42.9%	2	
African American and Other males	1998	59	99	102	+72.9%	+3.0%	48.8	58.6	64.3	31.8%	9.7%	15	
African American and Other females	1998	49	69	79	+61.2%	+14.5%	38.8	46.0	53.0	44.0%	15.2%	23	

*Year of data is approximate in many cases.
**1 is best, 46 is worst.
*** Data include paternity acknowledgements.
**** BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Colleton County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Education (continued)

Indicators		Number					Percent				
	Most Recent Year	1980*	1990*	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres
Grade 8 Math below state standards**	2002	324	195	284	-12.3%	+45.6%	62.3	41	59.7	-4.2%	45.6%
White males	*2002*	*37*	*33*	*47*	*+27.0%*	*+42.4%*	*37.8*	*33.3*	*49.5*	*31.0%*	*48.6%*
White females	*2002*	*39*	*20*	*48*	*+23.1%*	*+140.0%*	*41.1*	*22.7*	*42.9*	*4.4%*	*89.0%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*122*	*76*	*90*	*-26.2%*	*+18.4%*	*73.0*	*51.0*	*72.6*	*-0.5%*	*42.4%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*126*	*64*	*99*	*-21.4%*	*+54.7%*	*78.7*	*46.7*	*68.3*	*-13.2%*	*46.3%*
Grade 8 Reading below state standards**	2002	319	128	199	-37.6%	+55.5%	61.3	26.8	42.0	-31.5%	56.7%
White males	*2002*	*42*	*23*	*42*	*+0.0%*	*+82.6%*	*42.9*	*23.2*	*44.2*	*3.0%*	*90.5%*
White females	*2002*	*31*	*14*	*25*	*-19.4%*	*+78.6%*	*32.6*	*15.7*	*22.3*	*-31.6%*	*42.0%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*122*	*53*	*78*	*-36.1%*	*+47.2%*	*73.0*	*35.3*	*63.4*	*-13.2%*	*79.6%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*124*	*36*	*54*	*-56.5%*	*+50.0%*	*77.5*	*26.3*	*37.5*	*-51.6%*	*42.6%*
Grade 9 Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT	1998	NA	223	208	NA	-6.7%	NA	41.8	40.4	NA	-3.3%
White males	*1998*	*NA*	*44*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*37.9*	*29.3*	*NA*	*-22.7%*
White females	*1998*	*NA*	*15*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*15.8*	*17.9*	*NA*	*13.3%*
African American and Other males	*1998*	*NA*	*80*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*53*	*58.6*	*NA*	*10.6%*
African American and Other females	*1998*	*NA*	*84*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*48.8*	*49.4*	*NA*	*1.2%*
Exit Exam (not passing all parts on 1st attempt)	2002	251	187	156	-37.8%	-16.6%	56.7	44.4	43.2	-23.8%	-2.7%
White males	*2002*	*35*	*24*	*22*	*-37.1%*	*-8.3%*	*37.6*	*25.3*	*34.4*	*-8.5%*	*36.0%*
White females	*2002*	*25*	*29*	*23*	*-8.0%*	*-20.7%*	*29.4*	*34.9*	*24.2*	*-17.7%*	*-30.7%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*83*	*71*	*52*	*-37.3%*	*-26.8%*	*72.8*	*55.9*	*55.9*	*-23.2%*	*0.0%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*108*	*62*	*59*	*-45.4%*	*-4.8%*	*71.5*	*53.9*	*54.1*	*-24.3%*	*0.4%*
Dropout Rate (8th graders no longer enrolled in 12th grade 4 years later)	2000-02	135	149	220	+63.0%	+47.7%	26.3	28.0	40.5	54.1%	44.5%
White males	*2000-02*	*31*	*41*	*60*	*+97.8%*	*+47.2%*	*28.2*	*35.8*	*52.0*	*84.2%*	*45.3%*
White females	*2000-02*	*23*	*22*	*45*	*+98.5%*	*+103.0%*	*24.5*	*21.6*	*37.4*	*53.0%*	*73.5%*
African American and Other males	*2000-02*	*44*	*52*	*69*	*+59.4%*	*+34.6%*	*27.7*	*33.2*	*44.5*	*60.8%*	*34.1%*
African American and Other females	*2000-02*	*39*	*35*	*46*	*+18.6%*	*+32.4%*	*24.5*	*21.6*	*30.0*	*22.5%*	*39.3%*
Young Adults Not Completing High School (18-24)	2000	1,193	922	963	-19.3%	+4.4%	33.5	32.0	20.7	-38.2%	-35.3%
White males	*NA*	*324*	*265*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*38.3*	*36.0*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
White females	*NA*	*237*	*190*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*27.6*	*27.6*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other males	*NA*	*333*	*273*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*36.1*	*38.5*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other females	*NA*	*299*	*194*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*31.9*	*25.9*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*

Economics

Poverty Rate	2000	3,349	2,925	2,993	-10.6%	+2.3%	32.4	29.3	28.9	-10.8%	-1.4%
White children	*2000*	*608*	*479*	*746*	*+22.7%*	*+55.7%*	*12.5*	*10.6*	*15.6*	*24.8%*	*47.2%*
African American and Other children	*2000*	*2,721*	*2,446*	*2,247*	*-17.4%*	*-8.1%*	*50.1*	*44.9*	*40.4*	*-19.4%*	*-10.1%*
Income of Families w/children (1999 $)	2000	$ 34,937	$ 38,112	$ 38,151	+9.2%	+0.1%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
White families	*2000*	*$ 42,203*	*$ 48,351*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other families	*2000*	*$ 25,876*	*$ 26,753*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*

Adolescent Risk Factors

Teenage Pregnancy (ages 14-17)	2001	70	62	54	-22.9%	-12.9%	5.5	5.6	4.5	-17.7%	-19.6%
White	*2001*	*17*	*16*	*16*	*-5.9%*	*+0.0%*	*2.9*	*3.2*	*2.8*	*-4.4%*	*-12.5%*
African American and Other	*2001*	*53*	*46*	*38*	*-28.3%*	*-17.4%*	*7.5*	*7.5*	*6.2*	*-16.9%*	*-17.3%*
Delinquency	2002	67	83	169	+152.2%	+103.6%	3.6	4.7	9.7	168.3%	105.5%
White males	*2002*	*28*	*36*	*42*	*+50.0%*	*+16.7%*	*5.7*	*7.0*	*10.2*	*79.7%*	*46.3%*
White females	*2002*	*11*	*17*	*26*	*+136.4%*	*+52.9%*	*2.7*	*4.3*	*6.0*	*123.9%*	*40.6%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*24*	*26*	*68*	*+183.3%*	*+161.5%*	*5.0*	*6.0*	*14.8*	*195.7%*	*146.4%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*4*	*4*	*33*	*+725.0%*	*+725.0%*	*0.8*	*0.9*	*7.2*	*796.7%*	*697.1%*

*Closest available data to this year was used in many cases.
**BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Kids Count 2003

Darlington County

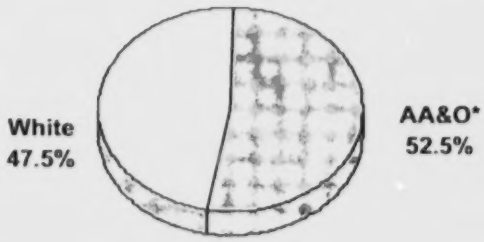
Demographics

In 2000 there were an estimated 17,709 children under age 18 in the county. Of these, 8,408 were White, 8,985 were African-American, and 316 were other races. There were 17,469 children under age 18 in 1990, 20,730 in 1980, 20,883 in 1970, and 23,860 in 1960.

Children represent a shrinking portion of the county's population. Those under 18 constituted 26.3% of the population in 2000, down from 45.1% in 1960, 39.1% in 1970, and 33.1% in 1980.

In 2000 the 5,637 pre-schoolers under age 6 were 8.4% of the overall population: 6.8% of Whites and 10.4% of African Americans.

Figure 1: Population Ages 0-17 in 2000



* In all charts African-American is combined with other races, and often abbreviated as AA&O. Other races comprise 1.8% of children in the county, with "two or more races" at 0.9% and "some other race alone" at 0.5% as the largest Other groups.

Family

Families have always been the most important influence in a child's life. Children depend on their families for material needs, stimulation and guidance. Family life is different in numerous ways from previous generations, and many families now face exceptional challenges.

Families with children now make up a smaller share of all households. Only 32.2% of all households in 2000, as compared with 50.0% of households in 1960, had children below the age of 18.

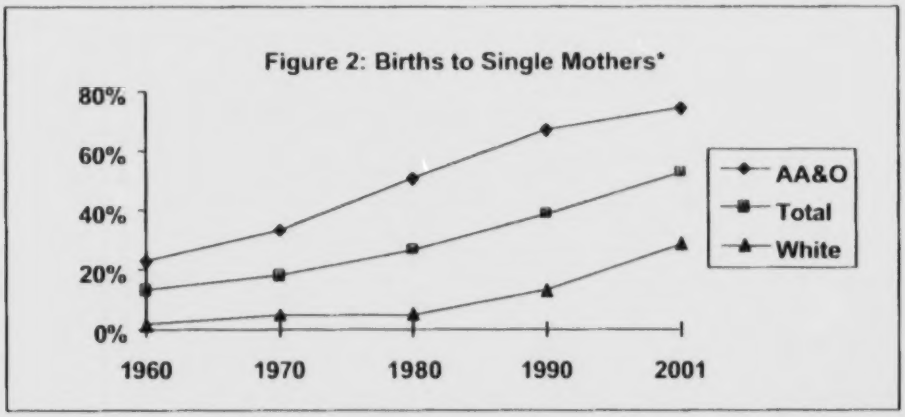
Births to Teen Mothers: In 2001, 63 babies were born to mothers younger than age 18. They were 6.7% of all babies born in the county; 5.1% of all White and 8.1% of all African-American and Other babies were born to teen mothers under the age of 18. Of the babies born to these teens in 2001, 93.7% were born to single mothers, including babies whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers.

In 2001, 158 babies were born to mothers younger than age 20. These babies were 16.8% of all born in the county; 13.1% of all White and 20.1% of all African-American and Other babies were born to mothers under the age of 20. Of the babies born to these mothers in 2001, 86.1% were born to single mothers, including paternity acknowledeged babies.

Education of Mothers Giving Birth: Children's success is strongly influenced by the education of their parents. In 2001, 234 babies, 24.8% of all babies, were born to mothers of all ages who had not completed the 12th grade. In 2001, 19.6% of White and 29.6% of African-American and Other babies were born to mothers who had completed less than the 12th grade. This is a substantial improvement from 51.4% in 1970. In addition, during 2001, 40.0% had completed 12 grades (34.0% of Whites and 45.4% of African Americans and Others) and 35.2% had more than a high school degree (46.4% of Whites and 24.9% of African American and Others).

Births to Single Mothers: Births to single mothers have increased steadily over four decades. In 2001, 405 babies, 42.9% of all babies, were recorded as born to single mothers. A decade earlier in 1990, the percentage was 34.1% and in 1960 it was 13.1%. In 2001, 19.6% of White children and 64.3% of African-American and Other children were born to single mothers. These numbers, however, do not include paternity acknowlegement births.

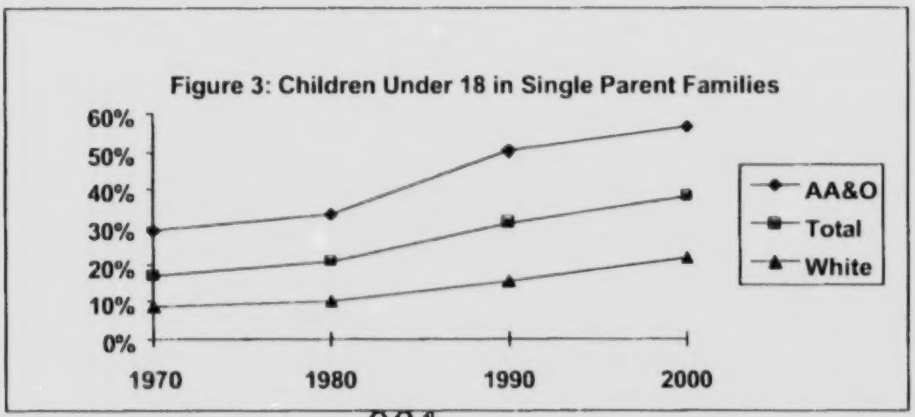
Thus, to these numbers should be added an additional group of 91 babies, 9.7% of all born in 2001, whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers. When the paternity-acknowledged babies are added, the total number born to single mothers in 2001 was 496, constituting 52.6% of all babies, 28.7% of White babies, and 74.4% of African-American and Others.



*Includes paternity acknowleged babies in 1980, 1990 and 2001. Prior to 1979, paternity acknowleged cases were not a statistical category, and thus were included in births to single mothers.

Divorce Rate: In 2001, 438 marriage licenses were issued, while 319 divorce decrees involving 242 children were filed. In 1970, only 114 children were in families involved in divorce.

Single-Parent Family: Increasing numbers of children live in single-parent families. In 2000, 5,571 children lived with only one parent. This was 38.2% of all children, up from 31.1% in 1990, 20.8% in 1980, and 17.0% in 1970. In 2000, 21.6% of White and 56.4% of African-American and Other children lived in single-parent families. Also in 2000, 1,458 or 36.8% of children under age 6 lived in single parent families: 17.2% of White and 59.0% of African American and Other pre-schoolers.



Parents Working and Child Care: Increasingly, parents must divide their time between children and employers. In order to meet family financial needs, most parents must work and thus have less time for family life. In 2000, 60.5% of mothers with children under 6 and 71.7% with children 6 - 17 were in the labor force. This has increased substantially from 1960 when 40.9% of mothers with children under 6 were in the labor force. Most fathers also work: 58.1% of children under 6 are in families where the single parent or both parents work. Caring for children is a problem for parents unable to obtain quality, affordable daycare while they are at work.

Overall, there are 1,628 spaces in state-regulated childcare facilities* in the county, 87.1% of these are in licensed programs and 12.9% are in registered programs. Of the spaces, 79.4% are in licensed childcare centers serving more than 12 children, 11.4% are in registered or licensed family childcare homes serving six or fewer children, 7.4% are in licensed group childcare homes serving 7-12 children, and 1.8% are in registered or licensed church programs.

The homes and centers are severely constrained by the limited ability of parents to pay. In the county, the average weekly charge is $ 68.98 for centers and $ 61.58 for homes. Consequently, center wages are low: 50% of centers with pre-school staff and 20% of centers with assistant pre-school staff report paying these staff under $6 per hour. Paying $6-$8 per hour are 42.9% of centers with pre-school staff and 80% of centers with assistants. Low wages attract workers with limited education. In 35.7% of centers, most pre-school staff and in 0% of centers most assistants have only a high school degree. In 57.1% of centers few to none of the pre-school staff have early childhood credentials. In childcare homes, 63.1% of lead providers have no more education than a high school degree or GED; 10.5% have less than a high school degree.

Family Violence: In 2000, 620 domestic assaults were recorded by law enforcement officials. These domestic assaults comprised 32.4% of all assaults, which include aggravated assaults, simple assaults, and intimidation. Overall, 56.3% of all domestic assaults involve spouse abuse which constitutes 18.2% of all assaults. Since most family violence is not reported, the true incidence of family disruption is much more widespread than even the large number of reported cases would indicate.

Separation from Parents: Some children do not live with their natural parents. In 2000, 9.3% of all children did not live with their natural parents. Approximately 1,324 or 7.5% of all children lived with relatives, 257 or 1.5% lived with non-relatives, 19 or 0.1% were householders or spouses, and 50 or 0.3% were in institutional facilities.

Abuse and Neglect: In 2000-01, there were 807 investigations into reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children. Through its investigations, the Department of Social Services (DSS) determined that 202 of the investigations were indicated for abuse or neglect: 8.5% for physical abuse, 5.7% for sexual abuse, 0.7% for mental injury, 51.8% for physical neglect, 13.5% for educational neglect, 7.8% for medical neglect, 12.1% for threat of harm for physical/sexual abuse, and 0.0% for other types of abuse.

In the indicated cases of abuse and neglect, DSS determined there were 285 children who were victims of abuse or neglect. Of these, 56.5% were male, 43.5% were female; 46.0% were White, 54.0% were African-American and Other. By age, 37.8% were ages 0 - 5, 45.6% were ages 6 - 12, and 16.6% were ages 13 - 17. In the indicated cases, 18.6% of the children lived in two-parent families, 69.1% in single parent families, 11.2% with unmarried couples, and 1.1% in other circumstances.

Out of Home Placements: As of June 2001, 92 children lived in foster care. The median age at first placement in the county is 6.9 years. The ages of children in foster care were 19.6% 0-2, 8.7% 3-5, 28.3% 6-10, 10.9% 11-13, and 32.6% 14 and above. The foster care population is 51.1% males and 48.9% females. Regarding their future, 15.2% were under a plan for placement in adoptive homes, 62.0% for return to a parent or guardian, 2.2% for placement with a relative, 14.1% for independent living, 6.5% for permanent foster care, and 0.0% for other circumstances.

Adult/Child Ratio: A measure of potential adult attention for children from family and community is the ratio of adults to children and youth. In 2000 there were 2.81 adults for every person below age 18. This was up substantially from 1960, when there were only 1.22 adults for every person under the age 18. This indicates that today there are more adults potentially available to provide attention and care for each child than in the past.

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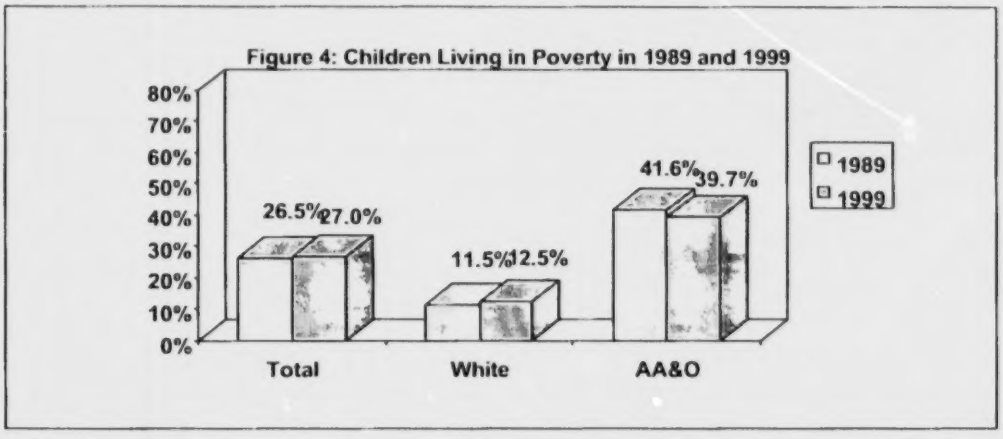
* This data is the best currently available; however, an effort is being made to check the coverage and improve the accuracy. As soon as more recent and complete data becomes available, it will be posted on the website.

ECONOMIC STATUS

Low income makes it difficult for many families to provide the material and environmental enrichment necessary for healthy child development.

Poverty: In 1999, 4,719 children and youth under the age of 18 lved in 2,262 families with incomes below poverty, comprising 27.0% of all children and youth: 12.5% of Whites and 39.7% of African-Americans and Others. A rough estimate of child poverty in 2001 calculated by the Census Bureau was 23.0%.



Poverty has always been a serious problem. While the rate among children under age 18 in 1989 was 26.5%, it was 29.4% in 1979 and 36.4% in 1969.

Children and the elderly are the age groups most seriously affected by poverty. In 1999, 24.3% of children 0 - 5 (9.6% White, 36.9% African-American and Other), and 26.9% of children 6 - 17 (13.2% White, 39.1% African-American and Other), lived in poverty; 22.1% of persons 65 years and older lived in poverty. Historically, the poverty rate among the elderly was much higher. During the last three decades, federal policy actions have substantially improved the economic status of older persons but have not done so for children.

Single-parent families are most likely to be poor. In 1999, 47.0% of children in single-parent families lived in poverty, but only 12.2% of children in married-couple families were poor. Children in single-parent families made up 60.1% of all the county's children living in poverty.

In 2002, the poverty level was $15,020 for a family of three and $18,100 for a family of four. The poverty threshold is often criticized as an arbitrary number. People can still be poor but may be just above the poverty level. Federal programs utilize varying thresholds. For example, in 1999 there were 9,264 children ages 0-17 who were less than 200 percent of poverty; thus an additional 4,545 children were above the poverty level but could still be considered poor or near-poor with incomes below $30,040 and $36,200 respectively for 3 and 4 person families.

Children Under 18 in Poverty in 1999

Percent of Poverty	Total		White		African American & Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 50%	2,275	13.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 100%	4,719	27.0%	1,026	12.5%	3,693	39.7%
Under 125%	6,095	34.8%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 150%	7,360	42.1%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 175%	8,217	47.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 185%	8,826	50.4%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 200%	9,264	52.9%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total Children	17,709		8,408		9,301	

Note: Missing data will be released by the Census Bureau later in 2003, and will be posted on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

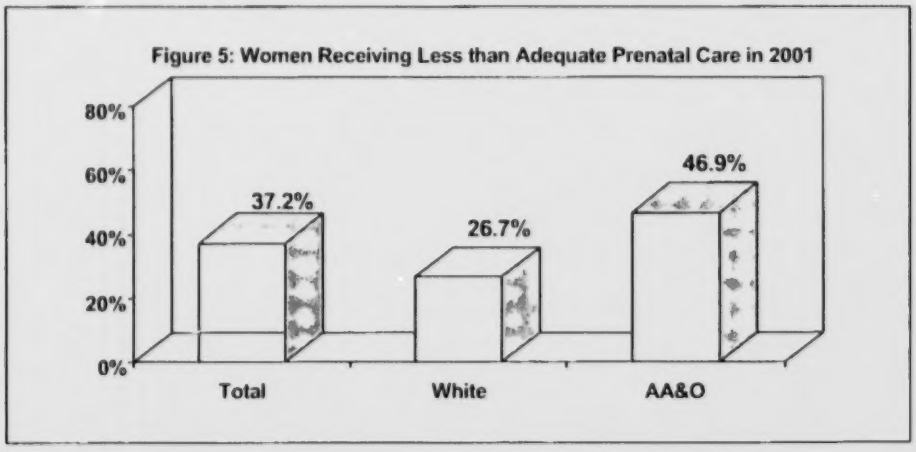
Income: The mean income of families with children in 1999 was $43,659. In 1989 it was $41,034, and 1979, it was $38,700, adjusted for inflation (i.e., in 1999 dollars). The mean income of single-parent families with children was $22,778 for single parents in 1999, as compared with $55,969 in married-couple families with children. From 1999 to 2000, Darlington County real dollar per capita income (eliminating inflation) increased by 1.8%.

Child Support Payments: There were 756[7] families receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families in fiscal year 2002, but only 31.2 % had child support court orders. Their average monthly payment of child support was $ 216, including child support receipts and tax refund intercepts. In addition, during fiscal year 2002, an estimated 1,512 parents in non-TANF families were obligated to pay a monthly average of $ 198. Information is not available regarding the amount actually paid.

HEALTH

Good health during a child's formative years helps children to reach their maximum potential. Good health requires healthy lifestyles and effective primary care, starting during the prenatal period and continuing through adolescence into adulthood. Children's health reflects the well-being of the community, as well as how adequately they are protected.

Prenatal Care: Early and continuous prenatal care can make a significant difference in assuring births of healthy babies. Delayed or insufficient prenatal care is associated with low birthweight and other health risks for infants. In 2001, 321, or 34.0% of pregnant women received no prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy. In 2001, 351, or 37.2% of pregnant women received less than adequate prenatal care: 120 or 26.7% of Whites and 231 or 46.9% of African-Americans and Others. In that same year, 10 women received no prenatal care at all.



Low Birthweight: Low birthweight of less than 5.5 pounds and very low birthweight of less than 3.3 pounds are associated with health risks and growth and development problems. In 2001, 117 or 12.4% of all babies in the county were born with low birthweight: 17.0% of African-American and Other babies and 7.3% of White babies. During 1999-2001, approximately 75 or 2.6% of all babies were born with very low birthweight and had the most serious complications: 1.3% of White babies and 3.8% of African-American and Other babies. The cost of hospitalization for each newborn low birthweight baby in the county in 1999 - 2001 was $12,545 and $109,298 for each very low birthweight baby, compared with $1,923 for a baby of normal birthweight. The result was excess cost in the county of $2,105,915 for all low birthweight babies, of which $1,574,830 was for very low birthweight babies.

Infant Mortality: During the decade since 1989-91, the overall infant mortality rate decreased by 26.7% from 19.2 to 14.1 per 1000 live births. For Whites, the rate decreased 26.0% from 14.1 to 10.4 per 1000 live births, while for African-Americans and Others the rate decreased 28.3% from 24.2 to 17.3 per 1000 live births. Over the three-year period 1999-2001, 14 White and 26 African-American and Other infants died before age one. By comparison, 21 White and 37 African-American and Other infants died during 1989-91.

[7] Number is an unduplicated count for the entire fiscal year.

Child Injuries and Deaths: Childhood deaths and injuries reflect whether communities are safe for children. In 2001, children in the Darlington County went to the emergency room 1,927 times because of injuries. Boys are injured more often than girls. Children visit the emergency room at comparable rates for each age from 0 to 17.

In South Carolina, the major causes of death among young children are unintentional injuries, cancer, homicide, and congenital anomalies. Over the three year period 1999-2001, 7 White and 10 African-American and Other children ages 1-14 died in the county. During 1989-91, 9 White and 17 African-American and Other children died.

Immunization: Immunization rates are an important indication of whether young children are receiving adequate preventive health care. During FY 1989-90, 48.5% of children less than two years old seen in public health clinics were not fully immunized against such preventable diseases as Polio, Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Haemophilus Influenza B and Whooping Cough. After a concerted statewide campaign to increase immunizations, the percentage of children seen in public health clinics who were not fully immunized in January 2001 had declined in the county to 10.3%. The DHEC statewide birth registry survey of all two year old children found that 88.1% were fully immunized in 2001. This success demonstrates the potential to improve the status of children when the leadership of the state and its communities act decisively together.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Children and youth are infected with sexually transmitted diseases through sexual abuse or irresponsible sexual activity. National prevalence rates indicate: a 1 in 8 chance that sexually active 15 year-old girls will develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), the most rapidly increasing cause of infertility; 10% of sexually active adolescent girls and boys are infected with chlamydia, the most common cause of PID; and as many as 15% of teen girls are infected with human papilloma virus, often with strains linked to cervical cancer. Furthermore, research evidence indicates that susceptibility to HIV/AIDS increases by 3 to 8 times through prior infection with various STDs.

According to national studies, approximately 1 in 4 sexually experienced youth aged 13-19 acquires a STD ever year; since two-thirds of all high school students have had sexual intercourse and half engage in intercourse over a thr month period, this would suggest that 10-15% of teens are infected with STDs annually. For 2000, this would indicate th an estimated 643 to 965 youth ages 13-19 in the county were infected with a STD. Many infections are either not identifi for treatment or not reported. In the county, there were 1 reported cases of children under age 15 and 73 youth ages 1 19 infected with gonorrhea; 5 youth under 15 and 112 ages 15 - 19 were reported infected with chlamydia. Youth wi undiagnosed and untreated STDs often spread their infections.

Healthy Lifestyles: Although no county data is available, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2001 found that mar high school students are not following good health habits. The YRBS revealed that 26% felt that they were overweight; 42 were trying to lose weight: 27% of boys and 57% of girls. Although during a week 79% of high school students ate fru 59% ate salad, and over 83% ate vegetables, only 17% ate the recommended five or more servings of fruit and vegetabl per day. During a week, 49% did stretching or muscle strengthening exercises, and 59% exercised three or more times f 20 minutes in sports that made them sweat or breathe hard. However, 11% of students engaged in no vigorous or modera activity at all during a week: 8% of boys and 13% of girls.

Tobacco Use:* Cigarette smoking starts at a young age and often becomes habitual. In the county during 2002 among all students 15 and older, 18.9% first smoked by age 11, 38.8% by age 13, and 53.6% by age 15. In a typical month, 21.0% of 7th and 8th graders and 29.0% of high school students smoked cigarettes. White youths were much more likely than African-Americans to smoke: 37.3% of White male and 37.8% of White female 7th to 12th graders used cigarettes, as compared with 20.2% of African-American males and 10.6% of African American females. A smaller but significant group of high school students (4.8%) used smokeless tobacco monthly; it was used primarily by White males (18.6% compared with 0.9% of all other race and sex groups).

* Data is from the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking.

Disabilities: No data are collected on the true prevalence of disabilities within the county. According to national reported estimates, over 10% of children and youth have developmental disabilities at any point in time, and more than 17 are affected at some time before age 18 by deafness, blindness, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, speech defects, development delays, learning disabilities, and emotional or behavioral problems. For 2000 this suggests that at least 1,771 children ar youth under age 18 in the county are currently affected by disabilities.

Approximately 5% of children and youth nationally have serious disabilities which have lifelong implications fi work, social life and community living. Typically among children and youth, there are 1 - 2% who are mentally retarded, - 3% with serious emotional disturbances, over 1% with orthopedic or multiple disabilities, including cerebral palsy an many hereditary conditions, and under 1% with visual or hearing impairments.

Other chronic health problems also affect the lives of many children. Over 3% of children have one or more these limitations. Such serious chronic conditions affect 1 - 2% who have respiratory problems (asthma and chron bronchitis), 0.5 - 1.0% with neurological problems (epilepsy and seizures), and less than 1% with circulatory problen (congenital heart defects and acquired diseases).

Other disabilities are identified primarily in school performance. These would include 1,017 students in grades 12 with learning disabilities and 250 students in grades 1-12 with speech/language deficits.

Disabilities are caused by genetics, disease, poor prenatal conditions, injuries, and environmental factors. For example, lead exposure, primarily from paint dust, was detected in over 1% of all children screened, including 20 in Darlington County.

Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: While over 20% of 9-17 year olds meet diagnostic criteria for some form of mental disorder, the number with serious emotional disturbance and impaired functioning in family, school, or community activities is: 9-13% for substantial functional impairment and 5-9% for extreme functional impairment. The rates among poor children are at the higher end of these ranges. Based on a federal formula for estimating prevalence, in the county there are 12% or 1,067 seriously emotionally disturbed 9-17 year olds with substantial functional impairment and 8% or 711 with extreme functional impairment during the course of a year. Conduct disorders, attention deficit, depression, and anxiety disorders are the most prevalent, each affecting 3% or more of school-aged children. These disorders may occur simultaneously in a child. The prevalence rates are highest among males, adolescents, and disadvantaged persons in communities under stress and lacking social cohesion; depression, however, is more prevalent among females. On the YRBS, 20% of boys and 33% of girls in high school reported that during the past year they felt so sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that they stopped doing some usual activities. Another indicator of emotional problems is the 8% of high school students in South Carolina who reported that they had "attempted suicide" in the past year: 5% of boys and 10% of girls. Suicide attempts resulted in 4% of high school students reporting that they required treatment by a doctor or nurse for injury, poisoning, or overdose.

Inadequate Healthcare: No county level data is routinely collected regarding the number of children and youth with inadequate healthcare. According to estimates for 2000-02 by the Bureau of the Census through the annual Current Population Survey, the statewide average rate of uninsured children and youth under age 18 in families with incomes under 200% of poverty in South Carolina was 16.6%, and 9.9% above 200% of poverty. If these rates are applied to the county, there are 1,540 children in the county below 200% of poverty with no health insurance, and 838 children above 200% of poverty with no health insurance, for a total of 2,378 uninsured children in Darlington County. The number lacking basic accessible primary care is at least double the number lacking insurance. Those lacking primary care are often dependent on health services at school. The ratio of students to nurses recommended nationally is 750:1. In the county, this would suggest the need for 15 nurses, compared with 11 currently working in the schools.

Medicaid: For several years, the State of South Carolina has emphasized enrolling eligible children into Medicaid. In late 1997, South Carolina implemented its version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, Partners for Healthy Children (PHC), and aggressively pursued outreach enrollment for PHC and Medicaid. As a result, enrollment of children ages 0 through 18 in Darlington County has increased by 78.8% from June 1997 to June 2001; thus Medicaid and PHC were serving 55.6% of all children in that age range. The total Medicaid expenditures in South Carolina for services provided to children ages 0 through 18 for state fiscal year 2002 were $991 million, at an average statewide expenditure of $2,343 per child enrolled, approximate Medicaid expenditure for children in the county would be $23.1 million.

In June 2001, the total number of Darlington County children, birth through 18, enrolled in Medicaid was 9,843. The total can be broken down into the following age and race groupings:

	White	African American	Hispanic	Other	Total
Children under 1	233	418	3	6	660
Children 1 - 5	825	1,962	14	94	2,895
Children 6 - 14	1,284	3,257	10	183	4,734
Children 15 - 18	461	1,065	4	24	1,554
Total	2,803	6,702	31	307	9,843

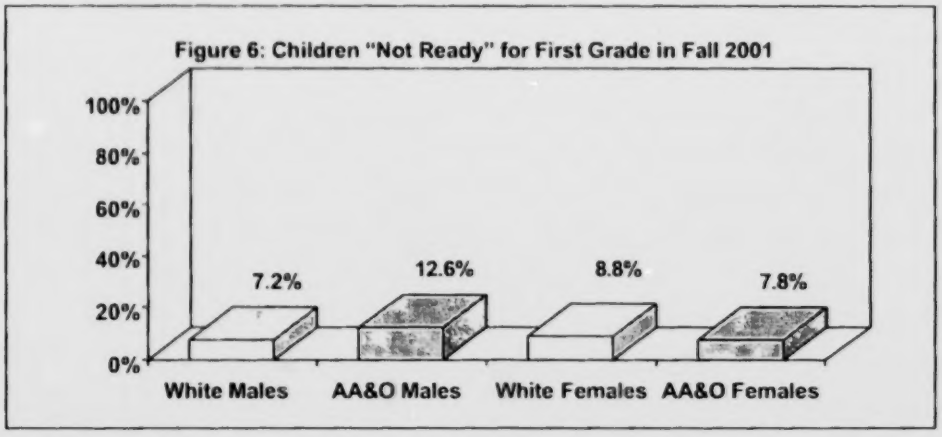
Ambulatory Care: When children lack adequate primary care, whether through lack of insurance, through limite access, or through failing to utilize available care, preventable and treatable conditions become serious and requi hospitalization. A useful indicator of inadequate primary care is the percentage of all hospitalizations that could typicall have been avoided through ambulatory care, especially for pneumonia, asthma, diarrhea and vomiting, dehydration, a severe ear, nose, and throat infections. The share of hospitalizations for these types of conditions could normally be ke below 20%; for children in the county under the age of 18 during 2001, the share was 37.3% for Whites and 44.4% f African-Americans and Others.

READINESS AND EARLY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Too many children reach school without the readiness skills needed for success in learning, such as language, soci skills, visual and auditory discrimination, memory recall, and knowledge of colors, letters, numbers, names of objects, et Likewise, some schools are not ready to respond appropriately to the varying developmental levels of children in the ea grades. As a result, too many students do not experience the success needed to create the motivation and engagement th sustain learning.

1st Grade "Readiness" on 2001-02 Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB):

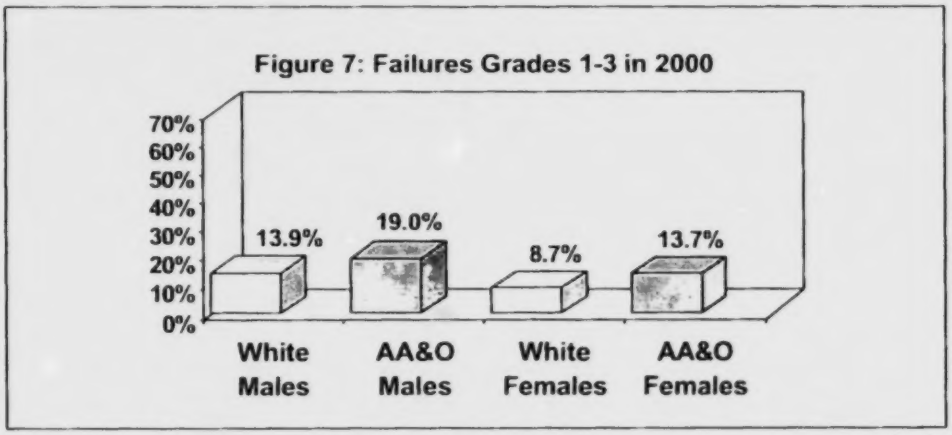
81 children not ready 9.4% children not ready



1st Grade Failures in 2002:

70 children failing 7.7% children failing

Failures Grades 1-3 in 2002 (approximate cumulative percentage of grades one, two and three):	
114 children failing	12.4% children failing



Over-age for Grade 3 in 2001	
145 children over-age	17.1% children over-age

Special Education: Large numbers of children are placed in special education classes. In elementary school, 272 six and seven year olds and 315 eight and nine year-olds were enrolled in special education classes during 2001-02, approximately 15.8% and 16.6% of their age groups respectively: 17.0% of White 8 – 9 year olds were in special education and 16.4% of African American and Others.

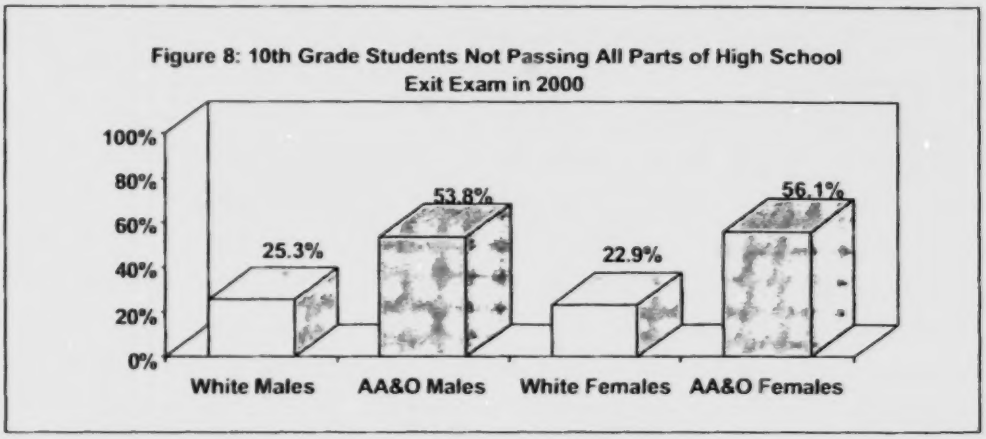
Readiness Summary: A serious problem exists in terms of student readiness and school success in the early grades. With 9.4% assessed not ready for the 1st grade, 17.1% over age in grade 3, and 16.6% of eight and nine year-olds placed in special education, unacceptably large numbers of students still begin school without good prospects of success in future school achievement and graduation; however, great improvement has occurred since the mid 1990s.

SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

By the end of elementary school, significant numbers of students perform below minimum standards. The following standardized test measures, comparing student performance to state minimum standards, should be used in combination with routine classroom assessments more reflective of real-world performance skills.

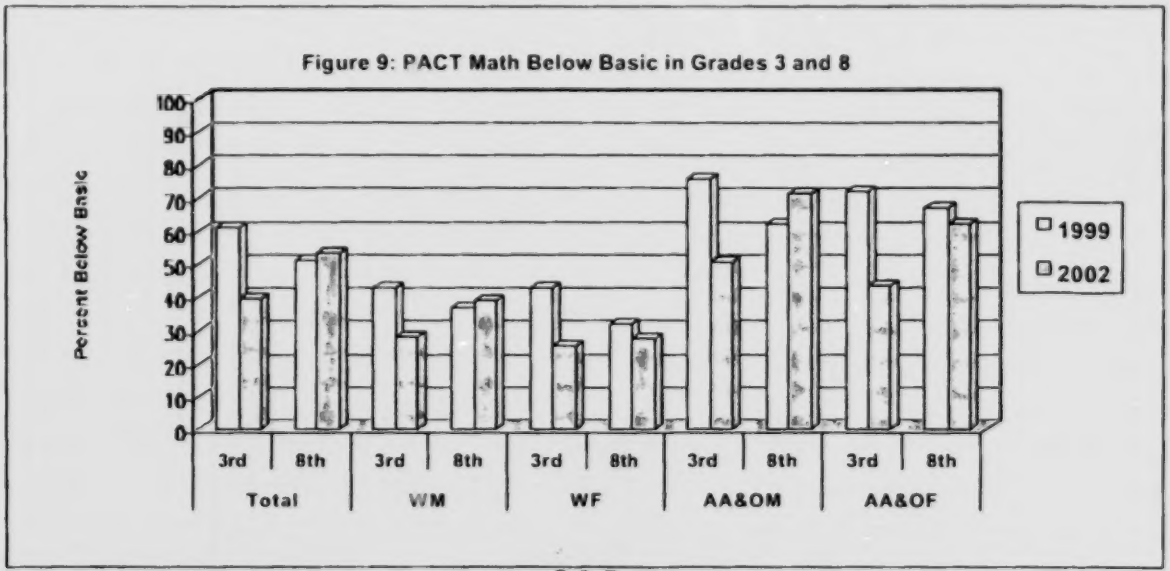
Special Education: Special education placements reflect both the significant number of children with serious handicapping conditions and a large number of students with mild learning and behavioral problems that have not been accommodated successfully by the regular educational program. The result is a large system of self-contained, resource, and itinerant services to meet the needs of 250 speech and language impaired, 1,017 learning disabled, 26 emotionally disabled, 505 mentally impaired, and 202 physically handicapped, deaf, blind, and other handicapped students. Special education classes served approximately 17.5% of all students in grades 1 - 12 during 2001-2002.

Exit Exam - not passing all parts of Exit Exam on first attempt in the 10th grade in 2002	
294 students did not pass all parts	40.8% of students did not pass all parts



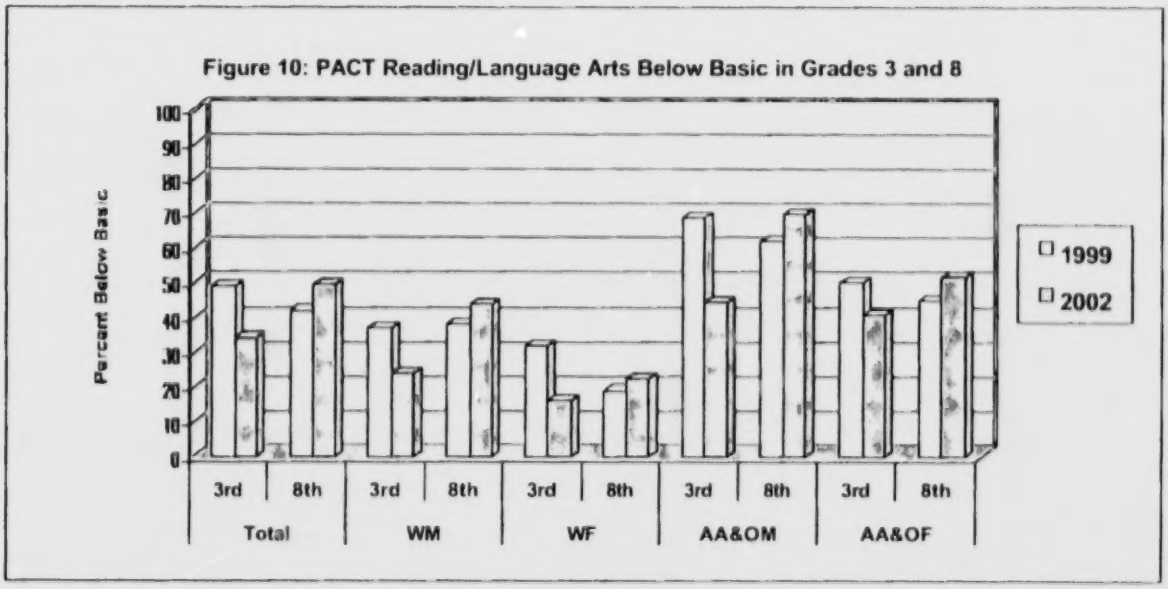
Achievement Trends: How has performance on standardized achievement tests changed over the past 20 years? During the 1980s, student performance on the BSAP tests improved dramatically. Between 1981 and 1990, the percentage of 8th grade students in Darlington County who did not meet standards declined from 64.7% to 33.8% in math and from 55.2% to 33.1% in reading. During the 1990's the BSAP trend changed, with 30.8% not meeting 8th grade math standards in 1998 and 35.9% in reading. On standardized tests, the first year when South Carolina students take the exam is comparable to the challenge encountered by the national norm group which took the test only once. Looking at first year data, the percentage of 4th grade students at or below the 25th percentile of national norms was 33.3% in 1983 on the CTBS, 38.7% in 1990 on the Stanford, and 31.7% in 1995 on the Metropolitan; for 9th graders, the percentage in the bottom quarter was 36.3% in 1990 and 35.9% in 1995. Although not comparable, the percent below basic on the 4th grade PACT in 1999, the first year of administration, was 56.8%, but in 2002 37.2% of 4th graders were below basic in reading and math; the percentage of 8th graders below basic in reading and math averaged 46.3% in 1999 and 51.4% in 2002.

PACT: The Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) was first administered in 1999 for grades 3 - 8 in math and reading/language arts. Math assesses skills in numbers, numerical and algebraic concepts, patterns and functions, geometry, measurement, probability and statistics. The percentage of students scoring below basic in math has decreased by 18.6% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 1,717 students below basic in grades 3-8 but there would have been an additional 393 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
		Math (%)				
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	39.5	27.9	25.2	50.3	43.5
	4	39.2	21.4	20.1	58.1	46.8
	5	48.9	32.0	27.4	64.5	63.4
	6	40.2	23.4	25.0	56.7	47.7
	7	59.1	50.7	41.1	75.3	62.2
	8	53.1	39.0	27.3	71.5	62.2
Basic	3	36.4	33.1	36.8	36.6	37.9
	4	35.1	38.0	36.1	33.0	34.6
	5	36.4	45.7	44.2	30.3	29.1
	6	41.0	46.9	45.8	33.0	41.2
	7	24.6	23.9	29.7	18.3	27.7
	8	34.0	39.0	44.1	24.8	33.0
Proficient	3	13.8	19.8	17.8	9.0	13.0
	4	16.8	23.0	28.9	6.8	13.9
	5	11.5	16.2	21.8	4.4	6.7
	6	13.5	20.0	20.2	7.7	9.3
	7	10.7	15.4	18.8	5.0	7.1
	8	9.6	15.8	21.1	2.0	4.8
Advanced	3	10.3	19.2	20.2	4.1	5.6
	4	8.8	17.6	14.9	2.2	4.6
	5	3.2	6.1	6.6	0.8	0.8
	6	5.3	9.7	8.9	2.6	1.9
	7	5.6	10.0	10.4	1.4	3.0
	8	3.3	6.2	7.5	1.6	0.0

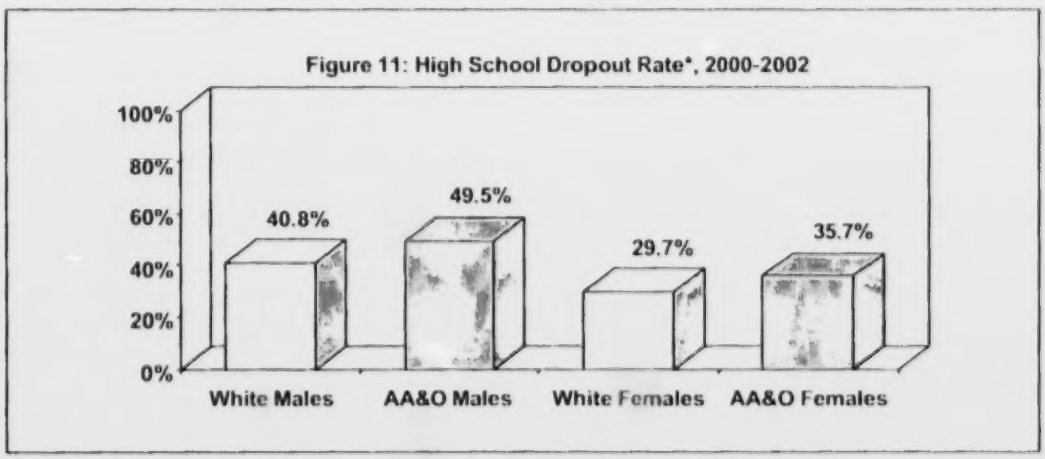
Reading/Language Arts assesses reading, listening, speaking, writing, research, and communication with technology. The first PACT assessment found a high percentage of elementary and middle grades students performing below standards and only a modest number above basic. The percentage of students scoring below basic in reading/language arts has decreased by 16.0% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 1,410 students below basic in grades 3 - 8 but there would have been an additional 269 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
	Reading/Language Arts (%)					
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	34.2	23.8	16.0	44.3	40.6
	4	35.2	24.6	13.9	59.4	32.8
	5	43.4	34.5	16.2	64.5	50.4
	6	38.7	28.4	17.3	61.4	39.4
	7	45.1	40.1	23.3	64.2	45.4
	8	49.6	43.8	22.4	69.8	51.7
Basic	3	38.4	34.3	35.8	38.7	42.0
	4	43.9	44.9	48.5	34.5	50.4
	5	43.6	53.3	53.3	31.9	40.2
	6	38.7	41.5	42.3	30.0	43.1
	7	40.2	40.1	46.0	31.5	45.0
	8	36.5	39.3	46.0	24.9	40.0
Proficient	3	25.4	37.8	45.1	16.4	15.9
	4	20.0	30.5	35.6	5.8	15.5
	5	12.8	12.2	29.4	3.6	9.4
	6	19.0	26.7	33.3	8.6	13.0
	7	13.4	18.8	26.2	4.3	9.3
	8	11.4	14.0	24.8	4.9	7.0
Advanced	3	2.0	4.1	3.1	0.7	1.4
	4	0.9	0.0	2.1	0.4	1.3
	5	0.2	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
	6	3.5	3.4	7.1	0.0	4.6
	7	1.3	1.0	4.5	0.0	0.4
	8	2.5	2.8	6.8	0.4	1.3

Dropout Rate - 8th grade students no longer enrolled in grade 12
(average of students for the three years ending 2000-2002)

353 students drop out annually **39.4% students drop out?**



Dropouts: Distressing numbers of students drop out and fail to graduate. An average of 27.4% of 8th graders failed to graduate** from county schools five years later during the period 1980-84, 29.0% during 1985-89, and 32.7% during 1990-94, 37.8% during 1995-97 and 42.4% during 1998-2000***.

During 2001-02, 99.0% of all who did graduate received the State High School Diploma, while the remaining 1.0% received a State Certificate for meeting the required Carnegie units but not passing the Exit Exam.

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*12th grade enrollment compared to 8th grade enrollment four years earlier

** This is calculated by using 8th grade enrollment to graduation data.

*** 2001 data will be available soon and will be posted on the website.

Fortunately, many dropouts enroll in adult education programs and either earn a high school diploma or obtain a GED. During 2001-02, 33 Adult Education high school diplomas were awarded to school completers and in 2001 138 GEDs were awarded in the county. Over time, adult education high school diplomas and GEDs increase the effective school completion rate substantially. In the 2000 Census, 19.9% of county resident 25 - 34 year-olds said they had not completed either high school or a GED.

Achievement Summary: The numbers of students testing below basic on the PACT and dropping out range from 34.2% to 59.1%. Thus, far too many students fail to acquire the knowledge, skills, learning habits, and motivation necessary to compete in the economy or contribute to society in the 21st Century.

ADOLESCENT RISK BEHAVIORS

Academic achievement is greatly influenced by the prevailing youth culture which often promotes popularity with peers and partying rather than studying and doing well in school. The prevalence of adolescent risk-taking and under-achievement is illustrated by the poor grades of substance-abusing teens.

Substance Abuser Rates at Levels of Academic Performance

	Usual School Grades in Past Year					Total
	A Range	B Range	C Range	D Range	F Range	
Smoked Cigarettes (in past 30 days)	15.1%	26.3%	34.7%	40.9%	78.7%	29.0%
Drank 5 or More Drinks on One Occasion (in past 30 days)	10.6%	17.6%	20.8%	19.7%	61.9%	18.3%
Used Any Illicit Drug (in past 30 days)	9.6%	18.3%	24.8%	31.8%	55.4%	20.5%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

As influence from parents and other adults declines during adolescence, significant numbers of students engage in violence, crime, school offenses, depressive emotions and attempted suicide:

Risk Behaviors Participated in During Past 12 Months	White Male		White Female		African American Male		African American Female		Total		Total (Grade 7-12)
	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	
Carried a handgun or knife for self-defense?	21.7%	29.4%	6.2%	7.7%	16.0%	21.7%	5.1%	8.1%	12.1%	16.2%	14.3%
Carried a handgun or knife as a weapon?	9.0%	12.4%	1.5%	2.9%	11.3%	14.2%	4.4%	6.1%	6.7%	8.8%	7.8%
Been in a fight with someone?	38.8%	32.6%	23.2%	19.9%	45.0%	31.8%	35.1%	25.2%	36.0%	27.2%	31.1%
Hit your boyfriend or girlfriend?	3.4%	2.3%	10.9%	14.9%	6.6%	5.8%	22.9%	25.0%	11.3%	12.5%	12.0%
Been hit by your boyfriend or girlfriend?	9.8%	6.5%	8.3%	10.3%	15.4%	12.4%	11.0%	11.6%	11.4%	10.4%	10.8%
Rec'd detention or in-school suspension?	37.5%	27.8%	21.3%	18.2%	38.1%	32.0%	34.9%	28.8%	33.3%	26.7%	29.6%
Been suspended from school?	12.7%	19.7%	8.9%	13.5%	30.2%	27.2%	18.5%	20.7%	18.3%	20.3%	19.4%
Stolen anything worth > $5?	11.9%	15.3%	7.9%	10.1%	14.8%	12.8%	8.6%	8.9%	10.9%	11.6%	11.3%
Had an accident while driving?	NA	15.9%	NA	13.7%	NA	10.1%	NA	4.2%	NA	11.1%	NA
Been arrested and booked?	5.8%	8.5%	1.7%	4.4%	7.4%	7.0%	1.5%	2.6%	4.2%	5.5%	4.9%
Felt hopeless for two weeks or more?	17.1%	19.1%	30.0%	33.5%	16.5%	13.5%	27.3%	30.4%	22.6%	24.4%	23.6%
Seriously considered attempting suicide?	6.3%	9.9%	13.7%	19.7%	7.3%	4.3%	8.0%	10.7%	8.7%	11.2%	10.1%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

Adolescence is often a time of taking risks and asserting independence from adults. When asked whether they would tell an adult about a problem, the following percentages of county students said they would be "not likely" or "very unlikely" to tell if they:

-heard a student threaten to harm someone: 35.7% middle school, 48.7% high school;
-saw a student with a handgun at school: 26.6% middle school, 22.6% high school;
-saw a student with a knife at school: 27.6% middle school, 30.5% high school;
-saw a student with drugs at school: 36.5% middle school, 62.3% high school;

Alcohol Use:* In the county during 2001-02, 23.5% of 7th and 8th graders and 35.9% of high schoolers said they had used alcohol in the past month. Of White males in grades 7 - 12, 38.6% had used it in the past month, compared with 23.5% of African-American males; likewise, 40.3% of White females said they had used alcohol, compared with 25.2% of African-American females. Many youth first used alcohol at an early age: 13.7% had used alcohol by age 11 or younger, 32.8% by age 13, and 61.6% by age 15.

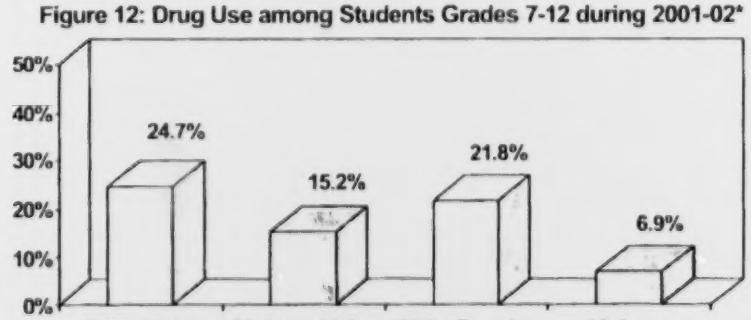
During the previous year, 23.0% of 7th and 8th graders and 34.6% of high schoolers said they had ridden with a drinking driver. Of seniors who drive, 19.6% said they had driven after drinking. Widespread use is encouraged by the ready availability and perceived low risk of alcohol use. Among students who expressed an opinion, 40.8% of eighth graders and 71.3% of seniors felt that beer was easy to get. Also, 72.8% of eighth graders and 68.9% of seniors felt there was not a great risk in drinking two drinks a day, and 45.5% of eighth graders and 51.1% of high schoolers felt there was not a great risk in drinking 5 drinks every weekend.

Heavy Drinking:* In 2001-02, 8.0% of 7th and 8th graders and 18.3% of high school students in the county repor drinking 5 or more drinks in a day during the past month. When asked how many drinks, if any, they usually consur 13.6% of all county students in grades 7 - 12 in 2001-02 responded 3 or more drinks at a time and 7.4% reported usually 5 more drinks. Among high school students, 17.7% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 9.9% 5 or mc Among seniors, 23.6% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 13.4% 5 or more; however 19.9% of seni said that they drank 5 or more drinks in a day once or more during the past month.

Drugs:* In 2001-02, 11.1% of 7th and 8th graders and 20.4% of high schoolers in the county reported using ille drugs during the previous month. Among students in grades 7 - 12, use was reported by 24.7% of White males, 21.8% Wh females, 15.2% of African-American males, and 6.9% of African-American females. Some young people initiated drug u at an early age: 5.7% had experienced their first use by age 11 or sooner; 18.2% had used a drug by age 13, and 38.0% by a 15.

In the past year, 10.9% of all high school students in the county who drive and 15.8% of seniors who drive said that they had driven after using drugs. Such use is encouraged by the ready availability of drugs: 24.1% of 8th graders who had an opinion said it is easy to get marijuana and 8.6% said it is easy to get cocaine or crack; 66.7% of seniors said it is easy to get marijuana and 36.6% said it was easy to get cocaine or crack.

Figure 12: Drug Use among Students Grades 7-12 during 2001-02*



* Data is from the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking.

Sexual Activity and Pregnancy: Many teenagers now engage in sexual activity. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) administered to a representative sample of high school students throughout South Carolina in 2001 showed that sexual activity begins at an early age: 7% of female and 21% of male students have engaged in intercourse before age 13; by age 15, 38% the females and 49% of males have engaged in sexual intercourse. Statewide, 48% of females and 50% of males in the 11th and 12th grades reported engaging in intercourse during the past three months. Furthermore, 27% of female and 33% of male 12th graders have had intercourse with four or more partners during their lifetimes.

Premature sexual activity often results in pregnancy. In the county, 77 girls between the ages of 14 and 17 became pregnant in 1999, 58 in 2000 and 70 in 2001. This represented 3.7% of all girls ages 14 – 17 in 2001; several times this percentage become pregnant at least once by age 18. The 2001 pregnancy rate for ages 14 - 17 was 3.0% for Whites and 4.5% for African-Americans and Others. Of all pregnancies of 14-17 year olds, 90.0% resulted in live births, with almost all other pregnancies ending in abortions.

Teen pregnancy rates increased substantially across the state during the 1980s; as a result, greater emphasis v devoted to preventing teen pregnancy. Since 1989, the teen pregnancy rate in Darlington County has decreased by 34.7 Overall, it has decreased by 16.7% for Whites, and decreased by 43.0% for African Americans and Others.

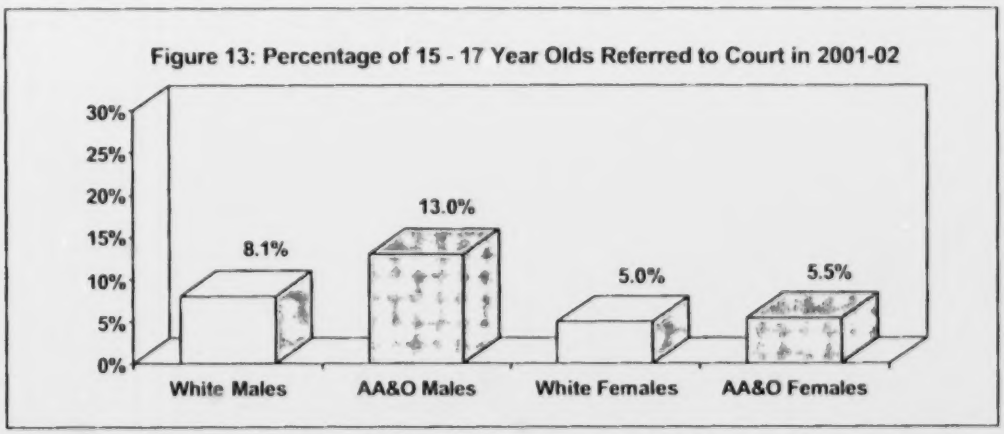
Juvenile Delinquency: In 2001-02, 416 individual juvenile offenders in the county were referred to the Solicitor for delinquency; of these, 10.1% were age 12 or younger, 36.8% were 13 or 14, and 53.1% were 15 or older.

Of the referrals to the family court, 10.4% of all referrals were for violent and serious crimes which include drug trafficking, acts against persons for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and serious property offenses for arson and burglary. Also, 153 juvenile cases constituting 22.2% of all referrals were for status offenses. Status offenses include truancy, running away, incorrigibility, and other offenses that would not be crimes for adults.

Delinquents are likely to live in families with low income: 54.3% lived in families with income under $10,000, 19.7% with $10,000-$19,999 and 26.0% with $20,000 or more. Furthermore, only 16.6% of delinquents lived with both natural parents, while 59.6% lived in a single parent household, 22.5% lived with other relatives, and 1.3% in other situations including parent plus step-parent. Delinquency or criminal activity occurs among many related family members: 41.8% had at least one family member who was delinquent or had some criminal record.

Youth referred to the family courts are likely to have been there before. In 2001-02, 55.0% had at least one prior referral and 25.7% had been referred to court 3 times or more. Many were referred at an early age. For delinquents 15 - 17 years old, 1.7% had been referred by the age of 10, 9.7% by the age of 12, and 27.5% by the age of 14.

During 2001-02, 220 youth ages 15 to 17 were referred to the family courts. In the county, 7.9% of all youth 15 to 17 were referred to court in one year and roughly double that percentage are referred at least once by age 18. Furthermore, the National Youth Survey indicates that typically across the United States the proportion of youth engaging in crime is two or three times the number ever apprehended. In 2001-02, there were 66 juveniles committed from the county to DJJ custody and placed in residential programs.



Not in School or Employed: During 2000, 391 teenagers ages 16-19 were idle, meaning they neither worked any hours nor were enrolled in school, even part-time. Idle teens comprised 11.2% of their age group: 6.3% for White and 16.2% African-American & Other teens. A much larger number, perhaps twice as many, were not engaged in either school full time or work full time. The data reflect a serious failure in both school completion and the critical transition from school to work, significantly affecting their development as future workers. For an in-depth description of the problems of young adults seeking to enter the labor force, visit our website at www.scyoungadults.org for our state and county reports on 18-29 year olds.

Deaths: During 1997-2001, 27 youth ages 15 to 19 died. Historically, automobile accidents have been the major cause, resulting in 13 deaths between 1996 and 2000; homicides killed 1 youth 15 to 19 years old during the five-year period, and 1 youth committed suicide. Alcohol use is often a significant factor in deaths among teenagers.

Summary

Facing the Scope of Problems: The data on families, economic status, health, readiness, school achievement, and adolescent risk behaviors provide a troublesome picture of the condition of children in Darlington County. The 38.2% of children in single-parent families, 27.0% in poverty, 42.4% not graduating from school, 35.9% of high school students using alcohol and 20.4% using drugs each month, and other data profiled in this report suggest that too many children are at risk of not growing up to become self-supporting adults, good family members, and responsible community citizens.

Emphasizing the Positive: South Carolina Kids Count reports have been developed to describe the problems of children in each of the counties. Fortunately, the majority of children and youth are doing well, and some very well. One simple description is the percentage of children who do not fall into the problem categories reported. For the county, 83.2% of children are born to non-teen mothers ages 20 or older, 47.4% are born to married parents, and 61.8% lived in two-parent families; 73.0% were not poor and 47.1% lived in families with incomes above twice the poverty level for a family of three, $30,040 in 2002; 87.6% of babies were born with normal birthweights; 90.6% were assessed as ready for the first grade, 46.9% scored basic or better on PACT for 8th grade math and 50.4% for 8th grade reading, 59.2% passed all parts of the Exit Exam in the 10th grade, and 57.6% graduated with their class. In a typical month, 64.1% of high school students do not drink alcohol, 79.6% do not use drugs, and 71.0% do not smoke. Unfortunately, the absence of a problem is not always an indicator of success. Some data is available for exemplary performance: for example, 27.4% of 3rd graders and 13.9% of 8th graders scored proficient or advanced on PACT in reading and 24.1% of 3rd graders and 12.9% of 8th graders in math. Unfortunately, data on success is not generally available.

Despite the limitations of success data, we must emphasize the positive in providing good support and appropriate influences for children and youth. Recent philosophy and publications such as those of the Search Institute (700 South Third Street, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN, 55415-1138, tel. 1-800-888-7828, www.search-institute.org), emphasize the critical importance of "developmental assets" to promote and support positive development. One short book from the Search Institute, (What Kids Need to Succeed, by Peter J. Benson, Judy Gailbraith, and Pamela Espeland, 1995) presents an excellent array of suggestions for promoting developmental assets through families, community, faith congregations, and schools. If each family, school, religious congregation and community organization assertively worked to build such assets, the problems described in this report would be reduced dramatically. Such positive family-school-community efforts could improve South Carolina's national Kids Count ranking from the bottom 10 to the average or even into the top 10 by prevention of unnecessary problems affecting children and youth, as shown on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

All data presented in this report is the most recent available at the date it goes to the printer. This version of the Kids Count report will be revised as more recent and additional data become available. Please send us your corrections and suggestions for improvement. We welcome your ideas for ways to make the state and county reports more useful and accurate. Please utilize local data sources whenever possible to supplement the profile provided through our report.

Data related inquiries should be directed to:

Anne Wilson, Data Manager (awilson@drss.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-4810

Calls for **copies of reports** for other counties and inquiries regarding more recent reports should be made to:

Kim Hazel-Lohr, Project Manager (khazel@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-1295

For **policy questions and general comments**, please contact:

Dr. A. Baron Holmes, Project Director (bholmes@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-2291

Comparable reports for all 46 counties and for the state can also be found on the World Wide Web at

www.sckidscount.org

Our website also provides: links to other websites for indicators in our report; high to low rankings for individual indicators; information on how to improve SC's national rank; and a glossary of definitions.

The national Kids Count Report can be found on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website at www.aecf.org

Darlington County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Indicators		Number					Percent					R	
	Most Recent Year	1980*	1990*	Most Recent Data	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980 Rank	199
Health													
Low Birth Weight	2001	87	114	117	+34.5%	+2.6%	9.3	11.6	12.4	33.4%	6.7%	31	
White babies	*2001*	*26*	*54*	*33*	*+26.9%*	*-38.9%*	*5.6*	*10.5*	*7.3*	*30.4%*	*-30.7%*	*21*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*61*	*60*	*84*	*+37.7%*	*+40.0%*	*12.8*	*12.8*	*17.0*	*32.7%*	*32.9%*	*28*	
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	2001	386	317	351	+9.1%	+10.7%	41.2	32.3	37.2	-9.7%	15.1%	24	
White babies	*2001*	*124*	*89*	*120*	*-3.2%*	*+34.8%*	*26.9*	*17.3*	*26.7*	*-0.7%*	*53.9%*	*24*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*262*	*228*	*231*	*-11.8%*	*+1.3%*	*55.2*	*48.7*	*46.9*	*-15.1%*	*-3.8%*	*25*	
Infant Mortality	2001	58	58	40	-31.0%	-31.0%	2.0	1.9	1.4	-29.9%	-26.7%	33	
White babies	*2001*	*19*	*21*	*14*	*-26.3%*	*-33.3%*	*1.4*	*1.4*	*1.0*	*-25.4%*	*-26.0%*	*33*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*39*	*37*	*26*	*-33.3%*	*-29.7%*	*2.5*	*2.4*	*1.7*	*-31.9%*	*-28.3%*	*33*	
Family													
Births to mothers under 18	2001	97	78	63	-35.1%	-19.2%	10.4	8.0	6.7	-35.3%	-15.7%	38	
White babies	*2001*	*29*	*19*	*23*	*-20.7%*	*+21.1%*	*6.3*	*3.7*	*5.1*	*-18.9%*	*37.7%*	*29*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*68*	*59*	*40*	*-41.2%*	*-32.2%*	*14.3*	*12.6*	*8.1*	*-43.3%*	*-35.6%*	*35*	
Births to mothers under 20	2001	210	201	158	-24.8%	-21.4%	22.4	20.5	16.8	-25.1%	-18.0%	31	
White babies	*2001*	*75*	*67*	*59*	*-21.3%*	*+11.9%*	*16.3*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*-19.5%*	*0.3%*	*22*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*135*	*134*	*99*	*-26.7%*	*+26.1%*	*28.4*	*28.6*	*20.1*	*-29.3%*	*-29.9%*	*29*	
Births to mothers with less than a high school education	2001	307	294	234	-23.8%	-20.4%	32.8	30.0	24.8	-24.4%	-17.2%	19	
White babies	*2001*	*138*	*123*	*88*	*-36.2%*	*-28.5%*	*29.9*	*24.0*	*19.6*	*-34.5%*	*-18.3%*	*27*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*169*	*171*	*146*	*-13.6%*	*-14.6%*	*35.6*	*36.5*	*29.6*	*-16.8%*	*-18.9%*	*31*	
Births to single mothers****	2001	264	380	496	+87.9%	+30.5%	28.2	38.7	52.6	86.5%	35.8%	29	
White babies	*2001*	*23*	*67*	*129*	*+460.9%*	*+92.5%*	*5.0*	*13.1*	*28.7*	*475.2%*	*119.7%*	*10*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*241*	*313*	*367*	*+52.3%*	*+17.3%*	*50.7*	*66.9*	*74.4*	*46.7%*	*11.3%*	*36*	
Children in single parent families	2000	3,845	4,507	5,571	+44.9%	+23.6%	20.8	31.1	38.2	83.5%	22.7%	32	
White	*2000*	*1,080*	*1,220*	*1,655*	*+53.2%*	*+35.7%*	*10.2*	*15.4*	*21.6*	*112.1%*	*40.5%*	*25*	
African American and Other	*2000*	*2,757*	*3,271*	*3,916*	*+42.0%*	*+19.7%*	*33.3*	*50.1*	*56.4*	*69.3%*	*12.5%*	*39*	
Education													
Not Ready for Grade 1	2001	371	273	81	-78.2%	-70.3%	34.5	28.4	9.4	-72.8%	-66.9%	15	
White males	*2001*	*66*	*59*	*15*	*-77.3%*	*-74.6%*	*25.7*	*23.7*	*7.2*	*-72.0%*	*-69.6%*	*12*	
White females	*2001*	*33*	*32*	*12*	*-63.6%*	*-62.5%*	*14.5*	*14.6*	*8.8*	*-39.3%*	*-39.7%*	*6*	
African American and Other males	*2001*	*151*	*108*	*35*	*-76.8%*	*-67.6%*	*51.0*	*42.2*	*12.6*	*-75.3%*	*-70.1%*	*14*	
African American and Other females	*2001*	*121*	*74*	*19*	*-84.3%*	*-74.3%*	*40.7*	*31.2*	*7.8*	*-80.8%*	*-75.0%*	*8*	
Repeating Grades 1-3	2000	154	115	136	-11.7%	+18.3%	14.7	12.3	14.6	-0.7%	18.7%	14	
White males	*2000*	*33*	*35*	*27*	*-18.2%*	*-22.9%*	*13.5*	*14.7*	*13.9*	*3.0%*	*-5.4%*	*10*	
White females	*2000*	*24*	*18*	*15*	*-37.5%*	*-16.7%*	*10.4*	*8.2*	*8.7*	*-16.3%*	*6.1%*	*24*	
African American and Other males	*2000*	*64*	*32*	*57*	*-10.9%*	*+78.1%*	*22.8*	*12.7*	*19.0*	*-16.7%*	*49.6%*	*18*	
African American and Other females	*2000*	*33*	*30*	*36*	*+9.1%*	*+20.0%*	*11.9*	*13.2*	*13.7*	*15.1%*	*3.8%*	*12*	
Grade 3 Math below standards****	2002	413	159	359	-13.1%	+125.8%	40.2	18.1	39.5	-1.7%	118.2%	20	
White males	*2002*	*62*	*16*	*48*	*-22.6%*	*+200.0%*	*25.0*	*8.4*	*27.9*	*11.6%*	*232.1%*	*11*	
White females	*2002*	*65*	*18*	*41*	*-36.9%*	*+127.8%*	*28.3*	*8.6*	*25.2*	*-11.0%*	*193.0%*	*25*	
African American and Other males	*2002*	*141*	*57*	*146*	*+3.5%*	*+156.1%*	*55.5*	*23.5*	*50.3*	*-9.4%*	*114.0%*	*17*	
African American and Other females	*2002*	*135*	*68*	*124*	*-8.1%*	*+82.4%*	*50.6*	*28.9*	*43.5*	*-14.0%*	*50.5%*	*22*	
Grade 3 Reading below standards****	2002	384	138	309	-19.5%	+123.9%	37.4	15.7	34.2	-8.6%	117.8%	22	
White males	*2002*	*76*	*19*	*41*	*-46.1%*	*+115.8%*	*30.7*	*10.0*	*23.8*	*-22.5%*	*138.0%*	*27*	
White females	*2002*	*57*	*11*	*26*	*-54.4%*	*+136.4%*	*24.8*	*5.3*	*16.0*	*-35.5%*	*201.9%*	*39*	
African American and Other males	*2002*	*145*	*62*	*127*	*-12.4%*	*+104.8%*	*57.1*	*25.5*	*44.3*	*-22.4%*	*73.7%*	*22*	
African American and Other females	*2002*	*104*	*45*	*115*	*+10.6%*	*+155.6%*	*39.0*	*19.2*	*40.6*	*4.1%*	*111.5%*	*18*	
Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT Grade 4	1998	331	357	233	-29.6%	-34.7%	33.3	38.7	33.6	0.9%	-13.2%	24	
White males	*1998*	*60*	*60*	*29*	*-51.7%*	*-51.7%*	*26.9*	*27.9*	*20.0*	*-25.7%*	*-28.3%*	*29*	
White females	*1998*	*40*	*42*	*25*	*-37.5%*	*-40.5%*	*16.8*	*20.7*	*17.5*	*4.2%*	*-15.5%*	*29*	
African American and Other males	*1998*	*128*	*144*	*94*	*-26.6%*	*-34.7%*	*49.2*	*53.9*	*49.0*	*-0.4%*	*-9.1%*	*16*	
African American and Other females	*1998*	*100*	*108*	*85*	*-15.0%*	*-21.3%*	*37.7*	*46.1*	*40.4*	*7.2%*	*-12.4%*	*26*	

*Year of data is approximate in many cases.
**1 is best, 46 is worst.
*** Data include paternity acknowledgements.
**** BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Darlington County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Education (continued)

Indicators		Number					Percent				
	Most Recent Year	1980*	1990*	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres
Grade 8 Math below state standards**	2002	639	314	432	-32.4%	+37.6%	64.7	33.8	53.1	-17.9%	57.1%
White males	*2002*	*130*	*45*	*69*	*-46.9%*	*+53.3%*	*48.9*	*19.5*	*39.0*	*-20.2%*	*100.0%*
White females	*2002*	*130*	*55*	*44*	*-66.2%*	*-20.0%*	*50.6*	*24.2*	*27.3*	*-46.0%*	*12.8%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*186*	*107*	*176*	*-5.4%*	*+64.5%*	*79.8*	*48.0*	*71.5*	*-10.4%*	*49.0%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*191*	*107*	*143*	*-25.1%*	*+33.6%*	*83.4*	*43.3*	*62.2*	*-25.4%*	*43.6%*
Grade 8 Reading below state standards**	2002	547	309	404	-26.1%	+30.7%	55.2	33.1	49.6	-10.1%	49.8%
White males	*2002*	*114*	*56*	*78*	*-31.6%*	*+39.3%*	*42.5*	*24.1*	*43.8*	*3.1%*	*81.7%*
White females	*2002*	*87*	*35*	*36*	*-58.6%*	*+2.9%*	*33.8*	*15.3*	*22.4*	*-33.7%*	*46.4%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*184*	*116*	*171*	*-7.1%*	*+47.4%*	*79.0*	*51.8*	*69.8*	*-11.6%*	*34.7%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*160*	*102*	*119*	*-25.6%*	*+16.7%*	*69.6*	*41.0*	*51.7*	*-25.7%*	*26.1%*
Grade 9 Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT	1998	NA	396	275	NA	-30.6%	NA	36.3	34.2	NA	-5.8%
White males	*1998*	*NA*	*67*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*24.5*	*21.8*	*NA*	*-11.0%*
White females	*1998*	*NA*	*39*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*17*	*17.5*	*NA*	*2.9%*
African American and Other males	*1998*	*NA*	*170*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*53.8*	*49.3*	*NA*	*-8.4%*
African American and Other females	*1998*	*NA*	*119*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*44.6*	*43.6*	*NA*	*-2.2%*
Exit Exam (not passing all parts on 1st attempt)	2002	438	263	294	-32.9%	+11.8%	50.9	33.8	40.8	-19.8%	20.7%
White males	*2002*	*73*	*37*	*38*	*-47.9%*	*+2.7%*	*34.9*	*20.8*	*25.3*	*-27.5%*	*21.6%*
White females	*2002*	*56*	*32*	*40*	*-28.6%*	*+25.0%*	*26.1*	*16.4*	*22.9*	*-12.3%*	*39.6%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*155*	*86*	*100*	*-35.5%*	*+16.3%*	*71.1*	*48.3*	*53.8*	*-24.3%*	*11.4%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*153*	*108*	*115*	*-24.8%*	*+6.5%*	*70.2*	*47.6*	*56.1*	*-20.1%*	*17.9%*
Dropout Rate (8th graders no longer enrolled in 12th grade 4 years later)	2000-02	314	368	353	+12.5%	-4.2%	30.7	33.4	39.4	28.5%	18.1%
White males	*2000-02*	*100*	*101*	*87*	*-12.9%*	*-13.8%*	*33.8*	*36.5*	*40.8*	*20.6%*	*11.5%*
White females	*2000-02*	*42*	*66*	*58*	*+40.6%*	*-11.6%*	*18.2*	*25.6*	*29.7*	*63.2%*	*15.9%*
African American and Other males	*2000-02*	*99*	*98*	*123*	*+25.2%*	*+26.5%*	*38.0*	*34.9*	*49.5*	*30.2%*	*41.7%*
African American and Other females	*2000-02*	*74*	*104*	*84*	*+14.0%*	*-18.9%*	*30.9*	*35.8*	*35.7*	*15.7%*	*-0.2%*
Young Adults Not Completing High School (18-24)	2000	2,257	1,881	1,717	-23.9%	-8.7%	31.2	32.1	19.9	-36.4%	-38.1%
White males	*NA*	*684*	*507*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*36.0*	*31.1*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
White females	*NA*	*583*	*348*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*27.5*	*21.3*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other males	*NA*	*493*	*551*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*34.1*	*48.1*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other females	*NA*	*497*	*475*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*28.2*	*32.7*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*

Economics

Poverty Rate	2000	6,112	4,529	4,719	-22.8%	+4.2%	29.4	26.5	27.0	-8.2%	1.9%
White children	*2000*	*1,385*	*988*	*1,026*	*-25.9%*	*+3.8%*	*13.0*	*11.5*	*12.5*	*-3.8%*	*8.7%*
African American and Other children	*2000*	*4,672*	*3,541*	*3,693*	*-21.0%*	*+4.3%*	*46.6*	*41.6*	*39.7*	*-14.9%*	*-4.6%*
Income of Families w/children (1999 $)	2000	$ 38,700	$ 41,034	$ 43,659	+12.8%	+6.4%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
White families	*2000*	*$ 45,069*	*$ 50,116*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other families	*2000*	*$ 27,867*	*$ 27,059*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*

Adolescent Risk Factors

Teenage Pregnancy (ages 14-17)	2001	104	97	70	-32.7%	-27.8%	4.4	4.6	3.7	-15.7%	-19.6%
White	*2001*	*33*	*26*	*28*	*-15.2%*	*+7.7%*	*2.7*	*2.4*	*3.0*	*11.9%*	*25.0%*
African American and Other	*2001*	*71*	*71*	*42*	*-40.8%*	*-40.8%*	*6.2*	*6.8*	*4.5*	*-27.8%*	*-33.8%*
Delinquency	2002	103	116	220	+113.6%	+89.7%	2.9	3.6	7.9	172.9%	119.8%
White males	*2002*	*37*	*44*	*56*	*+51.4%*	*+27.3%*	*3.8*	*5.0*	*8.1*	*113.6%*	*62.3%*
White females	*2002*	*12*	*15*	*34*	*+183.3%*	*+126.7%*	*1.3*	*1.8*	*5.0*	*284.6%*	*177.8%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*36*	*48*	*91*	*+152.8%*	*+89.6%*	*4.3*	*6.1*	*13.0*	*202.3%*	*113.1%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*18*	*9*	*39*	*+116.7%*	*+333.3%*	*2.2*	*1.2*	*5.5*	*149.7%*	*357.7%*

*Closest available data to this year was used in many cases.

**BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Kids Count 2003

Dillon County

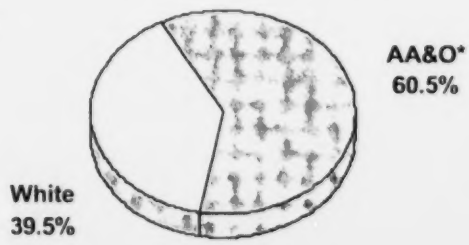
DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2000 there were an estimated 8,932 children under age 18 in the county. Of these, 3,529 were White, 4,931 were African-American, and 472 were other races. There were 9,185 children under age 18 in 1990, 11,210 in 1980, 12,454 in 1970, and 14,955 in 1960.

Children represent a shrinking portion of the county's population. Those under 18 constituted 29.1% of the population in 2000, down from 48.9% in 1960, 43.2% in 1970, and 36.1% in 1980.

In 2000 the 2,797 pre-schoolers under age 6 were 9.1% of the overall population: 6.9% of Whites and 11.0% of African Americans.

Figure 1: Population Ages 0-17 in 2000



* In all charts African-American is combined with other races, and often abbreviated as AA&O. Other races comprise 5.3% of children in the county, with American Indian and Alaska Native Alone at 2.6% and "some other race alone" at 1.3% as the largest Other groups.

FAMILY

Families have always been the most important influence in a child's life. Children depend on their families for material needs, stimulation and guidance. Family life is different in numerous ways from previous generations, and many families now face exceptional challenges.

Families with children now make up a smaller share of all households. Only 34.6% of all households in 2000, as compared with 50.0% of households in 1960, had children below the age of 18.

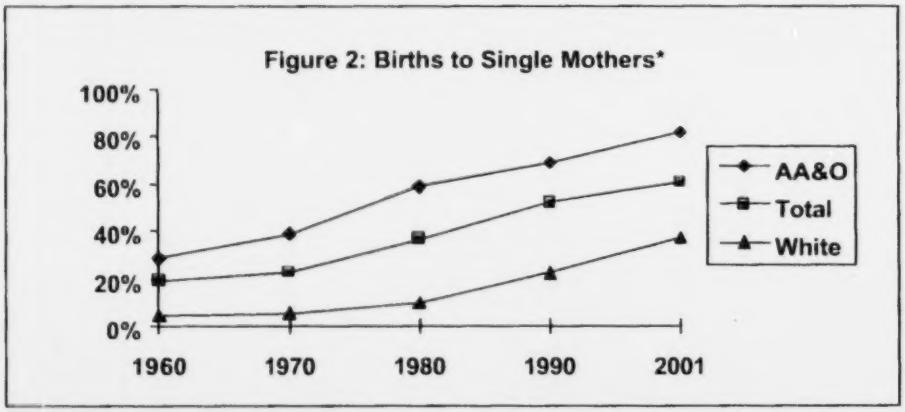
Births to Teen Mothers: In 2001, 34 babies were born to mothers younger than age 18. They were 7.1% of all babies born in the county; 3.1% of all White and 10.8% of all African-American and Other babies were born to teen mothers under the age of 18. Of the babies born to these teens in 2001, 94.1% were born to single mothers, including babies whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers.

In 2001, 104 babies were born to mothers younger than age 20. These babies were 21.8% of all born in the county; 14.6% of all White and 28.4% of all African-American and Other babies were born to mothers under the age of 20. Of the babies born to these mothers in 2001, 88.5% were born to single mothers, including paternity acknowledeged babies.

Education of Mothers Giving Birth: Children's success is strongly influenced by the education of their parents. In 2001, 152 babies, 32.4% of all babies, were born to mothers of all ages who had not completed the 12th grade. In 2001, 32.7% of White and 32.1% of African-American and Other babies were born to mothers who had completed less than the 12th grade. This is a substantial improvement from 62.1% in 1970. In addition, during 2001, 43.5% had completed 12 grades (34.5% of Whites and 51.4% of African Americans and Others) and 24.1% had more than a high school degree (32.7% of Whites and 16.5% of African American and Others).

Births to Single Mothers: Births to single mothers have increased steadily over four decades. In 2001, 211 babies, 44.3% of all babies, were recorded as born to single mothers. A decade earlier in 1990, the percentage was 47.0% and in 1960 it was 19.1%. In 2001, 23.5% of White children and 63.2% of African-American and Other children were born to single mothers. These numbers, however, do not include paternity acknowlegement births.

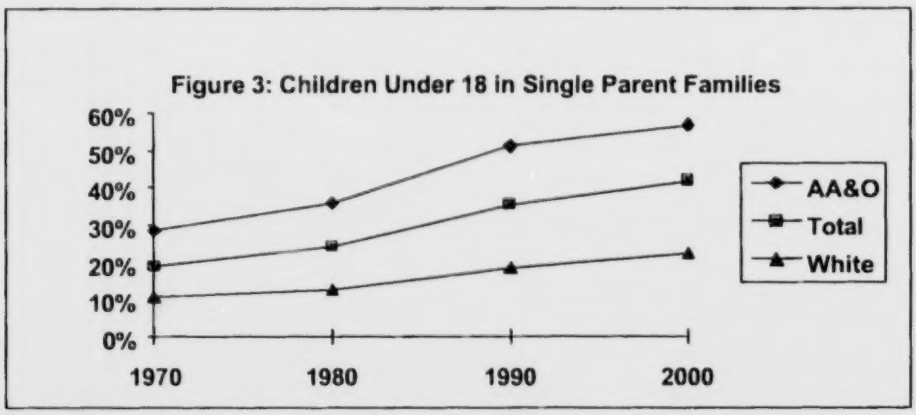
Thus, to these numbers should be added an additional group of 78 babies, 16.4% of all born in 2001, whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers. When the paternity-acknowledged babies are added, the total number born to single mothers in 2001 was 289, constituting 60.7% of all babies, 37.2% of White babies, and 82.0% of African-American and Others.



*Includes paternity acknowleged babies in 1980, 1990 and 2001. Prior to 1979, paternity acknowleged cases were not a statistical category, and thus were included in births to single mothers.

Divorce Rate: In 2001, 1,620 marriage licenses were issued, while 144 divorce decrees involving 107 children were filed. In 1970, only 35 children were in families involved in divorce.

Single-Parent Family: Increasing numbers of children live in single-parent families. In 2000, 2,994 children lived with only one parent. This was 41.7% of all children, up from 35.3% in 1990, 24.3% in 1980, and 18.9% in 1970. In 2000, 22.2% of White and 56.7% of African-American and Other children lived in single-parent families. Also in 2000, 877 or 44.8% of children under age 6 lived in single parent families: 22.5% of White and 62.3% of African American and Other pre-schoolers.



Parents Working and Child Care: Increasingly, parents must divide their time between children and employers. In order to meet family financial needs, most parents must work and thus have less time for family life. In 2000, 63.2% of mothers with children under 6 and 70.6% with children 6 - 17 were in the labor force. This has increased substantially from 1960 when 47.3% of mothers with children under 6 were in the labor force. Most fathers also work: 62.7% of children under 6 are in families where the single parent or both parents work. Caring for children is a problem for parents unable to obtain quality, affordable daycare while they are at work.

Overall, there are 1,248 spaces in state-regulated childcare facilities* in the county, 79.4% of these are in licensed programs and 20.6% are in registered programs. Of the spaces, 69.1% are in licensed childcare centers serving more than 12 children, 20.2% are in registered or licensed family childcare homes serving six or fewer children, 10.3% are in licensed group childcare homes serving 7-12 children, and 0.4% are in registered or licensed church programs.

The homes and centers are severely constrained by the limited ability of parents to pay. In the county, the average weekly charge is $ 59.97 for centers and $ 53.00 for homes. Consequently, center wages are low: 42.9% of centers with pre-school staff and 66.7% of centers with assistant pre-school staff report paying these staff under $6 per hour. Paying $6-$8 per hour are 42.9% of centers with pre-school staff and 33.3% of centers with assistants. Low wages attract workers with limited education. In 42.9% of centers, most pre-school staff and in 66.7% of centers most assistants have only a high school degree. In 85.7% of centers few to none of the pre-school staff have early childhood credentials. In childcare homes, 75% of lead providers have no more education than a high school degree or GED; 21.4% have less than a high school degree.

Family Violence: In 2000, 303 domestic assaults were recorded by law enforcement officials. These domestic assaults comprised 22.0% of all assaults, which include aggravated assaults, simple assaults, and intimidation. Overall, 44.6% of all domestic assaults involve spouse abuse which constitutes 9.8% of all assaults. Since most family violence is not reported, the true incidence of family disruption is much more widespread than even the large number of reported cases would indicate.

Separation from Parents: Some children do not live with their natural parents. In 2000, 9.2% of all children did not live with their natural parents. Approximately 690 or 7.7% of all children lived with relatives, 122 or 1.4% lived with non-relatives, 5 or 0.1% were householders or spouses, and 1 or 0.0% were in institutional facilities.

Abuse and Neglect: In 2000-01, there were 271 investigations into reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children. Through its investigations, the Department of Social Services (DSS) determined that 67 of the investigations were indicated for abuse or neglect: 15.1% for physical abuse, 7.5% for sexual abuse, 0.0% for mental injury, 32.1% for physical neglect, 1.9% for educational neglect, 1.9% for medical neglect, 39.6% for threat of harm for physical/sexual abuse, and 1.9% for other types of abuse.

In the indicated cases of abuse and neglect, DSS determined there were 127 children who were victims of abuse or neglect. Of these, 59.8% were male, 40.2% were female; 36.2% were White, 63.8% were African-American and Other. By age, 43.3% were ages 0 - 5, 40.9% were ages 6 - 12, and 15.7% were ages 13 - 17. In the indicated cases, 18.9% of the children lived in two-parent families, 74.0% in single parent families, 6.3% with unmarried couples, and 0.8% in other circumstances.

Out of Home Placements: As of June 2001, 54 children lived in foster care. The median age at first placement in the county is 7.8 years. The ages of children in foster care were 9.3% 0-2, 14.8% 3-5, 25.9% 6-10, 13.0% 11-13, and 37.0% 14 and above. The foster care population is 44.4% males and 55.6% females. Regarding their future, 48.2% were under a plan for placement in adoptive homes, 16.7% for return to a parent or guardian, 5.6% for placement with a relative, 14.8% for independent living, 14.8% for permanent foster care, and 0.0% for other circumstances.

Adult/Child Ratio: A measure of potential adult attention for children from family and community is the ratio of adults to children and youth. In 2000 there were 2.44 adults for every person below age 18. This was up substantially from 1960, when there were only 1.05 adults for every person under the age 18. This indicates that today there are more adults potentially available to provide attention and care for each child than in the past.

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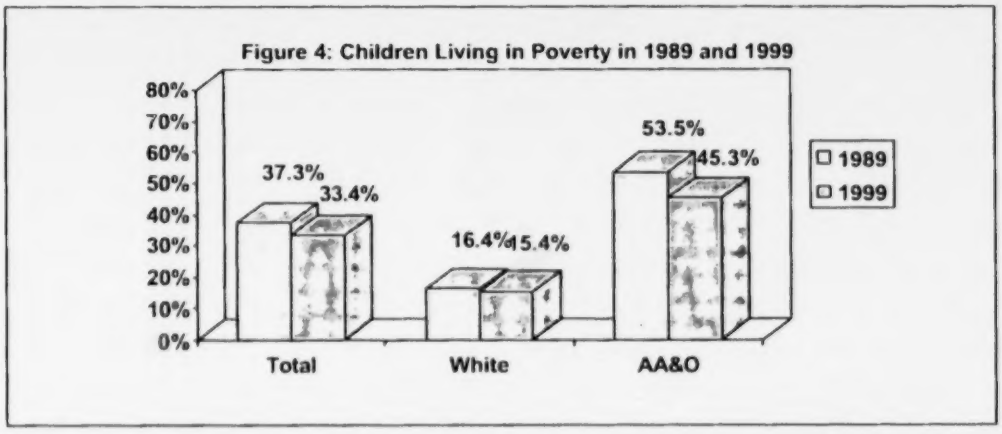
* This data is the best currently available; however, an effort is being made to check the coverage and improve the accuracy. As soon as more recent and complete data becomes available, it will be posted on the website.

ECONOMIC STATUS

Low income makes it difficult for many families to provide the material and environmental enrichment necessary for healthy child development.

Poverty: In 1999, 2,950 children and youth under the age of 18 lved in 1,237 families with incomes below poverty, comprising 33.4% of all children and youth: 15.4% of Whites and 45.3% of Africa n-Americans and Others. A rough estimate of child poverty in 2001 calculated by the Census Bureau was 23.0%.



Poverty has always been a serious problem. While the rate among children under age 18 in 1989 was 37.3%, it was 37.6% in 1979 and 48.4% in 1969.

Children and the elderly are the age groups most seriously affected by poverty. In 1999, 40.6% of children 0 - 5 (21.8% White, 52.0% African-American and Other), and 30.1% of children 6 - 17 (12.9% White, 41.8% African-American and Other), lived in poverty; 26.6% of persons 65 years and older lived in poverty. Historically, the poverty rate among the elderly was much higher. During the last three decades, federal policy actions have substantia lly improved the economic status of older persons but have not done so for children.

Single-parent families are most likely to be poor. In 1999, 55.2% of children in single-parent families lived in poverty, but only 14.5% of children in married-couple families were poor. Children in single-parent families made up 64.8% of all the county's children living in poverty.

In 2002, the poverty level was $15,020 for a family of three and $18,100 for a family of four. The poverty threshold is often criticized as an arbitrary number. People can still be poor but may be just above the poverty level. Federal programs utilize varying thresholds. For example, in 1999 there were 5,572 children ages 0-17 who were less than 200 percent of poverty; thus an additional 2,622 children were above the poverty level but could still be considered poor or near-poor with incomes below $30,040 and $36,200 respectively for 3 and 4 person families.

Children Under 18 in Poverty in 1999

Percent of Poverty	Total		White		African American & Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 50%	1,662	18.8%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 100%	2,950	33.4%	539	15.4%	2,411	45.3%
Under 125%	3,555	40.3%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 150%	4,224	47.9%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 175%	4,975	56.4%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 185%	5,180	58.7%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 200%	5,572	63.1%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total Children	8,932		3,529		5,403	

Note: Missing data will be released by the Census Bureau later in 2003, and will be posted on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

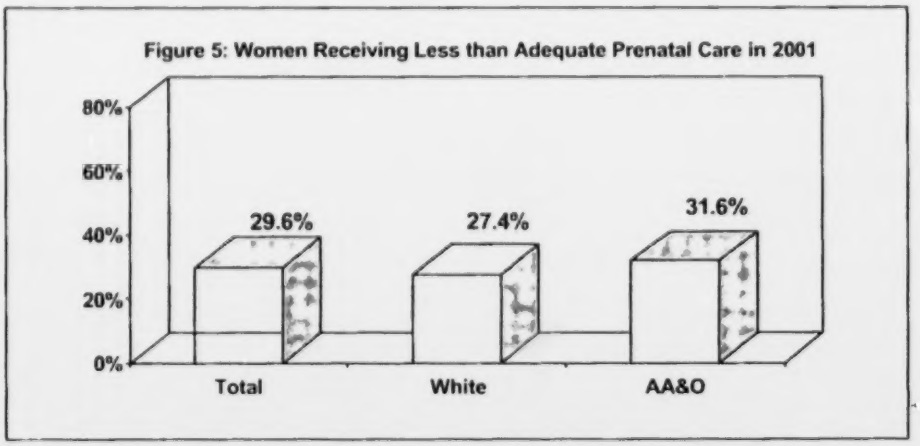
Income: The mean income of families with children in 1999 was $37,943. In 1989 it was $35,114, and 1979, it was $31,932, adjusted for inflation (i.e., in 1999 dollars). The mean income of single-parent families with children was $20,226 for single parents in 1999, as compared with $49,464 in married-couple families with children. From 1999 to 2000, Dillon County real dollar per capita income (eliminating inflation) increased by 0.9%.

Child Support Payments: There were 567[7] families receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families in fiscal year 2002, but only 31.6 % had child support court orders. Their average monthly payment of child support was $ 222, including child support receipts and tax refund intercepts. In addition, during fiscal year 2002, an estimated 898 parents in non-TANF families were obligated to pay a monthly average of $ 202. Information is not available regarding the amount actually paid.

HEALTH

Good health during a child's formative years helps children to reach their maximum potential. Good health requires healthy lifestyles and effective primary care, starting during the prenatal period and continuing through adolescence into adulthood. Children's health reflects the well-being of the community, as well as how adequately they are protected.

Prenatal Care: Early and continuous prenatal care can make a significant difference in assuring births of healthy babies. Delayed or insufficient prenatal care is associated with low birthweight and other health risks for infants. In 2001, 127, or 26.7% of pregnant women received no prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy. In 2001, 141, or 29.6% of pregnant women received less than adequate prenatal care: 62 or 27.4% of Whites and 79 or 31.6% of African-Americans and Others. In that same year, 3 women received no prenatal care at all.



Low Birthweight: Low birthweight of less than 5.5 pounds and very low birthweight of less than 3.3 pounds are associated with health risks and growth and development problems. In 2001, 46 or 9.7% of all babies in the county were born with low birthweight: 12.4% of African-American and Other babies and 6.6% of White babies. During 1999-2001, approximately 41 or 2.8% of all babies were born with very low birthweight and had the most serious complications: 0.6% of White babies and 4.7% of African-American and Other babies. The cost of hospitalization for each newborn low birthweight baby in the county in 1999 - 2001 was $7,840 and $75,207 for each very low birthweight baby, compared with $2,116 for a baby of normal birthweight. The result was excess cost in the county of $1,027,824 for all low birthweight babies, of which $877,098 was for very low birthweight babies.

Infant Mortality: During the decade since 1989-91, the overall infant mortality rate decreased by 40.4% from 16.2 to 9.6 per 1000 live births. For Whites, the rate decreased 87.9% from 12.6 to 1.5 per 1000 live births, while for African-Americans and Others the rate decreased 11.8% from 18.5 to 16.4 per 1000 live births. Over the three-year period 1999-2001, 1 White and 13 African-American and Other infants died before age one. By comparison, 8 White and 18 African-American and Other infants died during 1989-91.

[7] Number is an unduplicated count for the entire fiscal year.

Child Injuries and Deaths: Childhood deaths and injuries reflect whether communities are safe for children. In 2001, children in the Dillon County went to the emergency room 1,251 times because of injuries. Boys are injured more often than girls. Children visit the emergency room at comparable rates for each age from 0 to 17.

In South Carolina, the major causes of death among young children are unintentional injuries, cancer, homicide, and congenital anomalies. Over the three year period 1999-2001, 2 White and 4 African-American and Other children ages 1-14 died in the county. During 1989-91, 4 White and 4 African-American and Other children died.

Immunization: Immunization rates are an important indication of whether young children are receiving adequate preventive health care. During FY 1989-90, 62.2% of children less than two years old seen in public health clinics were not fully immunized against such preventable diseases as Polio, Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Haemophilus Influenza B and Whooping Cough. After a concerted statewide campaign to increase immunizations, the percentage of children seen in public health clinics who were not fully immunized in January 2001 had declined in the county to 13.8%. The DHEC statewide birth registry survey of all two year old children found that 88.1% were fully immunized in 2001. This success demonstrates the potential to improve the status of children when the leadership of the state and its communities act decisively together.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Children and youth are infected with sexually transmitted diseases through sexual abuse or irresponsible sexual activity. National prevalence rates indicate: a 1 in 8 chance that sexually active 15 year-old girls will develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), the most rapidly increasing cause of infertility; 10% of sexually active adolescent girls and boys are infected with chlamydia, the most common cause of PID; and as many as 15% of teen girls are infected with human papilloma virus, often with strains linked to cervical cancer. Furthermore, research evidence indicates that susceptibility to HIV/AIDS increases by 3 to 8 times through prior infection with various STDs.

According to national studies, approximately 1 in 4 sexually experienced youth aged 13-19 acquires a STD ever year; since two-thirds of all high school students have had sexual intercourse and half engage in intercourse over a three month period, this would suggest that 10-15% of teens are infected with STDs annually. For 2000, this would indicate that an estimated 343 to 515 youth ages 13-19 in the county were infected with a STD. Many infections are either not identified for treatment or not reported. In the county, there were 10 reported cases of children under age 15 and 40 youth ages 15 - 19 infected with gonorrhea; 8 youth under 15 and 65 ages 15 - 19 were reported infected with chlamydia. Youth with undiagnosed and untreated STDs often spread their infections.

Healthy Lifestyles: Although no county data is available, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2001 found that many high school students are not following good health habits. The YRBS revealed that 26% felt that they were overweight; 42% were trying to lose weight: 27% of boys and 57% of girls. Although during a week 79% of high school students ate fruit, 59% ate salad, and over 83% ate vegetables, only 17% ate the recommended five or more servings of fruit and vegetables per day. During a week, 49% did stretching or muscle strengthening exercises, and 59% exercised three or more times for 20 minutes in sports that made them sweat or breathe hard. However, 11% of students engaged in no vigorous or moderate activity at all during a week: 8% of boys and 13% of girls.

Tobacco Use:* Cigarette smoking starts at a young age and often becomes habitual. In the county during 2002 among all students 15 and older, 14.6% first smoked by age 11, 31.9% by age 13, and 46.7% by age 15. In a typical month, NA% of 7th and 8th graders and 23.4% of high school students smoked cigarettes. White youths were much more likely than African-Americans to smoke: 30.1% of White male and 36.7% of White female 7th to 12th graders used cigarettes, as compared with 23.6% of African-American males and 13.2% of African American females. A smaller but significant group of high school students (2.5%) used smokeless tobacco monthly; it was used primarily by White males (8.8% compared with 1.3% of all other race and sex groups).

* County participation in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking was not complete but county data is presented to provide the best available picture of teen risk-taking attitudes and behavior in Dillon County. One of 3 districts participated (District 2), and only for grades 9 - 12.

Disabilities: No data are collected on the true prevalence of disabilities within the county. According to national reported estimates, over 10% of children and youth have developmental disabilities at any point in time, and more than 17 are affected at some time before age 18 by deafness, blindness, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, speech defects, development delays, learning disabilities, and emotional or behavioral problems. For 2000 this suggests that at least 893 children a youth under age 18 in the county are currently affected by disabilities.

Approximately 5% of children and youth nationally have serious disabilities which have lifelong implications f work, social life and community living. Typically among children and youth, there are 1 - 2% who are mentally retarded, - 3% with serious emotional disturbances, over 1% with orthopedic or multiple disabilities, including cerebral palsy an many hereditary conditions, and under 1% with visual or hearing impairments.

Other chronic health problems also affect the lives of many children. Over 3% of children have one or more these limitations. Such serious chronic conditions affect 1 - 2% who have respiratory problems (asthma and chron bronchitis), 0.5 - 1.0% with neurological problems (epilepsy and seizures), and less than 1% with circulatory proble (congenital heart defects and acquired diseases).

Other disabilities are identified primarily in school performance. These would include 157 students in grades 1- with learning disabilities and 211 students in grades 1-12 with speech/language deficits.

Disabilities are caused by genetics, disease, poor prenatal conditions, injuries, and environmental factors. For example, lead exposure, primarily from paint dust, was detected in over 1% of all children screened, including 13 in Dillon County.

Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: While over 20% of 9-17 year olds meet diagnostic criteria for some form of mental disorder, the number with serious emotional disturbance and impaired functioning in family, school, or community activities is: 9-13% for substantial functional impairment and 5-9% for extreme functional impairment. The rates among poor children are at the higher end of these ranges. Based on a federal formula for estimating prevalence, in the county there are 12% or 561 seriously emotionally disturbed 9-17 year olds with substantial functional impairment and 8% or 374 with extreme functional impairment during the course of a year. Conduct disorders, attention deficit, depression, and anxiety disorders are the most prevalent, each affecting 3% or more of school-aged children. These disorders may occur simultaneously in a child. The prevalence rates are highest among males, adolescents, and disadvantaged persons in communities under stress and lacking social cohesion; depression, however, is more prevalent among females. On the YRBS, 20% of boys and 33% of girls in high school reported that during the past year they felt so sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that they stopped doing some usual activities. Another indicator of emotional problems is the 8% of high school students in South Carolina who reported that they had "attempted suicide" in the past year: 5% of boys and 10% of girls. Suicide attempts resulted in 4% of high school students reporting that they required treatment by a doctor or nurse for injury, poisoning, or overdose.

Inadequate Healthcare: No county level data is routinely collected regarding the number of children and youth with inadequate healthcare. According to estimates for 2000-02 by the Bureau of the Census through the annual Current Population Survey, the statewide average rate of uninsured children and youth under age 18 in families with incomes under 200% of poverty in South Carolina was 16.6%, and 9.9% above 200% of poverty. If these rates are applied to the county, there are 926 children in the county below 200% of poverty with no health insurance, and 333 children above 200% of poverty with no health insurance, for a total of 1,260 uninsured children in Dillon County. The number lacking basic accessible primary care is at least double the number lacking insurance. Those lacking primary care are often dependent on health services at school. The ratio of students to nurses recommended nationally is 750:1. In the county, this would suggest the need for 8 nurses, compared with 6 currently working in the schools.

Medicaid: For several years, the State of South Carolina has emphasized enrolling eligible children into Medicaid. In late 1997, South Carolina implemented its version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, Partners for Healthy Children (PHC), and aggressively pursued outreach enrollment for PHC and Medicaid. As a result, enrollment of children ages 0 through 18 in Dillon County has increased by 46.8% from June 1997 to June 2001; thus Medicaid and PHC were serving 67.3% of all children in that age range. The total Medicaid expenditures in South Carolina for services provided to children ages 0 through 18 for state fiscal year 2002 were $991 million, at an average statewide expenditure of $2,343 per child enrolled, approximate Medicaid expenditure for children in the county would be $14.1 million.

In June 2001, the total number of Dillon County children, birth through 18, enrolled in Medicaid was 6,007. The total can be broken down into the following age and race groupings:

	White	African American	Hispanic	Other	Total
Children under 1	150	245	5	25	425
Children 1 - 5	457	1,107	21	114	1,699
Children 6 - 14	747	1,896	19	160	2,822
Children 15 - 18	260	754	5	42	1,061
Total	1,614	4,002	50	341	6,007

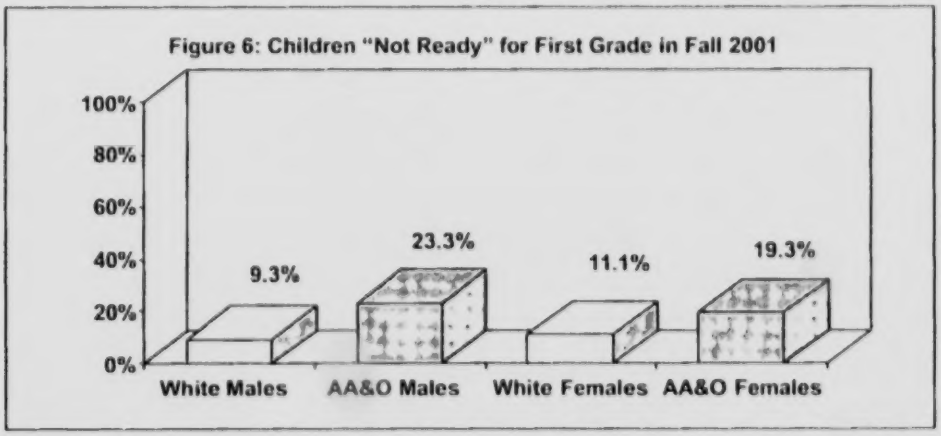
Ambulatory Care: When children lack adequate primary care, whether through lack of insurance, through limite access, or through failing to utilize available care, preventable and treatable conditions become serious and requi hospitalization. A useful indicator of inadequate primary care is the percentage of all hospitalizations that could typicall have been avoided through ambulatory care, especially for pneumonia, asthma, diarrhea and vomiting, dehydration, a severe ear, nose, and throat infections. The share of hospitalizations for these types of conditions could normally be ke below 20%; for children in the county under the age of 18 during 2001, the share was 41.7% for Whites and 46.3% f African-Americans and Others.

READINESS AND EARLY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Too many children reach school without the readiness skills needed for success in learning, such as language, soci skills, visual and auditory discrimination, memory recall, and knowledge of colors, letters, numbers, names of objects, et Likewise, some schools are not ready to respond appropriately to the varying developmental levels of children in the ea grades. As a result, too many students do not experience the success needed to create the motivation and engagement th sustain learning.

1st Grade "Readiness" on 2001-02 Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB):

89 children not ready 17.2% children not ready



1st Grade Failures in 2002:

60 children failing 11.1% children failing

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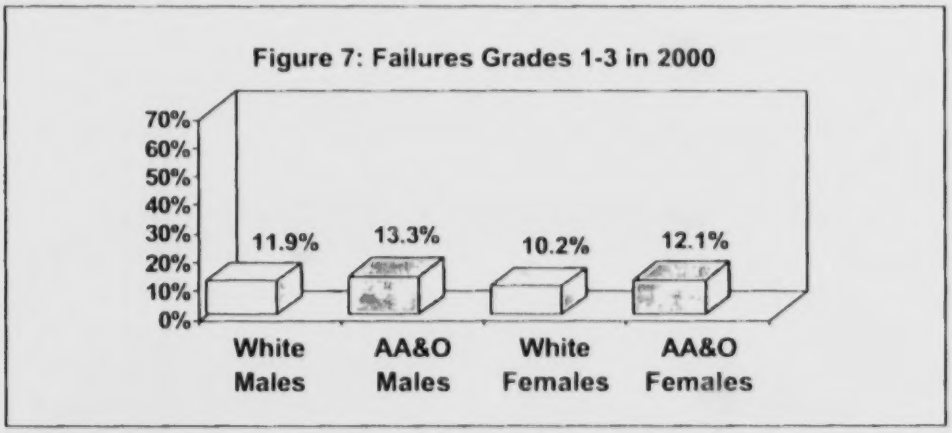
Failures Grades 1-3 in 2002 (approximate cumulative percentage of grades one, two and three):	
96 children failing	18.9% children failing



Over-age for Grade 3 in 2001	
84 children over-age	18.2% children over-age

Special Education: Large numbers of children are placed in special education classes. In elementary school, 174 six and seven year olds and 126 eight and nine year-olds were enrolled in special education classes during 2001-02, approximately 17.0% and 13.6% of their age groups respectively: 16.3% of White 8 – 9 year olds were in special education and 12.2% of African American and Others.

Readiness Summary: A serious problem exists in terms of student readiness and school success in the early grades. With 17.2% assessed not ready for the 1st grade, 18.2% over age in grade 3, and 13.6% of eight and nine year-olds placed in special education, unacceptably large numbers of students still begin school without good prospects of success in future school achievement and graduation; however, great improvement has occurred since the mid 1990s.

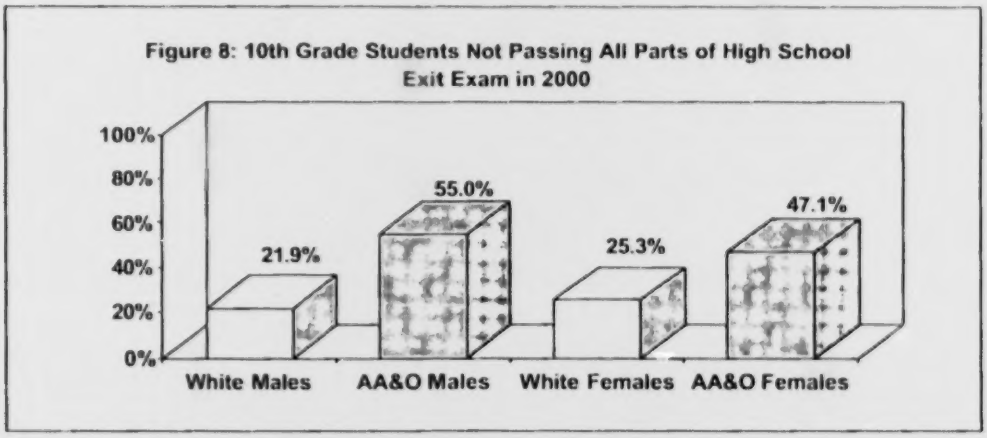
School Achievement

By the end of elementary school, significant numbers of students perform below minimum standards. The following standardized test measures, comparing student performance to state minimum standards, should be used in combination with routine classroom assessments more reflective of real-world performance skills.

Special Education: Special education placements reflect both the significant number of children with serious handicapping conditions and a large number of students with mild learning and behavioral problems that have not been accommodated successfully by the regular educational program. The result is a large system of self-contained, resource, and itinerant services to meet the needs of 211 speech and language impaired, 157 learning disabled, 7 emotionally disabled, 308 mentally impaired, and 28 physically handicapped, deaf, blind, and other handicapped students. Special education classes served approximately 11.7% of all students in grades 1 - 12 during 2001-2002.

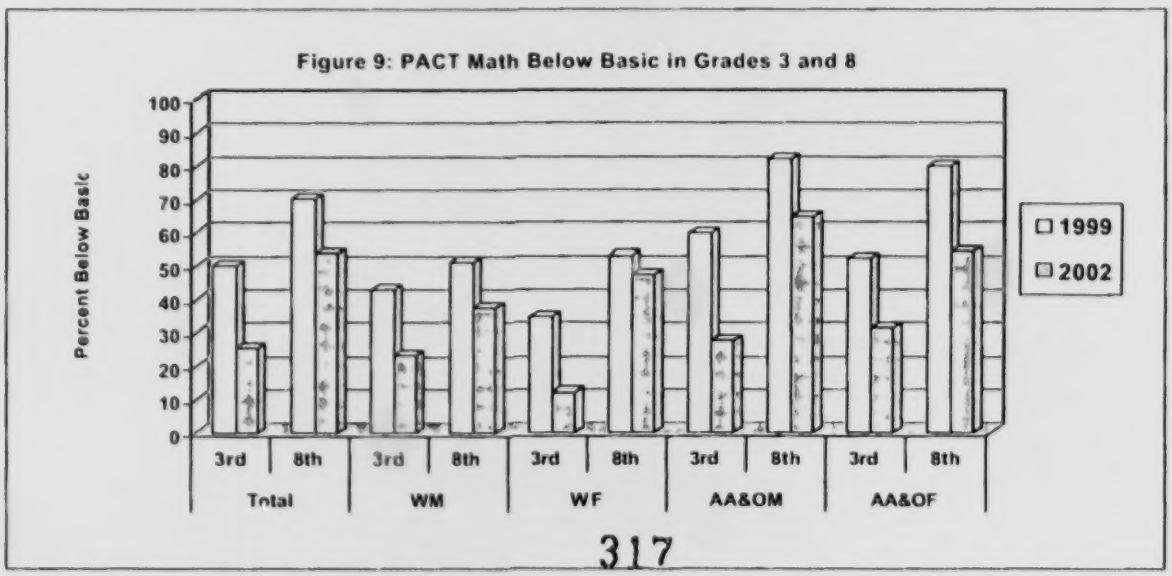
Exit Exam - not passing all parts of Exit Exam on first attempt in the 10th grade in 2002

154 students did not pass all parts — 40.4% of students did not pass all parts



Achievement Trends: How has performance on standardized achievement tests changed over the past 20 years? During the 1980s, student performance on the BSAP tests improved dramatically. Between 1981 and 1990, the percentage of 8th grade students in Dillon County who did not meet standards declined from 63.6% to 35.7% in math and from 61.5% to 38.9% in reading. During the 1990's the BSAP trend changed, with 50.7% not meeting 8th grade math standards in 1998 and 50.2% in reading. On standardized tests, the first year when South Carolina students take the exam is comparable to the challenge encountered by the national norm group which took the test only once. Looking at first year data, the percentage of 4th grade students at or below the 25th percentile of national norms was 32.8% in 1983 on the CTBS, 43.1% in 1990 on the Stanford, and 45.8% in 1995 on the Metropolitan; for 9th graders, the percentage in the bottom quarter was 38.5% in 1990 and 36.5% in 1995. Although not comparable, the percent below basic on the 4th grade PACT in 1999, the first year of administration, was 61.4%, but in 2002 38.9% of 4th graders were below basic in reading and math; the percentage of 8th graders below basic in reading and math averaged 65.6% in 1999 and 50.3% in 2002.

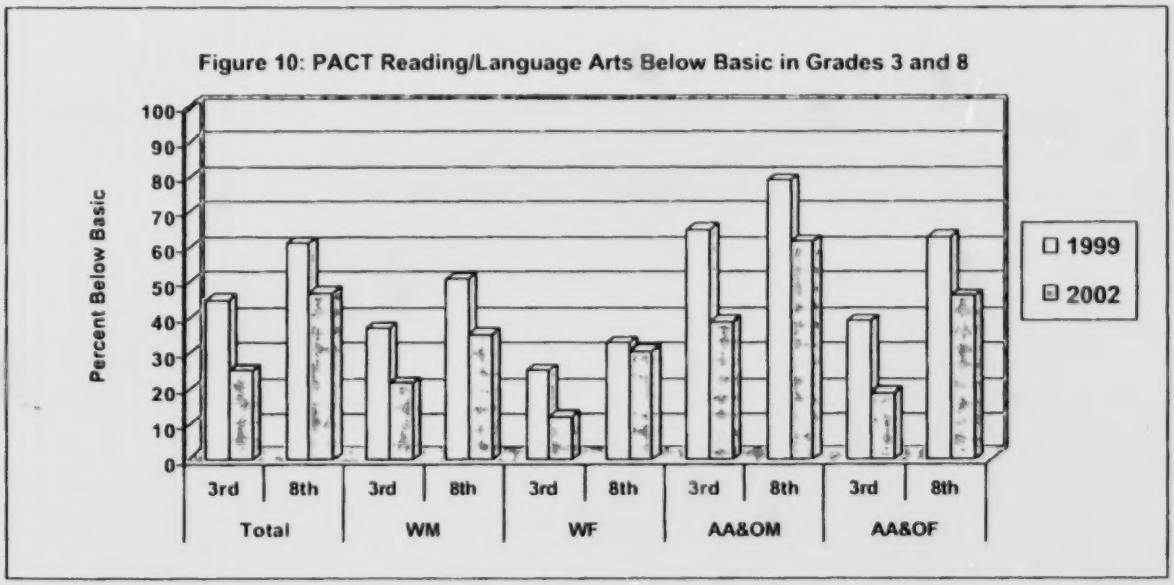
PACT: The Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) was first administered in 1999 for grades 3 - 8 in math and reading/language arts. Math assesses skills in numbers, numerical and algebraic concepts, patterns and functions, geometry, measurement, probability and statistics. The percentage of students scoring below basic in math has decreased by 32.0% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 751 students below basic in grades 3-8 but there would have been an additional 353 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
		Math (%)				
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	25.4	23.1	12.1	27.8	31.4
	4	41.2	26.4	26.3	51.6	49.0
	5	38.2	25.7	34.7	47.6	36.9
	6	46.6	30.8	28.6	59.3	50.7
	7	57.0	44.9	29.4	74.0	60.1
	8	53.7	37.6	47.2	64.9	54.3
Basic	3	38.7	39.7	47.0	41.7	29.7
	4	30.6	33.0	31.3	27.5	31.8
	5	34.3	23.0	29.3	38.1	39.0
	6	33.1	38.5	40.0	28.7	31.4
	7	29.5	34.7	41.2	19.5	31.2
	8	36.3	45.9	34.7	31.2	37.0
Proficient	3	23.6	17.9	21.2	22.9	29.7
	4	14.9	17.9	22.5	11.8	11.9
	5	15.6	23.0	12.0	9.5	19.9
	6	16.2	23.1	21.4	10.7	15.7
	7	8.5	12.2	19.1	3.9	5.8
	8	7.8	11.8	15.3	3.9	5.8
Advanced	3	12.3	19.2	19.7	7.6	9.3
	4	13.3	22.6	20.0	9.2	7.3
	5	11.9	28.4	24.0	4.8	4.3
	6	4.1	7.7	10.0	1.3	2.1
	7	5.0	8.2	10.3	2.6	2.9
	8	2.2	4.7	2.8	0.0	2.9

Reading/Language Arts assesses reading, listening, speaking, writing, research, and communication with technology. The first PACT assessment found a high percentage of elementary and middle grades students performing below standards and only a modest number above basic. The percentage of students scoring below basic in reading/language arts has decreased by 30.6% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 641 students below basic in grades 3 - 8 but there would have been an additional 283 at 1999 performance rates.

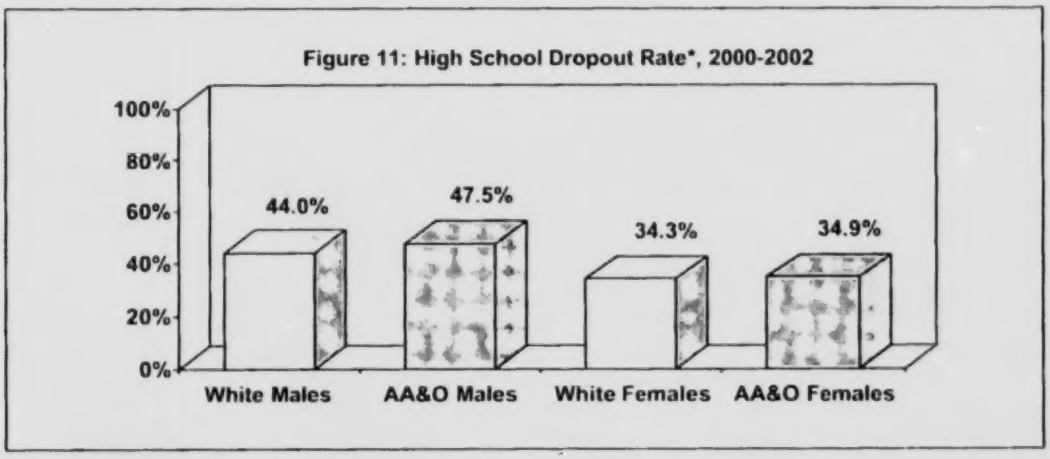
Figure 10: PACT Reading/Language Arts Below Basic in Grades 3 and 8



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
	Reading/Language Arts (%)					
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	25.4	21.8	12.1	38.9	18.8
	4	36.6	25.7	22.5	50.3	37.7
	5	40.0	31.1	28.0	52.4	38.3
	6	39.7	35.9	18.6	56.0	35.0
	7	42.0	35.4	8.8	56.8	46.4
	8	47.0	35.3	30.6	61.7	46.4
Basic	3	44.2	43.6	42.4	41.0	49.6
	4	41.1	43.8	38.8	35.3	46.4
	5	42.3	37.8	42.7	40.1	46.8
	6	33.3	33.3	34.3	30.7	35.7
	7	40.4	44.4	47.1	34.2	41.3
	8	36.7	43.5	33.3	32.5	39.1
Proficient	3	28.6	30.8	40.9	20.1	30.8
	4	20.4	28.6	32.5	14.4	14.6
	5	16.5	28.4	25.3	7.5	14.9
	6	21.9	25.6	34.3	11.3	25.0
	7	16.3	17.2	39.7	9.0	12.3
	8	14.7	18.8	31.9	5.2	13.8
Advanced	3	1.7	3.8	4.5	0.0	0.9
	4	1.8	1.9	6.3	0.0	1.3
	5	1.1	2.7	4.0	0.0	0.0
	6	5.0	5.1	12.9	2.0	4.3
	7	1.3	3.0	4.4	0.0	0.0
	8	1.6	2.4	4.2	0.6	0.7

Dropout Rate - 8th grade students no longer enrolled in grade 12
(average of students for the three years ending 2000-2002)

225 students drop out annually **40.5% students drop out***



Dropouts: Distressing numbers of students drop out and fail to graduate. An average of 40.7% of 8th graders failed to graduate** from county schools five years later during the period 1980-84, 34.4% during 1985-89, and 34.8% during 1990-94, 38.7% during 1995-97 and 43.4% during 1998-2000***.

During 2001-02, 94.3% of all who did graduate received the State High School Diploma, while the remaining 5.7% received a State Certificate for meeting the required Carnegie units but not passing the Exit Exam.

* 12th grade enrollment compared to 8th grade enrollment four years earlier
** This is calculated by using 8th grade enrollment to graduation data.
*** 2001 data will be available soon and will be posted on the website.

Fortunately, many dropouts enroll in adult education programs and either earn a high school diploma or obtain a GED. During 2001-02, 11 Adult Education high school diplomas were awarded to school completers and in 2001 42 GEDs were awarded in the county. Over time, adult education high school diplomas and GEDs increase the effective school completion rate substantially. In the 2000 Census, 27.4% of county resident 25 - 34 year-olds said they had not completed either high school or a GED.

Achievement Summary: The numbers of students testing below basic on the PACT and dropping out range from 25.4% to 57.0%. Thus, far too many students fail to acquire the knowledge, skills, learning habits, and motivation necessary to compete in the economy or contribute to society in the 21st Century.

ADOLESCENT RISK BEHAVIORS

Academic achievement is greatly influenced by the prevailing youth culture which often promotes popularity with peers and partying rather than studying and doing well in school. The prevalence of adolescent risk-taking and under-achievement is illustrated by the poor grades of substance-abusing teens.

Substance Abuser Rates at Levels of Academic Performance

	Usual School Grades in Past Year					Total
	A Range	B Range	C Range	D Range	F Range	
Smoked Cigarettes (in past 30 days)	6.0%	19.4%	30.5%	39.7%	56.6%	23.4%
Drank 5 or More Drinks on One Occasion (in past 30 days)	10.3%	12.9%	20.5%	13.7%	28.9%	15.7%
Used Any Illicit Drug (in past 30 days)	4.0%	14.9%	22.7%	20.1%	39.7%	17.0%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

As influence from parents and other adults declines during adolescence, significant numbers of students engage in violence, crime, school offenses, depressive emotions and attempted suicide:

Risk Behaviors Participated in During Past 12 Months	White Male		White Female		African American Male		African American Female		Total		Total (Grade 7-12)
	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	
Carried a handgun or knife for self-defense?	NA%	26.9%	NA%	5.8%	NA%	23.6%	NA%	5.3%	NA%	14.5%	14.5%
Carried a handgun or knife as a weapon?	NA%	10.6%	NA%	0.9%	NA%	15.3%	NA%	3.8%	NA%	7.9%	7.9%
Been in a fight with someone?	NA%	24.0%	NA%	19.6%	NA%	30.9%	NA%	18.4%	NA%	23.3%	23.3%
Hit your boyfriend or girlfriend?	NA%	2.2%	NA%	17.8%	NA%	4.0%	NA%	17.8%	NA%	11.1%	11.1%
Been hit by your boyfriend or girlfriend?	NA%	6.9%	NA%	9.3%	NA%	5.3%	NA%	7.2%	NA%	6.9%	6.9%
Rec'd detention or in-school suspension?	NA%	33.6%	NA%	17.1%	NA%	29.9%	NA%	26.3%	NA%	27.1%	27.1%
Been suspended from school?	NA%	17.3%	NA%	11.1%	NA%	21.2%	NA%	11.0%	NA%	15.1%	15.1%
Stolen anything worth > $5?	NA%	7.0%	NA%	6.8%	NA%	9.8%	NA%	3.6%	NA%	6.5%	6.5%
Had an accident while driving?	NA	13.5%	NA	8.8%	NA	9.1%	NA	5.8%	NA	8.7%	NA
Been arrested and booked?	NA%	5.0%	NA%	3.0%	NA%	8.8%	NA%	4.0%	NA%	5.4%	5.4%
Felt hopeless for two weeks or more?	NA%	17.3%	NA%	25.1%	NA%	12.1%	NA%	23.9%	NA%	19.5%	19.5%
Seriously considered attempting suicide?	NA%	13.8%	NA%	13.0%	NA%	5.9%	NA%	6.0%	NA%	8.3%	8.3%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

Adolescence is often a time of taking risks and asserting independence from adults. When asked whether they would tell an adult about a problem, the following percentages of county students said they would be "not likely" or "very unlikely" to tell if they:

-heard a student threaten to harm someone: NA% middle school, 53.7% high school;
-saw a student with a handgun at school: NA% middle school, 34.6% high school;
-saw a student with a knife at school: NA% middle school, 39.7% high school;
-saw a student with drugs at school: NA% middle school, 64.5% high school;

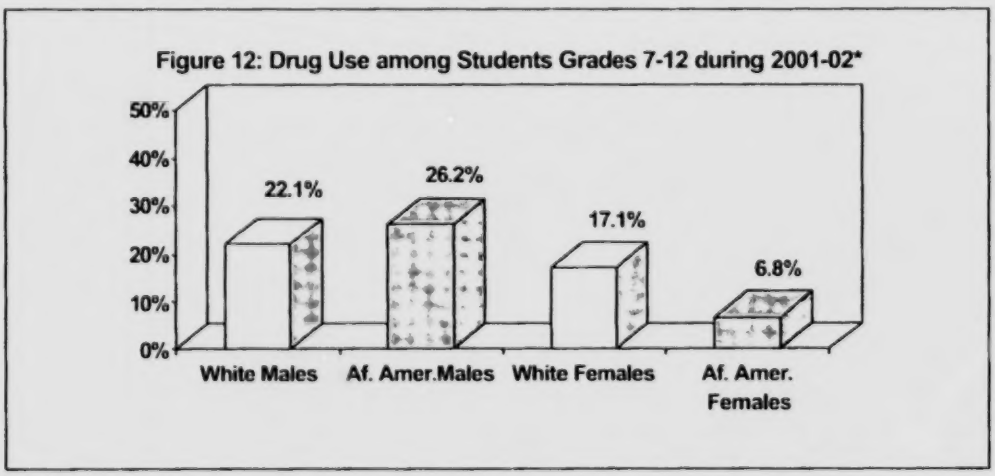
Alcohol Use:* In the county during 2001-02, NA% of 7th and 8th graders and 30.0% of high schoolers said they had used alcohol in the past month. Of White males in grades 7 - 12, 30.9% had used it in the past month, compared with 32.8% of African-American males; likewise, 38.7% of White females said they had used alcohol, compared with 24.4% of African-American females. Many youth first used alcohol at an early age: 10.4% had used alcohol by age 11 or younger, 23.5% by age 13, and 47.1% by age 15.

During the previous year, NA% of 7th and 8th graders and 23.7% of high schoolers said they had ridden with a drinking driver. Of seniors who drive, 15.8% said they had driven after drinking. Widespread use is encouraged by the ready availability and perceived low risk of alcohol use. Among students who expressed an opinion, NA% of eighth graders and 70.2% of seniors felt that beer was easy to get. Also, NA% of eighth graders and 64.1% of seniors felt there was not a great risk in drinking two drinks a day, and NA% of eighth graders and 46.8% of high schoolers felt there was not a great risk in drinking 5 drinks every weekend.

Heavy Drinking:* In 2001-02, NA% of 7th and 8th graders and 15.4% of high school students in the county repor drinking 5 or more drinks in a day during the past month. When asked how many drinks, if any, they usually consur 13.4% of all county students in grades 7 - 12 in 2001-02 responded 3 or more drinks at a time and 6.3% reported usually 5 more drinks. Among high school students, 13.4% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 6.3% 5 or mc Among seniors, 18.3% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 9.8% 5 or more; however 16.0% of seni said that they drank 5 or more drinks in a day once or more during the past month.

Drugs:* In 2001-02, NA% of 7th and 8th graders and 16.9% of high schoolers in the county reported using ille drugs during the previous month. Among students in grades 7 - 12, use was reported by 22.1% of White males, 17.1% Wh females, 26.2% of African-American males, and 6.8% of African-American females. Some young people initiated drug u at an early age: 4.4% had experienced their first use by age 11 or sooner; 11.9% had used a drug by age 13, and 26.3% by a 15.

In the past year, 7.4% of all high school students in the county who drive and 14.4% of seniors who drive said that they had driven after using drugs. Such use is encouraged by the ready availability of drugs: NA% of 8th graders who had an opinion said it is easy to get marijuana and NA% said it is easy to get cocaine or crack; 72.0% of seniors said it is easy to get marijuana and 45.7% said it was easy to get cocaine or crack.



* County participation in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking was not complete but county data is presented to provide the best available picture of teen risk-taking attitudes and behavior in Dillon County. One of 3 districts participated (District 2), and only for grades 9 - 12.

Sexual Activity and Pregnancy: Many teenagers now engage in sexual activity. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) administered to a representative sample of high school students throughout South Carolina in 2001 showed that sexual activity begins at an early age: 7% of female and 21% of male students have engaged in intercourse before age 13; by age 15, 38% the females and 49% of males have engaged in sexual intercourse. Statewide, 48% of females and 50% of males in the 11th and 12th grades reported engaging in intercourse during the past three months. Furthermore, 27% of female and 33% of male 12th graders have had intercourse with four or more partners during their lifetimes.

Premature sexual activity often results in pregnancy. In the county, 44 girls between the ages of 14 and 17 became pregnant in 1999, 53 in 2000 and 39 in 2001. This represented 4.0% of all girls ages 14 – 17 in 2001; several times this percentage become pregnant at least once by age 18. The 2001 pregnancy rate for ages 14 - 17 was 2.1% for Whites and 5.3% for African-Americans and Others. Of all pregnancies of 14-17 year olds, 87.2% resulted in live births, with almost all other pregnancies ending in abortions.

Teen pregnancy rates increased substantially across the state during the 1980s; as a result, greater emphasis v devoted to preventing teen pregnancy. Since 1989, the teen pregnancy rate in Dillon County has decreased by 17.2 Overall, it has decreased by 32.3% for Whites, and decreased by 14.5% for African Americans and Others.

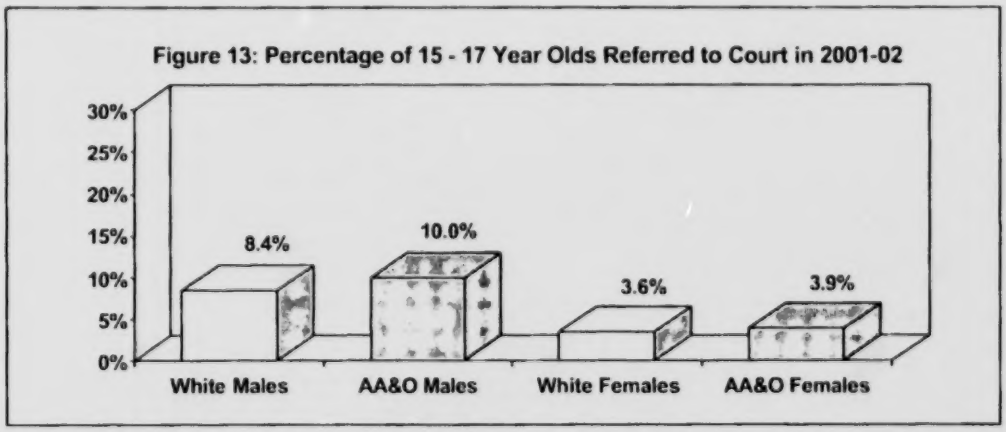
Juvenile Delinquency: In 2001-02, 178 individual juvenile offenders in the county were referred to the Solicitor for delinquency; of these, 13.5% were age 12 or younger, 30.9% were 13 or 14, and 55.6% were 15 or older.

Of the referrals to the family court, 11.9% of all referrals were for violent and serious crimes which include drug trafficking, acts against persons for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and serious property offenses for arson and burglary. Also, 28 juvenile cases constituting 10.7% of all referrals were for status offenses. Status offenses include truancy, running away, incorrigibility, and other offenses that would not be crimes for adults.

Delinquents are likely to live in families with low income: 36.8% lived in families with income under $10,000, 54.7% with $10,000-$19,999 and 8.4% with $20,000 or more. Furthermore, only 13.7% of delinquents lived with both natural parents, while 56.9% lived in a single parent household, 19.6% lived with other relatives, and 9.8% in other situations including parent plus step-parent. Delinquency or criminal activity occurs among many related family members: 34.3% had at least one family member who was delinquent or had some criminal record.

Youth referred to the family courts are likely to have been there before. In 2001-02, 59.0% had at least one prior referral and 25.3% had been referred to court 3 times or more. Many were referred at an early age. For delinquents 15 - 17 years old, 4.2% had been referred by the age of 10, 11.4% by the age of 12, and 25.3% by the age of 14.

During 2001-02, 98 youth ages 15 to 17 were referred to the family courts. In the county, 6.7% of all youth 15 to 17 were referred to court in one year and roughly double that percentage are referred at least once by age 18. Furthermore, the National Youth Survey indicates that typically across the United States the proportion of youth engaging in crime is two or three times the number ever apprehended. In 2001-02, there were 20 juveniles committed from the county to DJJ custody and placed in residential programs.



Not in School or Employed: During 2000, 278 teenagers ages 16-19 were idle, meaning they neither worked any hours nor were enrolled in school, even part-time. Idle teens comprised 14.3% of their age group: 9.1% for White and 17.4% African-American & Other teens. A much larger number, perhaps twice as many, were not engaged in either school full time or work full time. The data reflect a serious failure in both school completion and the critical transition from school to work, significantly affecting their development as future workers. For an in-depth description of the problems of young adults seeking to enter the labor force, visit our website at www.scyoungadults.org for our state and county reports on 18-29 year olds.

Deaths: During 1997-2001, 13 youth ages 15 to 19 died. Historically, automobile accidents have been the major cause, resulting in 5 deaths between 1996 and 2000; homicides killed 1 youth 15 to 19 years old during the five-year period, and 0 youth committed suicide. Alcohol use is often a significant factor in deaths among teenagers.

SUMMARY

Facing the Scope of Problems: The data on families, economic status, health, readiness, school achievement, and adolescent risk behaviors provide a troublesome picture of the condition of children in Dillon County. The 41.7% of children in single-parent families, 33.4% in poverty, 43.4% not graduating from school, 30.0% of high school students using alcohol and 16.9% using drugs each month, and other data profiled in this report suggest that too many children are at risk of not growing up to become self-supporting adults, good family members, and responsible community citizens.

Emphasizing the Positive: South Carolina Kids Count reports have been developed to describe the problems of children in each of the counties. Fortunately, the majority of children and youth are doing well, and some very well. One simple description is the percentage of children who do not fall into the problem categories reported. For the county, 78.2% of children are born to non-teen mothers ages 20 or older, 39.3% are born to married parents, and 58.3% lived in two-parent families; 66.6% were not poor and 36.9% lived in families with incomes above twice the poverty level for a family of three, $30,040 in 2002; 90.3% of babies were born with normal birthweights; 82.8% were assessed as ready for the first grade, 46.3% scored basic or better on PACT for 8th grade math and 53.0% for 8th grade reading, 59.6% passed all parts of the Exit Exam in the 10th grade, and 56.6% graduated with their class. In a typical month, 70.0% of high school students do not drink alcohol, 83.1% do not use drugs, and 76.6% do not smoke. Unfortunately, the absence of a problem is not always an indicator of success. Some data is available for exemplary performance: for example, 30.3% of 3rd graders and 16.3% of 8th graders scored proficient or advanced on PACT in reading and 35.9% of 3rd graders and 10.0% of 8th graders in math. Unfortunately, data on success is not generally available.

Despite the limitations of success data, we must emphasize the positive in providing good support and appropriate influences for children and youth. Recent philosophy and publications such as those of the Search Institute (700 South Third Street, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN, 55415-1138, tel. 1-800-888-7828, www.search-institute.org), emphasize the critical importance of "developmental assets" to promote and support positive development. One short book from the Search Institute, (What Kids Need to Succeed, by Peter J. Benson, Judy Gailbraith, and Pamela Espeland, 1995) presents an excellent array of suggestions for promoting developmental assets through families, community, faith congregations, and schools. If each family, school, religious congregation and community organization assertively worked to build such assets, the problems described in this report would be reduced dramatically. Such positive family-school-community efforts could improve South Carolina's national Kids Count ranking from the bottom 10 to the average or even into the top 10 by prevention of unnecessary problems affecting children and youth, as shown on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

All data presented in this report is the most recent available at the date it goes to the printer. This version of the Kids Count report will be revised as more recent and additional data become available. Please send us your corrections and suggestions for improvement. We welcome your ideas for ways to make the state and county reports more useful and accurate. Please utilize local data sources whenever possible to supplement the profile provided through our report.

Data related inquiries should be directed to:

Anne Wilson, Data Manager (awilson@drss.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-4810

Calls for **copies of reports** for other counties and inquiries regarding more recent reports should be made to:

Kim Hazel-Lohr, Project Manager (khazel@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-1295

For **policy questions and general comments**, please contact:

Dr. A. Baron Holmes, Project Director (bholmes@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-2291

Comparable reports for all 46 counties and for the state can also be found on the World Wide Web at

www.sckidscount.org

Our website also provides: links to other websites for indicators in our report; high to low rankings for individual indicators; information on how to improve SC's national rank; and a glossary of definitions.

The national Kids Count Report can be found on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website at

www.aecf.org

Dillon County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Indicators	Most Recent Year	Number					Percent					R	
		1980*	1990*	Most Recent Data	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980 Rank	199
Health													
Low Birth Weight	2001	70	40	46	-34.3%	+15.0%	11.7	7.2	9.7	-17.0%	35.6%	43	
White babies	*2001*	*18*	*7*	*15*	*-16.7%*	*+114.3%*	*7.1*	*3.4*	*6.6*	*-7.0%*	*93.3%*	*37*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*52*	*33*	*31*	*-40.4%*	*-6.1%*	*15.0*	*9.3*	*12.4*	*-17.3%*	*33.0%*	*42*	
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	2001	381	303	141	+63.0%	-53.5%	63.6	54.2	29.6	-53.5%	-45.4%	46	
White babies	*2001*	*133*	*71*	*62*	*-53.4%*	*-12.7%*	*52.8*	*34.6*	*27.4*	*-48.1%*	*-20.9%*	*46*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*248*	*232*	*79*	*68.1%*	*-65.9%*	*71.5*	*65.5*	*31.6*	*-55.8%*	*-51.8%*	*44*	
Infant Mortality	2001	34	26	14	-58.8%	-46.2%	1.9	1.6	1.0	-49.3%	-40.4%	30	
White babies	*2001*	*13*	*8*	*1*	*-92.3%*	*-87.5%*	*1.7*	*1.3*	*0.2*	*-91.2%*	*-87.9%*	*38*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*21*	*18*	*13*	*-38.1%*	*-27.8%*	*2.0*	*1.9*	*1.6*	*-19.3%*	*-11.8%*	*13*	
Family													
Births to mothers under 18	2001	57	66	34	-40.4%	-48.5%	9.5	11.8	7.1	-25.4%	-39.9%	30	
White babies	*2001*	*14*	*14*	*7*	*-50.0%*	*-50.0%*	*5.6*	*6.8*	*3.1*	*-44.2%*	*-54.6%*	*23*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*43*	*52*	*27*	*-37.2%*	*-48.1%*	*12.4*	*14.7*	*10.8*	*-12.8%*	*-26.5%*	*20*	
Births to mothers under 20	2001	151	139	104	-31.1%	-24.6%	25.2	24.7	21.8	-13.5%	-11.7%	40	
White babies	*2001*	*45*	*43*	*33*	*-26.7%*	*+23.3%*	*17.9*	*21.0*	*14.6*	*-18.2%*	*-30.4%*	*32*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*106*	*95*	*71*	*-33.0%*	*+25.3%*	*30.5*	*26.8*	*28.4*	*-7.0%*	*5.8%*	*39*	
Births to mothers with less than a high school education	2001	299	195	152	-49.2%	-22.1%	49.9	34.9	31.9	-36.1%	-8.6%	45	
White babies	*2001*	*104*	*63*	*72*	*-30.8%*	*+14.3%*	*41.3*	*30.7*	*31.9*	*-22.7%*	*3.8%*	*44*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*195*	*132*	*80*	*-59.0%*	*-39.4%*	*56.2*	*37.3*	*32.0*	*-43.1%*	*-14.2%*	*36*	
Births to single mothers****	2001	229	290	289	+26.2%	-0.3%	38.2	51.9	60.7	58.8%	17.0%	44	
White babies	*2001*	*25*	*46*	*84*	*+236.0%*	*+82.6%*	*9.9*	*22.4*	*37.2*	*275.0%*	*65.8%*	*43*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*204*	*244*	*205*	*+0.5%*	*-16.0%*	*58.8*	*68.9*	*82.0*	*39.5%*	*19.0%*	*46*	
Children in single parent families	2000	2,369	2,614	2,994	+26.4%	+14.5%	24.3	35.3	41.7	71.7%	18.2%	43	
White	*2000*	*675*	*654*	*692*	*+2.5%*	*+5.8%*	*12.7*	*18.3*	*22.2*	*74.9%*	*21.4%*	*44*	
African American and Other	*2000*	*1,653*	*1,910*	*2,302*	*+39.3%*	*+20.5%*	*35.7*	*51.1*	*56.7*	*58.8%*	*11.0%*	*28*	
Education													
Not Ready for Grade 1	2001	294	202	89	-69.7%	-55.9%	46.7	31.0	17.2	-63.2%	-44.5%	38	
White males	*2001*	*49*	*30*	*9*	*-81.6%*	*-70.0%*	*34.7*	*23.3*	*9.3*	*-73.2%*	*-60.1%*	*31*	
White females	*2001*	*34*	*24*	*11*	*-67.6%*	*-54.2%*	*23.3*	*17.0*	*11.1*	*-52.4%*	*-34.7%*	*30*	
African American and Other males	*2001*	*125*	*72*	*40*	*-68.0%*	*-44.4%*	*69.4*	*35.6*	*23.3*	*-66.4%*	*-34.6%*	*43*	
African American and Other females	*2001*	*86*	*76*	*29*	*-66.3%*	*-61.8%*	*53.1*	*42.5*	*19.3*	*-63.7%*	*-54.6%*	*37*	
Repeating Grades 1-3	2000	95	148	67	-29.5%	-54.7%	15.5	24.8	13.2	-14.8%	-46.8%	16	
White males	*2000*	*20*	*33*	*12*	*-40.0%*	*-63.6%*	*14.6*	*26.4*	*11.9*	*-18.5%*	*-54.9%*	*18*	
White females	*2000*	*15*	*22*	*8*	*-46.7%*	*-63.6%*	*11.0*	*17.0*	*10.2*	*-7.3%*	*-40.0%*	*28*	
African American and Other males	*2000*	*38*	*55*	*22*	*-42.1%*	*-60.0%*	*21.5*	*31.5*	*13.3*	*-38.1%*	*-57.8%*	*14*	
African American and Other females	*2000*	*22*	*38*	*18*	*-18.2%*	*-52.6%*	*13.4*	*22.6*	*12.1*	*-9.7%*	*-46.5%*	*14*	
Grade 3 Math below standards****	2002	208	78	103	-50.5%	+32.1%	37.7	14.8	25.4	-32.6%	71.6%	16	
White males	*2002*	*43*	*8*	*18*	*-58.1%*	*+125.0%*	*30.1*	*7.6*	*23.1*	*-23.3%*	*203.9%*	*24*	
White females	*2002*	*30*	*5*	*8*	*-73.3%*	*+60.0%*	*24.8*	*5.4*	*12.1*	*-51.2%*	*124.1%*	*14*	
African American and Other males	*2002*	*75*	*30*	*40*	*-46.7%*	*+33.3%*	*46.6*	*18.6*	*27.8*	*-40.3%*	*49.5%*	*4*	
African American and Other females	*2002*	*60*	*35*	*37*	*-38.3%*	*+5.7%*	*48.8*	*20.7*	*31.4*	*-35.7%*	*51.7%*	*18*	
Grade 3 Reading below standards****	2002	196	60	103	-47.4%	+71.7%	35.6	11.4	25.4	-28.7%	122.8%	19	
White males	*2002*	*44*	*8*	*17*	*-61.4%*	*+112.5%*	*30.8*	*7.6*	*21.8*	*-29.2%*	*186.8%*	*20*	
White females	*2002*	*21*	*4*	*8*	*-61.9%*	*+100.0%*	*17.4*	*4.3*	*12.1*	*-30.5%*	*181.4%*	*23*	
African American and Other males	*2002*	*72*	*28*	*56*	*-22.2%*	*+100.0%*	*45.0*	*17.4*	*38.9*	*-13.6%*	*123.6%*	*5*	
African American and Other females	*2002*	*57*	*20*	*22*	*-61.4%*	*+10.0%*	*46.3*	*11.9*	*18.8*	*-59.4%*	*59.3%*	*32*	
Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT Grade 4	1998	201	244	149	-25.9%	-38.9%	32.8	43.1	32.1	-2.1%	-25.5%	23	
White males	*1998*	*33*	*45*	*19*	*-42.4%*	*-57.8%*	*25.6*	*33.3*	*21.3*	*-16.8%*	*-36.0%*	*25*	
White females	*1998*	*15*	*25*	*12*	*-20.0%*	*-52.0%*	*12.3*	*22.7*	*16.2*	*31.7%*	*-28.6%*	*16*	
African American and Other males	*1998*	*91*	*107*	*72*	*-20.9%*	*-32.7%*	*49.7*	*58.1*	*43.9*	*-11.7%*	*-24.4%*	*18*	
African American and Other females	*1998*	*61*	*67*	*46*	*-24.6%*	*-31.3%*	*37.6*	*48.9*	*33.1*	*-12.0%*	*-32.3%*	*25*	

*Year of data is approximate in many cases.
**1 is best, 46 is worst
*** Data include paternity acknowledgements.
**** BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Dillon County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Education (continued)

Indicators		Number					Percent				
	Most Recent Year	1980*	1990*	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres
Grade 8 Math below state standards**	2002	393	199	241	-38.7%	+21.1%	63.6	35.7	53.7	-15.6%	50.4%
White males	*2002*	*64*	*25*	*32*	*-50.0%*	*+28.0%*	*45.1*	*21.6*	*37.6*	*-16.6%*	*74.1%*
White females	*2002*	*62*	*28*	*34*	*-45.2%*	*+21.4%*	*48.4*	*21.4*	*47.2*	*-2.5%*	*120.6%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*146*	*85*	*100*	*-31.5%*	*+17.6%*	*82.0*	*51.5*	*64.9*	*-20.9%*	*26.0%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*121*	*59*	*75*	*-38.0%*	*+27.1%*	*71.6*	*41.3*	*54.3*	*-24.2%*	*31.5%*
Grade 8 Reading below state standards**	2002	380	218	211	-44.5%	-3.2%	61.5	38.9	47.0	-23.6%	20.8%
White males	*2002*	*62*	*40*	*30*	*-51.6%*	*-25.0%*	*43.7*	*34.5*	*35.3*	*-19.2%*	*2.3%*
White females	*2002*	*54*	*31*	*22*	*-59.3%*	*-29.0%*	*42.2*	*23.5*	*30.6*	*-27.5%*	*30.2%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*147*	*90*	*95*	*-35.4%*	*+5.6%*	*82.6*	*53.9*	*61.7*	*-25.3%*	*14.5%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*117*	*54*	*64*	*-45.3%*	*+18.5%*	*69.2*	*37.8*	*46.4*	*-32.9%*	*22.8%*
Grade 9 Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT	1998	NA	203	163	NA	-19.7%	NA	38.5	36.6	NA	-4.9%
White males	*1998*	*NA*	*24*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*23.5*	*24.1*	*NA*	*2.6%*
White females	*1998*	*NA*	*19*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*17.1*	*17.6*	*NA*	*2.9%*
African American and Other males	*1998*	*NA*	*100*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*62.9*	*49.6*	*NA*	*-21.1%*
African American and Other females	*1998*	*NA*	*60*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*38.7*	*44.0*	*NA*	*13.7%*
Exit Exam (not passing all parts on 1st attempt)	2002	294	163	154	-47.6%	-5.5%	55.5	35.8	40.4	-27.2%	12.8%
White males	*2002*	*47*	*19*	*16*	*-66.0%*	*-15.8%*	*40.5*	*18.8*	*21.9*	*-45.9%*	*16.5%*
White females	*2002*	*34*	*13*	*19*	*-44.1%*	*+46.2%*	*27.6*	*12.4*	*25.3*	*-8.3%*	*104.0%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*130*	*69*	*61*	*-53.1%*	*-11.6%*	*78.3*	*56.6*	*55.0*	*-29.8%*	*-2.8%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*82*	*62*	*57*	*-30.5%*	*-8.1%*	*66.1*	*48.8*	*47.1*	*-28.7%*	*-3.5%*
Dropout Rate (8th graders no longer enrolled in 12th grade 4 years later)	2000-02	165	194	225	+37.0%	+16.2%	28.4	32.2	40.5	42.7%	26.0%
White males	*2000-02*	*47*	*64*	*50*	*+5.7%*	*-21.8%*	*33.8*	*41.9*	*44.0*	*30.0%*	*4.9%*
White females	*2000-02*	*32*	*41*	*36*	*+12.5%*	*-11.1%*	*24.5*	*31.4*	*34.3*	*39.8%*	*9.2%*
African American and Other males	*2000-02*	*58*	*56*	*82*	*+42.0%*	*+45.8%*	*35.6*	*33.1*	*47.5*	*33.4%*	*43.3%*
African American and Other females	*2000-02*	*28*	*34*	*58*	*+107.1%*	*+70.6%*	*18.9*	*22.1*	*34.9*	*84.7%*	*57.7%*
Young Adults Not Completing High School (18-24)	2000	1,617	794	1,046	-35.3%	+31.7%	44.3	29.1	27.4	-38.2%	-6.0%
White males	*NA*	*393*	*174*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*43.7*	*27.8*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
White females	*NA*	*320*	*195*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*35.6*	*25.8*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other males	*NA*	*499*	*233*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*59.8*	*37.4*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other females	*NA*	*405*	*192*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*39.7*	*26.4*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*

Economics

Poverty Rate	2000	4,282	3,435	2,950	-31.1%	-14.1%	37.6	37.3	33.4	-11.2%	-10.5%
White children	*2000*	*1,091*	*658*	*539*	*-50.6%*	*-18.1%*	*20.3*	*16.4*	*15.4*	*-24.1%*	*-6.1%*
African American and Other children	*2000*	*3,004*	*2,777*	*2,411*	*-19.7%*	*-13.2%*	*53.3*	*53.5*	*45.3*	*-15.0%*	*-15.4%*
Income of Families w/children (1999 $)	2000	$ 31,932	$ 35,114	$ 37,943	+18.8%	+8.1%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
White families	*2000*	*$ 37,003*	*$ 40,566*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other families	*2000*	*$ 24,525*	*$ 29,367*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*

Adolescent Risk Factors

Teenage Pregnancy (ages 14-17)	2001	62	71	39	-37.1%	-45.1%	4.8	7.0	4.0	-17.4%	-42.9%
White	*2001*	*19*	*17*	*8*	*-57.9%*	*-52.9%*	*3.0*	*3.6*	*2.1*	*-30.5%*	*-41.7%*
African American and Other	*2001*	*43*	*54*	*31*	*-27.9%*	*-42.6%*	*6.6*	*10.0*	*5.3*	*-19.9%*	*-47.0%*
Delinquency	2002	58	115	98	+69.0%	-14.8%	3.1	6.5	6.7	115.1%	2.6%
White males	*2002*	*16*	*34*	*26*	*+62.5%*	*-23.5%*	*3.5*	*9.0*	*8.4*	*139.6%*	*-6.8%*
White females	*2002*	*12*	*7*	*10*	*-16.7%*	*+42.9%*	*2.6*	*1.8*	*3.6*	*37.4%*	*98.4%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*20*	*54*	*45*	*+125.0%*	*-16.7%*	*4.1*	*10.6*	*10.0*	*143.9%*	*-5.7%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*10*	*20*	*17*	*+70.0%*	*-15.0%*	*2.0*	*4.2*	*3.9*	*93.2%*	*-8.0%*

*Closest available data to this year was used in many cases.

**BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Kids Count 2003

Dorchester County

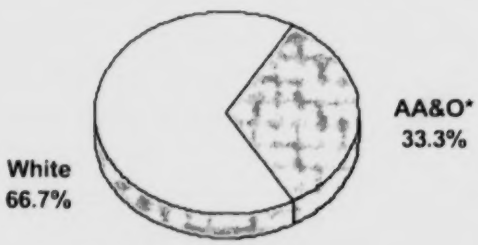
DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2000 there were an estimated 27,843 children under age 18 in the county. Of these, 18,583 were White, 7,886 were African-American, and 1,374 were other races. There were 24,568 children under age 18 in 1990, 20,168 in 1980, 13,392 in 1970, and 10,836 in 1960.

Children represent a shrinking portion of the county's population. Those under 18 constituted 28.9% of the population in 2000, down from 44.4% in 1960, 41.5% in 1970, and 34.3% in 1980.

In 2000 the 7,905 pre-schoolers under age 6 were 8.2% of the overall population: 7.9% of Whites and 8.7% of African Americans.

Figure 1: Population Ages 0-17 in 2000



* In all charts African-American is combined with other races, and often abbreviated as AA&O. Other races comprise 4.9% of children in the county, with "two or more races" at 2.4% and Asian Alone at 1.0% as the largest Other groups.

FAMILY

Families have always been the most important influence in a child's life. Children depend on their families for material needs, stimulation and guidance. Family life is different in numerous ways from previous generations, and many families now face exceptional challenges.

Families with children now make up a smaller share of all households. Only 40.0% of all households in 2000, as compared with 54.0% of households in 1960, had children below the age of 18.

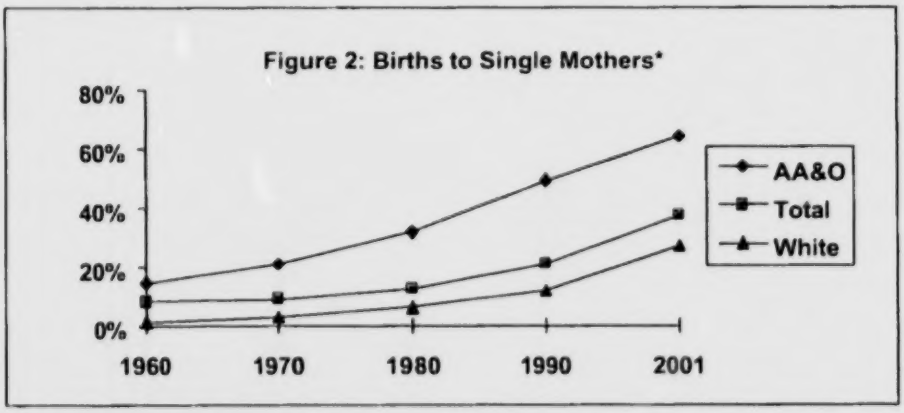
Births to Teen Mothers: In 2001, 45 babies were born to mothers younger than age 18. They were 3.7% of all babies born in the county; 2.3% of all White and 7.2% of all African-American and Other babies were born to teen mothers under the age of 18. Of the babies born to these teens in 2001, 97.8% were born to single mothers, including babies whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers.

In 2001, 178 babies were born to mothers younger than age 20. These babies were 14.5% of all born in the county; 11.9% of all White and 20.9% of all African-American and Other babies were born to mothers under the age of 20. Of the babies born to these mothers in 2001, 83.7% were born to single mothers, including paternity acknowledeged babies.

Education of Mothers Giving Birth: Children's success is strongly influenced by the education of their parents. In 2001, 221 babies, 18.1% of all babies, were born to mothers of all ages who had not completed the 12th grade. In 2001, 17.8% of White and 18.8% of African-American and Other babies were born to mothers who had completed less than the 12th grade. This is a substantial improvement from 40.2% in 1970. In addition, during 2001, 35.2% had completed 12 grades (31.8% of Whites and 43.9% of African Americans and Others) and 46.7% had more than a high school degree (50.5% of Whites and 37.3% of African American and Others).

Births to Single Mothers: Births to single mothers have increased steadily over four decades. In 2001, 279 babies, 22.7% of all babies, were recorded as born to single mothers. A decade earlier in 1990, the percentage was 18.5% and in 1960 it was 8.1%. In 2001, 13.5% of White children and 45.8% of African-American and Other children were born to single mothers. These numbers, however, do not include paternity acknowlegement births.

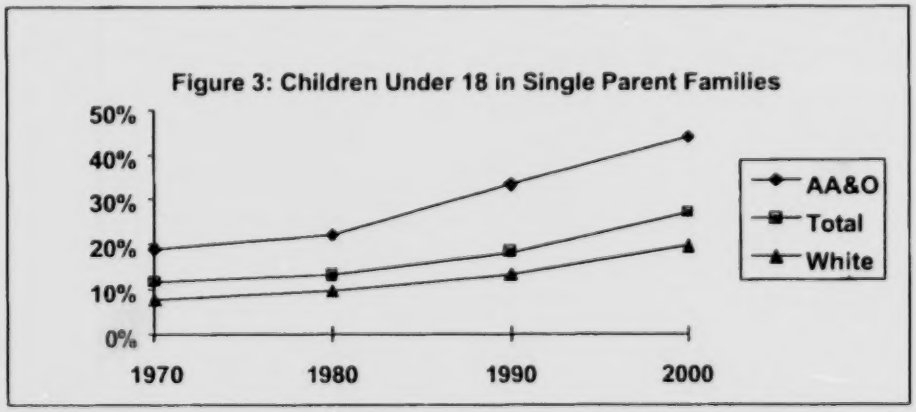
Thus, to these numbers should be added an additional group of 185 babies, 15.0% of all born in 2001, whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers. When the paternity-acknowledged babies are added, the total number born to single mothers in 2001 was 464, constituting 37.7% of all babies, 27.2% of White babies, and 64.2% of African-American and Others.



*Includes paternity acknowleged babies in 1980, 1990 and 2001. Prior to 1979, paternity acknowleged cases were not a statistical category, and thus were included in births to single mothers.

Divorce Rate: In 2001, 374 marriage licenses were issued, while 356 divorce decrees involving 302 children were filed. In 1970, only 51 children were in families involved in divorce.

Single-Parent Family: Increasing numbers of children live in single-parent families. In 2000, 6,771 children lived with only one parent. This was 27.1% of all children, up from 18.3% in 1990, 13.2% in 1980, and 11.6% in 1970. In 2000, 19.6% of White and 44.0% of African-American and Other children lived in single-parent families. Also in 2000, 1,529 or 25.2% of children under age 6 lived in single parent families: 16.9% of White and 45.9% of African American and Other pre-schoolers.



Parents Working and Child Care: Increasingly, parents must divide their time between children and employers. In order to meet family financial needs, most parents must work and thus have less time for family life. In 2000, 68.3% of mothers with children under 6 and 73.6% with children 6 - 17 were in the labor force. This has increased substantially from 1960 when 19.8% of mothers with children under 6 were in the labor force. Most fathers also work: 66.4% of children under 6 are in families where the single parent or both parents work. Caring for children is a problem for parents unable to obtain quality, affordable daycare while they are at work.

Overall, there are 3,166 spaces in state-regulated childcare facilities* in the county, 93.3% of these are in licensed programs and 6.7% are in registered programs. Of the spaces, 87.3% are in licensed childcare centers serving more than 12 children, 5.9% are in registered or licensed family childcare homes serving six or fewer children, 0.4% are in licensed group childcare homes serving 7-12 children, and 6.5% are in registered or licensed church programs.

The homes and centers are severely constrained by the limited ability of parents to pay. In the county, the average weekly charge is $ 91.92 for centers and $ 62.38 for homes. Consequently, center wages are low: 47.4% of centers with pre-school staff and 41.7% of centers with assistant pre-school staff report paying these staff under $6 per hour. Paying $6-$8 per hour are 36.8% of centers with pre-school staff and 50% of centers with assistants. Low wages attract workers with limited education. In 68.4% of centers, most pre-school staff and in 100% of centers most assistants have only a high school degree. In 36.8% of centers few to none of the pre-school staff have early childhood credentials. In childcare homes, 50% of lead providers have no more education than a high school degree or GED; 0% have less than a high school degree.

Family Violence: In 2000, 801 domestic assaults were recorded by law enforcement officials. These domestic assaults comprised 35.9% of all assaults, which include aggravated assaults, simple assaults, and intimidation. Overall, 58.6% of all domestic assaults involve spouse abuse which constitutes 21.0% of all assaults. Since most family violence is not reported, the true incidence of family disruption is much more widespread than even the large number of reported cases would indicate.

Separation from Parents: Some children do not live with their natural parents. In 2000, 5.7% of all children did not live with their natural parents. Approximately 1,046 or 3.8% of all children lived with relatives, 425 or 1.5% lived with non-relatives, 22 or 0.1% were householders or spouses, and 90 or 0.3% were in institutional facilities.

Abuse and Neglect: In 2000-01, there were 307 investigations into reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children. Through its investigations, the Department of Social Services (DSS) determined that 104 of the investigations were indicated for abuse or neglect: 15.0% for physical abuse, 4.7% for sexual abuse, 0.0% for mental injury, 31.8% for physical neglect, 0.9% for educational neglect, 0.9% for medical neglect, 43.0% for threat of harm for physical/sexual abuse, and 3.7% for other types of abuse.

In the indicated cases of abuse and neglect, DSS determined there were 205 children who were victims of abuse or neglect. Of these, 53.7% were male, 46.3% were female; 60.0% were White, 40.0% were African-American and Other. By age, 33.5% were ages 0 - 5, 38.9% were ages 6 - 12, and 27.6% were ages 13 - 17. In the indicated cases, 36.1% of the children lived in two-parent families, 46.8% in single parent families, 13.2% with unmarried couples, and 3.9% in other circumstances.

Out of Home Placements: As of June 2001, 91 children lived in foster care. The median age at first placement in the county is 8.3 years. The ages of children in foster care were 13.2% 0-2, 17.6% 3-5, 19.8% 6-10, 14.3% 11-13, and 35.2% 14 and above. The foster care population is 40.7% males and 59.3% females. Regarding their future, 14.3% were under a plan for placement in adoptive homes, 63.7% for return to a parent or guardian, 4.4% for placement with a relative, 6.6% for independent living, 9.9% for permanent foster care, and 1.1% for other circumstances.

Adult/Child Ratio: A measure of potential adult attention for children from family and community is the ratio of adults to children and youth. In 2000 there were 2.46 adults for every person below age 18. This was up substantially from 1960, when there were only 1.25 adults for every person under the age 18. This indicates that today there are more adults potentially available to provide attention and care for each child than in the past.

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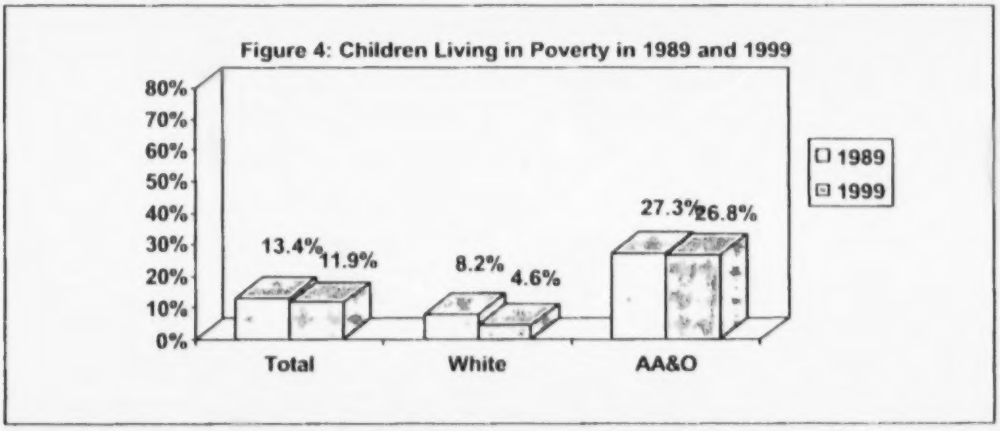
* This data is the best currently available; however, an effort is being made to check the coverage and improve the accuracy. As soon as more recent and complete data becomes available, it will be posted on the website.

ECONOMIC STATUS

Low income makes it difficult for many families to provide the material and environmental enrichment necessary for healthy child development.

Poverty: In 1999, 3,268 children and youth under the age of 18 lved in 1,478 families with incomes below poverty, comprising 11.9% of all children and youth: 4.6% of Whites and 26.8% of African-Americans and Others. A rough estimate of child poverty in 2001 calculated by the Census Bureau was 23.0%.



Poverty has always been a serious problem. While the rate among children under age 18 in 1989 was 13.4%, it was 15.0% in 1979 and 28.6% in 1969.

Children and the elderly are the age groups most seriously affected by poverty. In 1999, 12.1% of children 0 - 5 (5.4% White, 26.7% African-American and Other), and 11.1% of children 6 - 17 (3.5% White, 26.4% African-American and Other), lived in poverty; 13.3% of persons 65 years and older lived in poverty. Historically, the poverty rate among the elderly was much higher. During the last three decades, federal policy actions have substantially improved the economic status of older persons but have not done so for children.

Single-parent families are most likely to be poor. In 1999, 31.9% of children in single-parent families lived in poverty, but only 4.0% of children in married-couple families were poor. Children in single-parent families made up 69.4% of all the county's children living in poverty.

In 2002, the poverty level was $15,020 for a family of three and $18,100 for a family of four. The poverty threshold is often criticized as an arbitrary number. People can still be poor but may be just above the poverty level. Federal programs utilize varying thresholds. For example, in 1999 there were 8,875 children ages 0-17 who were less than 200 percent of poverty; thus an additional 5,607 children were above the poverty level but could still be considered poor or near-poor with incomes below $30,040 and $36,200 respectively for 3 and 4 person families.

Children Under 18 in Poverty in 1999

Percent of Poverty	Total		White		African American & Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 50%	1,415	5.2%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 100%	3,268	11.9%	850	4.6%	2,418	26.8%
Under 125%	4,438	16.2%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 150%	5,682	20.7%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 175%	7,142	26.1%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 185%	7,940	29.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 200%	8,875	32.4%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total Children	27,843		18,583		9,260	

Note: Missing data will be released by the Census Bureau later in 2003, and will be posted on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

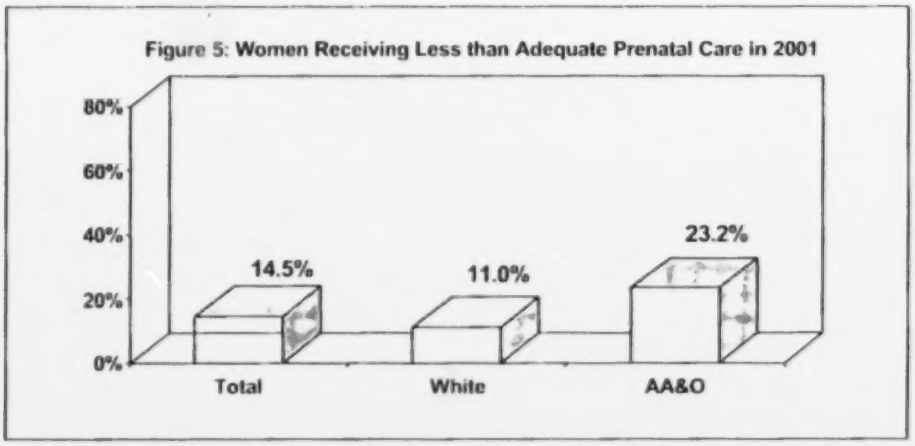
Income: The mean income of families with children in 1999 was $56,008. In 1989 it was $48,883, and 1979, it was $44,654, adjusted for inflation (i.e., in 1999 dollars). The mean income of single-parent families with children was $27,561 for single parents in 1999, as compared with $66,298 in married-couple families with children. From 1999 to 2000, Dorchester County real dollar per capita income (eliminating inflation) increased by 2.2%.

Child Support Payments: There were 597[7] families receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families in fiscal year 2002, but only 19.9 % had child support court orders. Their average monthly payment of child support was $ 283, including child support receipts and tax refund intercepts. In addition, during fiscal year 2002, an estimated 1,403 parents in non-TANF families were obligated to pay a monthly average of $ 263. Information is not available regarding the amount actually paid.

HEALTH

Good health during a child's formative years helps children to reach their maximum potential. Good health requires healthy lifestyles and effective primary care, starting during the prenatal period and continuing through adolescence into adulthood. Children's health reflects the well-being of the community, as well as how adequately they are protected.

Prenatal Care: Early and continuous prenatal care can make a significant difference in assuring births of healthy babies. Delayed or insufficient prenatal care is associated with low birthweight and other health risks for infants. In 2001, 136, or 11.0% of pregnant women received no prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy. In 2001, 178, or 14.5% of pregnant women received less than adequate prenatal care: 97 or 11.0% of Whites and 81 or 23.2% of African-Americans and Others. In that same year, 10 women received no prenatal care at all.



Low Birthweight: Low birthweight of less than 5.5 pounds and very low birthweight of less than 3.3 pounds are associated with health risks and growth and development problems. In 2001, 121 or 9.8% of all babies in the county were born with low birthweight: 17.8% of African-American and Other babies and 6.7% of White babies. During 1999-2001, approximately 69 or 1.9% of all babies were born with very low birthweight and had the most serious complications: 1.1% of White babies and 3.9% of African-American and Other babies. The cost of hospitalization for each newborn low birthweight baby in the county in 1999 - 2001 was $9,536 and $73,039 for each very low birthweight baby, compared with $1,670 for a baby of normal birthweight. The result was excess cost in the county of $1,698,154 for all low birthweight babies, of which $1,189,486 was for very low birthweight babies.

Infant Mortality: During the decade since 1989-91, the overall infant mortality rate increased by 68.7% from 6.3 to 10.6 per 1000 live births. For Whites, the rate increased 38.9% from 5.4 to 7.5 per 1000 live births, while for African-Americans and Others the rate increased 106.7% from 8.7 to 17.9 per 1000 live births. Over the three-year period 1999-2001, 19 White and 19 African-American and Other infants died before age one. By comparison, 19 White and 11 African-American and Other infants died during 1989-91.

[7] Number is an unduplicated count for the entire fiscal year.

Child Injuries and Deaths: Childhood deaths and injuries reflect whether communities are safe for children. In 2001, children in the Dorchester County went to the emergency room 3,162 times because of injuries. Boys are injured more often than girls. Children visit the emergency room at comparable rates for each age from 0 to 17.

In South Carolina, the major causes of death among young children are unintentional injuries, cancer, homicide, and congenital anomalies. Over the three year period 1999-2001, 8 White and 7 African-American and Other children ages 1-14 died in the county. During 1989-91, 23 White and 5 African-American and Other children died.

Immunization: Immunization rates are an important indication of whether young children are receiving adequate preventive health care. During FY 1989-90, 58.6% of children less than two years old seen in public health clinics were not fully immunized against such preventable diseases as Polio, Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Haemophilus Influenza B and Whooping Cough. After a concerted statewide campaign to increase immunizations, the percentage of children seen in public health clinics who were not fully immunized in January 2001 had declined in the county to 17.5%. The DHEC statewide birth registry survey of all two year old children found that 88.1% were fully immunized in 2001. This success demonstrates the potential to improve the status of children when the leadership of the state and its communities act decisively together.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Children and youth are infected with sexually transmitted diseases through sexual abuse or irresponsible sexual activity. National prevalence rates indicate: a 1 in 8 chance that sexually active 15 year-old girls will develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), the most rapidly increasing cause of infertility; 10% of sexually active adolescent girls and boys are infected with chlamydia, the most common cause of PID; and as many as 15% of teen girls are infected with human papilloma virus, often with strains linked to cervical cancer. Furthermore, research evidence indicates that susceptibility to HIV/AIDS increases by 3 to 8 times through prior infection with various STDs.

According to national studies, approximately 1 in 4 sexually experienced youth aged 13-19 acquires a STD ever year; since two-thirds of all high school students have had sexual intercourse and half engage in intercourse over a three month period, this would suggest that 10-15% of teens are infected with STDs annually. For 2000, this would indicate that an estimated 1,068 to 1,602 youth ages 13-19 in the county were infected with a STD. Many infections are either not identified for treatment or not reported. In the county, there were 4 reported cases of children under age 15 and 42 youth ages 15 - 19 infected with gonorrhea; 4 youth under 15 and 70 ages 15 - 19 were reported infected with chlamydia. Youth with undiagnosed and untreated STDs often spread their infections.

Healthy Lifestyles: Although no county data is available, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2001 found that many high school students are not following good health habits. The YRBS revealed that 26% felt that they were overweight; 42% were trying to lose weight: 27% of boys and 57% of girls. Although during a week 79% of high school students ate fruit, 59% ate salad, and over 83% ate vegetables, only 17% ate the recommended five or more servings of fruit and vegetables per day. During a week, 49% did stretching or muscle strengthening exercises, and 59% exercised three or more times for 20 minutes in sports that made them sweat or breathe hard. However, 11% of students engaged in no vigorous or moderate activity at all during a week: 8% of boys and 13% of girls.

Tobacco Use:* Cigarette smoking starts at a young age and often becomes habitual. In the county during 2002 among all students 15 and older, 15.1% first smoked by age 11, 36.2% by age 13, and 49.5% by age 15. In a typical month, 15.8% of 7th and 8th graders and 23.2% of high school students smoked cigarettes. White youths were much more likely than African-Americans to smoke: 20.1% of White male and 23.4% of White female 7th to 12th graders used cigarettes, as compared with 18.9% of African-American males and 10.0% of African American females. A smaller but significant group of high school students (3.4%) used smokeless tobacco monthly; it was used primarily by White males (8.8% compared with 0.3% of all other race and sex groups).

* County participation in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking was not complete but county data is presented to provide the best available picture of teen risk-taking attitudes and behavior in Dorchester County. One of 2 districts participated (District 2).

Disabilities: No data are collected on the true prevalence of disabilities within the county. According to national reported estimates, over 10% of children and youth have developmental disabilities at any point in time, and more than 17 are affected at some time before age 18 by deafness, blindness, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, speech defects, development delays, learning disabilities, and emotional or behavioral problems. For 2000 this suggests that at least 2,784 children ar youth under age 18 in the county are currently affected by disabilities.

Approximately 5% of children and youth nationally have serious disabilities which have lifelong implications f work, social life and community living. Typically among children and youth, there are 1 - 2% who are mentally retarded, - 3% with serious emotional disturbances, over 1% with orthopedic or multiple disabilities, including cerebral palsy an many hereditary conditions, and under 1% with visual or hearing impairments.

Other chronic health problems also affect the lives of many children. Over 3% of children have one or more these limitations. Such serious chronic conditions affect 1 - 2% who have respiratory problems (asthma and chron bronchitis), 0.5 - 1.0% with neurological problems (epilepsy and seizures), and less than 1% with circulatory problen (congenital heart defects and acquired diseases).

Other disabilities are identified primarily in school performance. These would include 1,097 students in grades 12 with learning disabilities and 468 students in grades 1-12 with speech/language deficits.

Disabilities are caused by genetics, disease, poor prenatal conditions, injuries, and environmental factors. For example, lead exposure, primarily from paint dust, was detected in over 1% of all children screened, including 8 in Dorchester County.

Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: While over 20% of 9-17 year olds meet diagnostic criteria for some form of mental disorder, the number with serious emotional disturbance and impaired functioning in family, school, or community activities is: 9-13% for substantial functional impairment and 5-9% for extreme functional impairment. The rates among poor children are at the higher end of these ranges. Based on a federal formula for estimating prevalence, in the county there are 12% or 1,829 seriously emotionally disturbed 9-17 year olds with substantial functional impairment and 8% or 1,219 with extreme functional impairment during the course of a year. Conduct disorders, attention deficit, depression, and anxiety disorders are the most prevalent, each affecting 3% or more of school-aged children. These disorders may occur simultaneously in a child. The prevalence rates are highest among males, adolescents, and disadvantaged persons in communities under stress and lacking social cohesion; depression, however, is more prevalent among females. On the YRBS, 20% of boys and 33% of girls in high school reported that during the past year they felt so sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that they stopped doing some usual activities. Another indicator of emotional problems is the 8% of high school students in South Carolina who reported that they had "attempted suicide" in the past year: 5% of boys and 10% of girls. Suicide attempts resulted in 4% of high school students reporting that they required treatment by a doctor or nurse for injury, poisoning, or overdose.

Inadequate Healthcare: No county level data is routinely collected regarding the number of children and youth with inadequate healthcare. According to estimates for 2000-02 by the Bureau of the Census through the annual Current Population Survey, the statewide average rate of uninsured children and youth under age 18 in families with incomes under 200% of poverty in South Carolina was 16.6%, and 9.9% above 200% of poverty. If these rates are applied to the county, there are 1,475 children in the county below 200% of poverty with no health insurance, and 1,882 children above 200% of poverty with no health insurance, for a total of 3,358 uninsured children in Dorchester County. The number lacking basic accessible primary care is at least double the number lacking insurance. Those lacking primary care are often dependent on health services at school. The ratio of students to nurses recommended nationally is 750:1. In the county, this would suggest the need for 25 nurses, compared with 18 currently working in the schools.

Medicaid: For several years, the State of South Carolina has emphasized enrolling eligible children into Medicaid. In late 1997, South Carolina implemented its version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, Partners for Healthy Children (PHC), and aggressively pursued outreach enrollment for PHC and Medicaid. As a result, enrollment of children ages 0 through 18 in Dorchester County has increased by 70.1% from June 1997 to June 2001; thus Medicaid and PHC were serving 31.9% of all children in that age range. The total Medicaid expenditures in South Carolina for services provided to children ages 0 through 18 for state fiscal year 2002 were $991 million, at an average statewide expenditure of $2,343 per child enrolled, approximate Medicaid expenditure for children in the county would be $20.8 million.

In June 2001, the total number of Dorchester County children, birth through 18, enrolled in Medicaid was 8,879. The total can be broken down into the following age and race groupings:

	White	African American	Hispanic	Other	Total
Children under 1	339	259	9	23	630
Children 1 - 5	1,219	1,167	21	97	2,504
Children 6 - 14	1,739	2,315	25	184	4,263
Children 15 - 18	595	837	7	43	1,482
Total	3,892	4,578	62	347	8,879

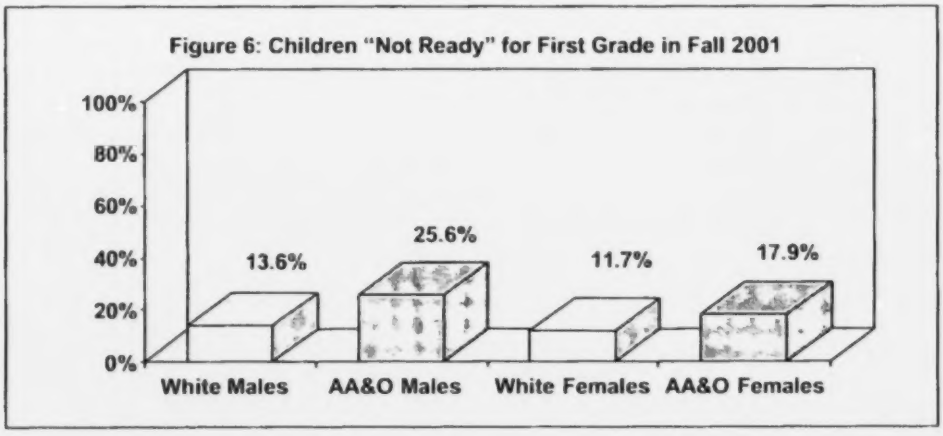
Ambulatory Care: When children lack adequate primary care, whether through lack of insurance, through limite access, or through failing to utilize available care, preventable and treatable conditions become serious and requi hospitalization. A useful indicator of inadequate primary care is the percentage of all hospitalizations that could typicall have been avoided through ambulatory care, especially for pneumonia, asthma, diarrhea and vomiting, dehydration, a severe ear, nose, and throat infections. The share of hospitalizations for these types of conditions could normally be ke below 20%; for children in the county under the age of 18 during 2001, the share was 20.5% for Whites and 24.8% f African-Americans and Others.

READINESS AND EARLY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Too many children reach school without the readiness skills needed for success in learning, such as language, soci skills, visual and auditory discrimination, memory recall, and knowledge of colors, letters, numbers, names of objects, et Likewise, some schools are not ready to respond appropriately to the varying developmental levels of children in the ear grades. As a result, too many students do not experience the success needed to create the motivation and engagement th sustain learning.

1st Grade "Readiness" on 2001-02 Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB):

205 children not ready 15.8% children not ready



1st Grade Failures in 2002:

54 children failing 3.9% children failing

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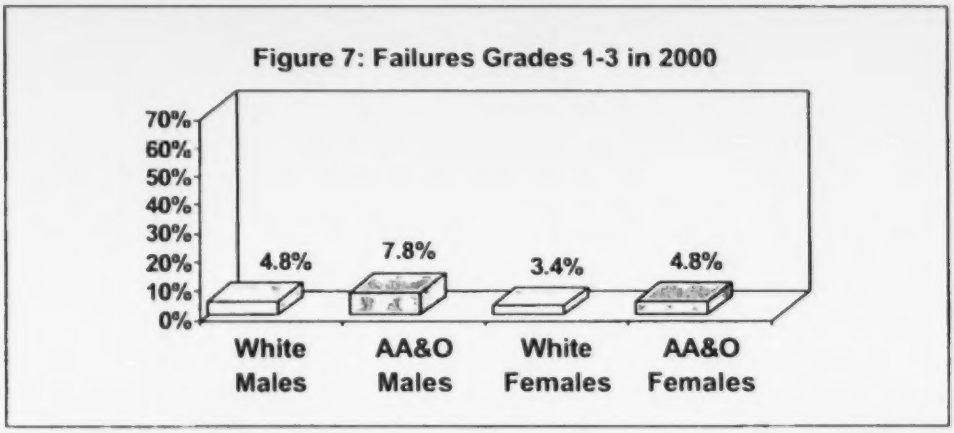
Failures Grades 1-3 in 2002 (approximate cumulative percentage of grades one, two and three):	
101 children failing	7.1% children failing



Over-age for Grade 3 in 2001	
130 children over-age	9.8% children over-age

Special Education: Large numbers of children are placed in special education classes. In elementary school, 359 six and seven year olds and 323 eight and nine year-olds were enrolled in special education classes during 2001-02, approximately 13.5% and 11.1% of their age groups respectively: 10.2% of White 8 – 9 year olds were in special education and 12.5% of African American and Others.

Readiness Summary: A serious problem exists in terms of student readiness and school success in the early grades. With 15.8% assessed not ready for the 1st grade, 9.8% over age in grade 3, and 11.1% of eight and nine year-olds placed in special education, unacceptably large numbers of students still begin school without good prospects of success in future school achievement and graduation; however, great improvement has occurred since the mid 1990s.

SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

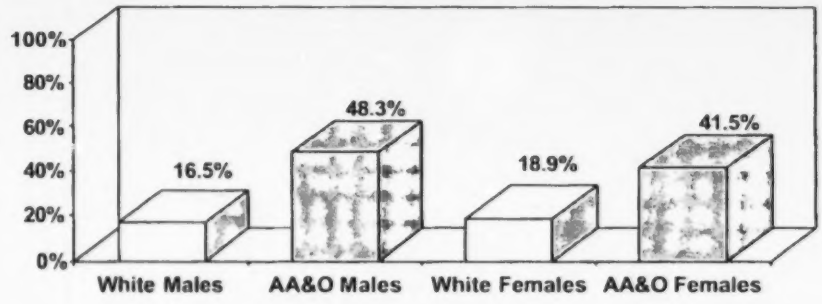
By the end of elementary school, significant numbers of students perform below minimum standards. The following standardized test measures, comparing student performance to state minimum standards, should be used in combination with routine classroom assessments more reflective of real-world performance skills.

Special Education: Special education placements reflect both the significant number of children with serious handicapping conditions and a large number of students with mild learning and behavioral problems that have not been accommodated successfully by the regular educational program. The result is a large system of self-contained, resource, and itinerant services to meet the needs of 468 speech and language impaired, 1,097 learning disabled, 132 emotionally disabled, 370 mentally impaired, and 233 physically handicapped, deaf, blind, and other handicapped students. Special education classes served approximately 12.0% of all students in grades 1 - 12 during 2001-2002.

Exit Exam - not passing all parts of Exit Exam on first attempt in the 10th grade in 2002

339 students did not pass all parts — 26.8% of students did not pass all parts

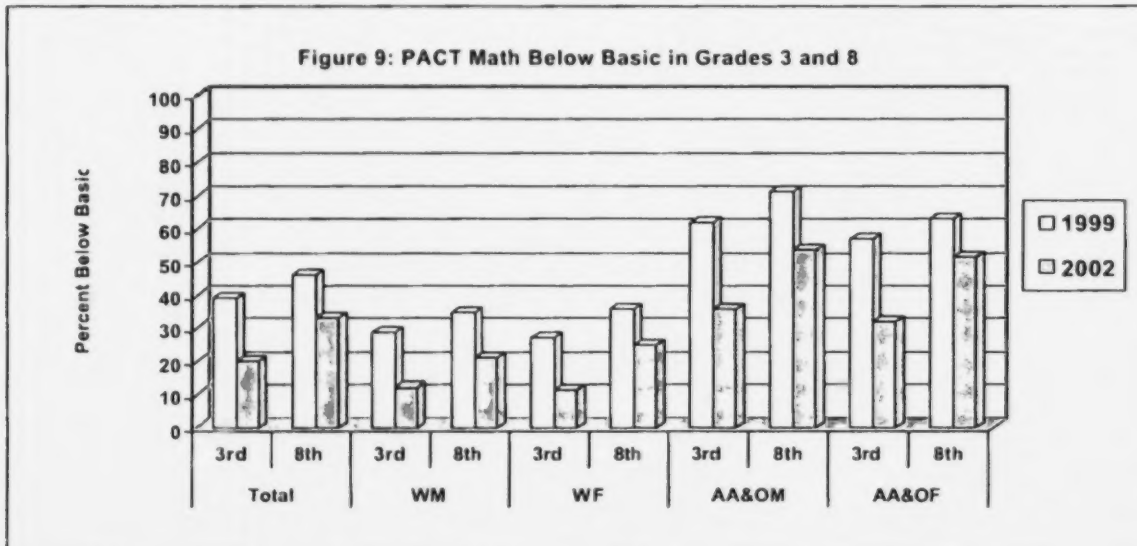
Figure 8: 10th Grade Students Not Passing All Parts of High School Exit Exam in 2000



Achievement Trends: How has performance on standardized achievement tests changed over the past 20 years? During the 1980s, student performance on the BSAP tests improved dramatically. Between 1981 and 1990, the percentage of 8th grade students in Dorchester County who did not meet standards declined from 52.8% to 21.3% in math and from 42.6% to 19.7% in reading. During the 1990's the BSAP trend changed, with 36.9% not meeting 8th grade math standards in 1998 and 28.1% in reading. On standardized tests, the first year when South Carolina students take the exam is comparable to the challenge encountered by the national norm group which took the test only once. Looking at first year data, the percentage of 4th grade students at or below the 25th percentile of national norms was 17.7% in 1983 on the CTBS, 24.8% in 1990 on the Stanford, and 26.4% in 1995 on the Metropolitan; for 9th graders, the percentage in the bottom quarter was 25.6% in 1990 and 19.1% in 1995. Although not comparable, the percent below basic on the 4th grade PACT in 1999, the first year of administration, was 33.1%, but in 2002 20.5% of 4th graders were below basic in reading and math; the percentage of 8th graders below basic in reading and math averaged 38.2% in 1999 and 29.0% in 2002.

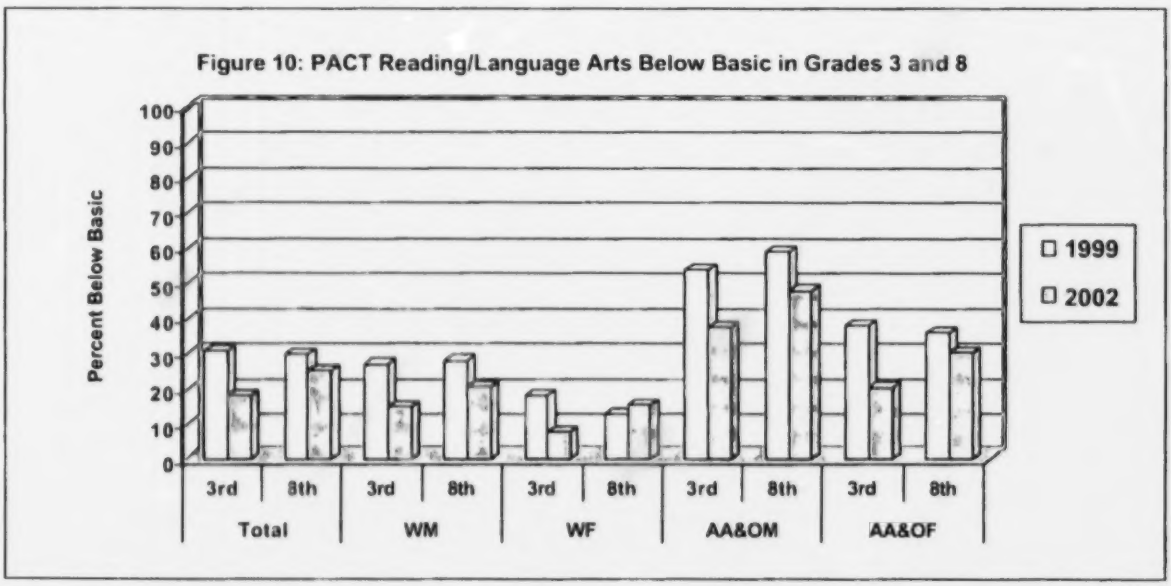
PACT: The Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) was first administered in 1999 for grades 3 - 8 in math and reading/language arts. Math assesses skills in numbers, numerical and algebraic concepts, patterns and functions, geometry, measurement, probability and statistics. The percentage of students scoring below basic in math has decreased by 34.6% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 1,394 students below basic in grades 3-8 but there would have been an additional 736 at 1999 performance rates.

Figure 9: PACT Math Below Basic in Grades 3 and 8



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
		Math (%)				
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	20.0	12.1	11.4	36.1	32.1
	4	21.0	14.9	13.3	34.5	30.8
	5	25.7	19.3	15.6	43.8	36.5
	6	24.4	16.8	16.0	38.2	38.6
	7	30.6	19.0	22.0	48.0	46.3
	8	33.0	21.4	25.0	53.8	51.5
Basic	3	41.9	38.6	44.3	42.7	43.7
	4	41.3	33.7	39.6	52.5	46.2
	5	44.0	41.1	44.9	41.2	51.1
	6	42.5	37.4	43.9	44.0	47.9
	7	36.0	34.3	38.8	33.2	37.5
	8	45.7	48.1	50.2	38.5	38.9
Proficient	3	22.5	24.9	28.6	14.5	16.3
	4	22.5	28.7	28.1	8.8	16.2
	5	19.2	25.0	23.6	11.4	8.6
	6	21.3	26.5	26.3	13.8	11.0
	7	17.4	22.2	21.6	11.2	8.5
	8	13.8	18.2	16.9	4.6	7.9
Advanced	3	15.6	24.4	15.6	6.6	7.9
	4	15.1	22.6	19.0	4.2	6.7
	5	11.1	14.6	16.0	3.7	3.8
	6	11.7	19.3	13.8	4.0	2.5
	7	16.0	24.5	17.6	7.6	7.7
	8	7.6	12.3	7.9	3.1	1.7

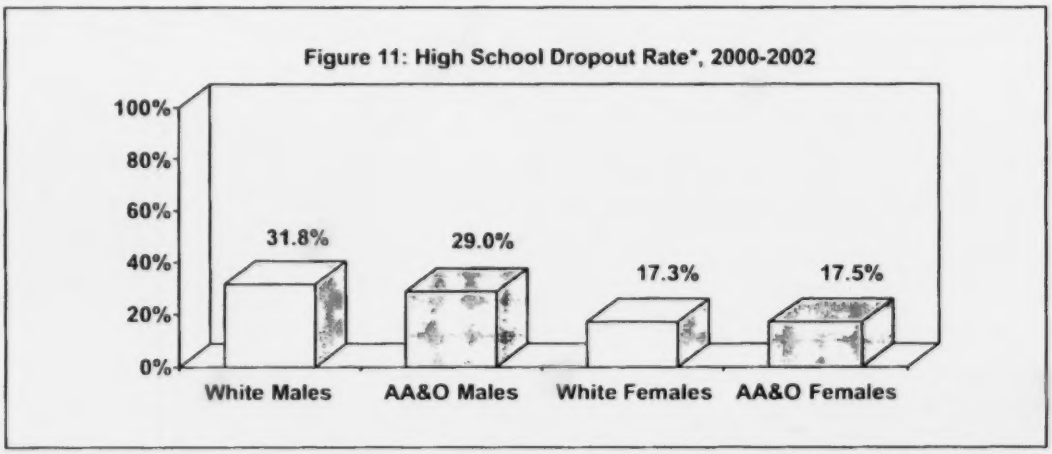
Reading/Language Arts assesses reading, listening, speaking, writing, research, and communication with technology. The first PACT assessment found a high percentage of elementary and middle grades students performing below standards and only a modest number above basic. The percentage of students scoring below basic in reading/language arts has decreased by 31.2% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 1,145 students below basic in grades 3 - 8 but there would have been an additional 519 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
		Reading/Language Arts (%)				
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	17.8	14.9	7.7	37.6	20.3
	4	20.1	20.3	11.5	35.4	18.9
	5	25.2	22.9	11.2	49.6	27.4
	6	27.7	23.8	15.6	48.5	33.9
	7	22.5	18.4	8.6	42.1	31.0
	8	25.1	20.5	15.5	48.1	30.1
Basic	3	34.7	31.1	28.1	37.2	48.6
	4	45.8	41.1	41.3	50.8	56.7
	5	49.1	49.1	49.8	40.8	56.4
	6	38.0	41.4	34.1	34.7	42.8
	7	48.8	51.7	45.7	44.7	53.3
	8	45.7	49.1	45.8	40.4	44.1
Proficient	3	42.8	48.6	56.8	24.3	28.3
	4	32.3	37.2	43.6	13.5	23.6
	5	24.4	26.2	36.8	9.6	15.8
	6	27.1	26.8	37.2	15.7	21.6
	7	25.2	27.2	38.8	12.5	13.5
	8	24.7	26.4	31.0	11.2	22.7
Advanced	3	4.7	5.4	7.4	0.9	2.8
	4	1.8	1.4	3.7	0.4	0.8
	5	1.3	1.7	2.3	0.0	0.4
	6	7.2	8.0	13.1	1.1	1.7
	7	3.4	2.7	6.9	0.7	2.2
	8	4.5	4.0	7.7	0.4	3.1

Dropout Rate - 8th grade students no longer enrolled in grade 12
(average of students for the three years ending 2000-2002)

378 students drop out annually **24.4% students drop out***



Dropouts: Distressing numbers of students drop out and fail to graduate. An average of 29.5% of 8th graders failed to graduate** from county schools five years later during the period 1980-84, 31.3% during 1985-89, and 27.2% during 1990-94, 28.2% during 1995-97 and 34.0% during 1998-2000***.

During 2001-02, 98.3% of all who did graduate received the State High School Diploma, while the remaining 1.7% received a State Certificate for meeting the required Carnegie units but not passing the Exit Exam.

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* 12th grade enrollment compared to 8th grade enrollment four years earlier

** This is calculated by using 8th grade enrollment to graduation data.

*** 2001 data will be available soon and will be posted on the website.

Fortunately, many dropouts enroll in adult education programs and either earn a high school diploma or obtain a GED. During 2001-02, 0 Adult Education high school diplomas were awarded to school completers and in 2001 203 GEDs were awarded in the county. Over time, adult education high school diplomas and GEDs increase the effective school completion rate substantially. In the 2000 Census, 12.3% of county resident 25 - 34 year-olds said they had not completed either high school or a GED.

Achievement Summary: The numbers of students testing below basic on the PACT and dropping out range from 17.8% to 38.6%. Thus, far too many students fail to acquire the knowledge, skills, learning habits, and motivation necessary to compete in the economy or contribute to society in the 21st Century.

ADOLESCENT RISK BEHAVIORS

Academic achievement is greatly influenced by the prevailing youth culture which often promotes popularity with peers and partying rather than studying and doing well in school. The prevalence of adolescent risk-taking and under-achievement is illustrated by the poor grades of substance-abusing teens.

Substance Abuser Rates at Levels of Academic Performance

	Usual School Grades in Past Year					Total
	A Range	B Range	C Range	D Range	F Range	
Smoked Cigarettes (in past 30 days)	9.8%	20.5%	27.2%	43.3%	73.6%	23.1%
Drank 5 or More Drinks on One Occasion (in past 30 days)	9.7%	18.4%	20.5%	23.7%	46.8%	18.4%
Used Any Illicit Drug (in past 30 days)	11.1%	18.6%	24.8%	30.4%	46.8%	20.6%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

As influence from parents and other adults declines during adolescence, significant numbers of students engage in violence, crime, school offenses, depressive emotions and attempted suicide:

Risk Behaviors Participated in During Past 12 Months	White Male		White Female		African American Male		African American Female		Total		Total (Grade 7-12)
	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	
Carried a handgun or knife for self-defense?	19.2%	22.2%	5.7%	6.4%	12.2%	19.6%	2.9%	8.0%	11.2%	14.2%	12.7%
Carried a handgun or knife as a weapon?	5.5%	7.4%	1.6%	1.2%	7.1%	12.5%	2.5%	3.7%	4.0%	5.4%	4.7%
Been in a fight with someone?	41.5%	34.2%	20.5%	16.0%	43.0%	39.6%	29.4%	26.4%	32.7%	27.4%	30.1%
Hit your boyfriend or girlfriend?	1.5%	2.2%	7.1%	9.4%	3.0%	5.2%	13.4%	22.9%	5.2%	8.0%	6.6%
Been hit by your boyfriend or girlfriend?	6.7%	6.3%	5.6%	8.7%	10.6%	9.8%	8.1%	7.4%	7.1%	7.8%	7.4%
Rec'd detention or in-school suspension?	47.4%	33.2%	32.9%	24.3%	52.2%	44.9%	36.3%	32.5%	41.5%	31.5%	36.6%
Been suspended from school?	12.2%	12.8%	3.8%	7.5%	21.5%	24.3%	10.3%	13.6%	10.4%	12.6%	11.5%
Stolen anything worth > $5?	12.8%	17.8%	7.5%	11.9%	15.0%	19.0%	9.6%	9.2%	10.8%	14.6%	12.7%
Had an accident while driving?	NA	13.9%	NA	11.3%	NA	6.2%	NA	7.9%	NA	11.2%	NA
Been arrested and booked?	4.5%	5.3%	1.5%	2.5%	6.0%	11.8%	3.3%	1.9%	3.5%	4.7%	4.1%
Felt hopeless for two weeks or more?	14.7%	14.8%	21.6%	27.4%	10.2%	13.8%	19.5%	26.8%	17.1%	20.9%	19.0%
Seriously considered attempting suicide?	6.5%	9.5%	9.3%	13.9%	4.3%	6.6%	6.3%	10.8%	7.1%	10.9%	9.0%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

Adolescence is often a time of taking risks and asserting independence from adults. When asked whether they would tell an adult about a problem, the following percentages of county students said they would be "not likely" or "very unlikely" to tell if they:

-heard a student threaten to harm someone: 32.7% middle school, 46.6% high school;
-saw a student with a handgun at school: 18.6% middle school, 15.8% high school;
-saw a student with a knife at school: 20.7% middle school, 25.0% high school;
-saw a student with drugs at school: 32.1% middle school, 59.6% high school;

Alcohol Use:* In the county during 2001-02, 19.1% of 7th and 8th graders and 37.9% of high schoolers said they had used alcohol in the past month. Of White males in grades 7 - 12, 31.1% had used it in the past month, compared with 26.9% of African-American males; likewise, 32.0% of White females said they had used alcohol, compared with 24.0% of African-American females. Many youth first used alcohol at an early age: 13.5% had used alcohol by age 11 or younger, 34.0% by age 13, and 64.5% by age 15.

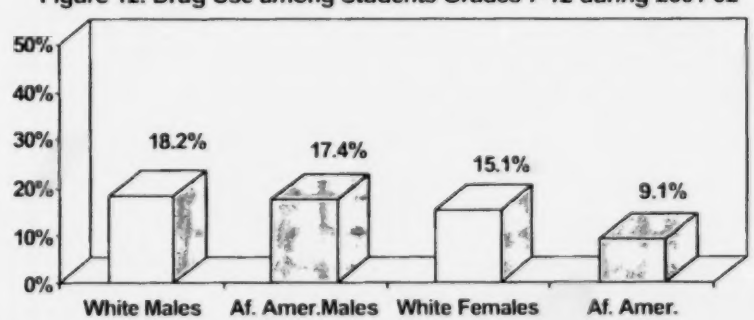
During the previous year, 20.1% of 7th and 8th graders and 28.6% of high schoolers said they had ridden with a drinking driver. Of seniors who drive, 20.8% said they had driven after drinking. Widespread use is encouraged by the ready availability and perceived low risk of alcohol use. Among students who expressed an opinion, 51.3% of eighth graders and 81.9% of seniors felt that beer was easy to get. Also, 74.9% of eighth graders and 73.3% of seniors felt there was not a great risk in drinking two drinks a day, and 48.8% of eighth graders and 54.9% of high schoolers felt there was not a great risk in drinking 5 drinks every weekend.

Heavy Drinking:* In 2001-02, 6.7% of 7th and 8th graders and 18.3% of high school students in the county repor drinking 5 or more drinks in a day during the past month. When asked how many drinks, if any, they usually consur 13.3% of all county students in grades 7 - 12 in 2001-02 responded 3 or more drinks at a time and 6.4% reported usually 5 more drinks. Among high school students, 19.2% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 9.7% 5 or mc Among seniors, 28.1% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 15.4% 5 or more; however 24.1% of seni said that they drank 5 or more drinks in a day once or more during the past month.

Drugs:* In 2001-02, 10.0% of 7th and 8th graders and 20.7% of high schoolers in the county reported using ille drugs during the previous month. Among students in grades 7 - 12, use was reported by 18.2% of White males, 15.1% Wh females, 17.4% of African-American males, and 9.1% of African-American females. Some young people initiated drug u at an early age: 5.1% had experienced their first use by age 11 or sooner; 17.6% had used a drug by age 13, and 37.1% by a 15.

In the past year, 11.9% of all high school students in the county who drive and 17.6% of seniors who drive said that they had driven after using drugs. Such use is encouraged by the ready availability of drugs: 28.1% of 8th graders who had an opinion said it is easy to get marijuana and 9.9% said it is easy to get cocaine or crack; 68.5% of seniors said it is easy to get marijuana and 26.6% said it was easy to get cocaine or crack.

Figure 12: Drug Use among Students Grades 7-12 during 2001-02*



* County participation in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking was not complete but county data is presented to provide the best available picture of teen risk-taking attitudes and behavior in Dorchester County. One of 2 districts participated (District 2).

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Sexual Activity and Pregnancy: Many teenagers now engage in sexual activity. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) administered to a representative sample of high school students throughout South Carolina in 2001 showed that sexual activity begins at an early age: 7% of female and 21% of male students have engaged in intercourse before age 13; by age 15, 38% the females and 49% of males have engaged in sexual intercourse. Statewide, 48% of females and 50% of males in the 11th and 12th grades reported engaging in intercourse during the past three months. Furthermore, 27% of female and 33% of male 12th graders have had intercourse with four or more partners during their lifetimes.

Premature sexual activity often results in pregnancy. In the county, 73 girls between the ages of 14 and 17 became pregnant in 1999, 90 in 2000 and 83 in 2001. This represented 2.7% of all girls ages 14 – 17 in 2001; several times this percentage become pregnant at least once by age 18. The 2001 pregnancy rate for ages 14 - 17 was 2.1% for Whites and 4.0% for African-Americans and Others. Of all pregnancies of 14-17 year olds, 54.2% resulted in live births, with almost all other pregnancies ending in abortions.

Teen pregnancy rates increased substantially across the state during the 1980s; as a result, greater emphasis v devoted to preventing teen pregnancy. Since 1989, the teen pregnancy rate in Dorchester County has decreased by 34.8 Overall, it has decreased by 46.2% for Whites, and decreased by 14.9% for African Americans and Others.

Juvenile Delinquency: In 2001-02, 475 individual juvenile offenders in the county were referred to the Solicitor for delinquency; of these, 11.6% were age 12 or younger, 29.5% were 13 or 14, and 58.9% were 15 or older.

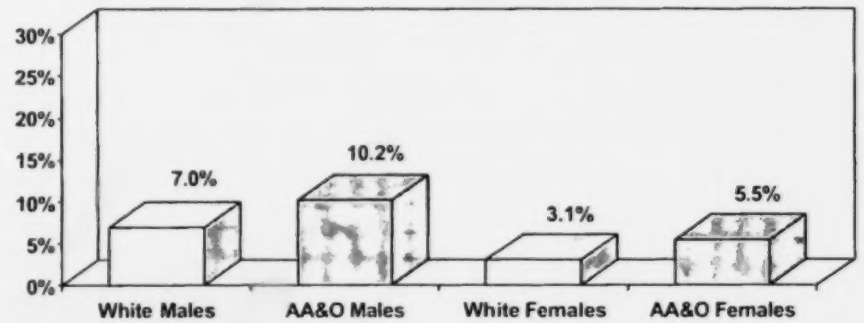
Of the referrals to the family court, 11.5% of all referrals were for violent and serious crimes which include drug trafficking, acts against persons for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and serious property offenses for arson and burglary. Also, 88 juvenile cases constituting 14.4% of all referrals were for status offenses. Status offenses include truancy, running away, incorrigibility, and other offenses that would not be crimes for adults.

Delinquents are likely to live in families with low income: 21.2% lived in families with income under $10,000, 24.0% with $10,000-$19,999 and 54.7% with $20,000 or more. Furthermore, only 24.0% of delinquents lived with both natural parents, while 46.0% lived in a single parent household, 28.5% lived with other relatives, and 1.5% in other situations including parent plus step-parent. Delinquency or criminal activity occurs among many related family members: 33.3% had at least one family member who was delinquent or had some criminal record.

Youth referred to the family courts are likely to have been there before. In 2001-02, 50.1% had at least one prior referral and 16.2% had been referred to court 3 times or more. Many were referred at an early age. For delinquents 15 - 17 years old, 2.2% had been referred by the age of 10, 7.4% by the age of 12, and 23.7% by the age of 14.

During 2001-02, 279 youth ages 15 to 17 were referred to the family courts. In the county, 6.1% of all youth 15 to 17 were referred to court in one year and roughly double that percentage are referred at least once by age 18. Furthermore, the National Youth Survey indicates that typically across the United States the proportion of youth engaging in crime is two or three times the number ever apprehended. In 2001-02, there were 17 juveniles committed from the county to DJJ custody and placed in residential programs.

Figure 13: Percentage of 15 - 17 Year Olds Referred to Court in 2001-02



Not in School or Employed: During 2000, 529 teenagers ages 16-19 were idle, meaning they neither worked any hours nor were enrolled in school, even part-time. Idle teens comprised 9.8% of their age group: 8.9% for White and 11.5% African-American & Other teens. A much larger number, perhaps twice as many, were not engaged in either school full time or work full time. The data reflect a serious failure in both school completion and the critical transition from school to work, significantly affecting their development as future workers. For an in-depth description of the problems of young adults seeking to enter the labor force, visit our website at www.scyoungadults.org for our state and county reports on 18-29 year olds.

Deaths: During 1997-2001, 42 youth ages 15 to 19 died. Historically, automobile accidents have been the major cause, resulting in 17 deaths between 1996 and 2000; homicides killed 4 youth 15 to 19 years old during the five-year period, and 1 youth committed suicide. Alcohol use is often a significant factor in deaths among teenagers.

SUMMARY

Facing the Scope of Problems: The data on families, economic status, health, readiness, school achievement, and adolescent risk behaviors provide a troublesome picture of the condition of children in Dorchester County. The 27.1% of children in single-parent families, 11.9% in poverty, 34.0% not graduating from school, 37.9% of high school students using alcohol and 20.7% using drugs each month, and other data profiled in this report suggest that too many children are at risk of not growing up to become self-supporting adults, good family members, and responsible community citizens.

Emphasizing the Positive: South Carolina Kids Count reports have been developed to describe the problems of children in each of the counties. Fortunately, the majority of children and youth are doing well, and some very well. One simple description is the percentage of children who do not fall into the problem categories reported. For the county, 85.5% of children are born to non-teen mothers ages 20 or older, 62.3% are born to married parents, and 72.9% lived in two-parent families; 88.1% were not poor and 67.6% lived in families with incomes above twice the poverty level for a family of three, $30,040 in 2002; 90.2% of babies were born with normal birthweights; 84.2% were assessed as ready for the first grade, 67.0% scored basic or better on PACT for 8th grade math and 74.9% for 8th grade reading, 73.2% passed all parts of the Exit Exam in the 10th grade, and 66.0% graduated with their class. In a typical month, 62.1% of high school students do not drink alcohol, 79.3% do not use drugs, and 76.8% do not smoke. Unfortunately, the absence of a problem is not always an indicator of success. Some data is available for exemplary performance: for example, 47.5% of 3rd graders and 29.2% of 8th graders scored proficient or advanced on PACT in reading and 38.1% of 3rd graders and 21.4% of 8th graders in math. Unfortunately, data on success is not generally available.

Despite the limitations of success data, we must emphasize the positive in providing good support and appropriate influences for children and youth. Recent philosophy and publications such as those of the Search Institute (700 South Third Street, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN, 55415-1138, tel. 1-800-888-7828, www.search-institute.org), emphasize the critical importance of "developmental assets" to promote and support positive development. One short book from the Search Institute, (What Kids Need to Succeed, by Peter J. Benson, Judy Gailbraith, and Pamela Espeland, 1995) presents an excellent array of suggestions for promoting developmental assets through families, community, faith congregations, and schools. If each family, school, religious congregation and community organization assertively worked to build such assets, the problems described in this report would be reduced dramatically. Such positive family-school-community efforts could improve South Carolina's national Kids Count ranking from the bottom 10 to the average or even into the top 10 by prevention of unnecessary problems affecting children and youth, as shown on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

All data presented in this report is the most recent available at the date it goes to the printer. This version of the Kids Count report will be revised as more recent and additional data become available. Please send us your corrections and suggestions for improvement. We welcome your ideas for ways to make the state and county reports more useful and accurate. Please utilize local data sources whenever possible to supplement the profile provided through our report.

Data related inquiries should be directed to:

Anne Wilson, Data Manager (awilson@drss.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-4810

Calls for **copies of reports** for other counties and inquiries regarding more recent reports should be made to:

Kim Hazel-Lohr, Project Manager (khazel@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-1295

For **policy questions and general comments**, please contact:

Dr. A. Baron Holmes, Project Director (bholmes@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-2291

Comparable reports for all 46 counties and for the state can also be found on the World Wide Web at

www.sckidscount.org

Our website also provides: links to other websites for indicators in our report; high to low rankings for individual indicators; information on how to improve SC's national rank; and a glossary of definitions.

The national Kids Count Report can be found on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website at

www.aecf.org

Dorchester County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Indicators	Most Recent Year	Number					Percent					R	
		1980*	1990*	Most Recent Data	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980 Rank	199
Health													
Low Birth Weight	2001	86	86	121	+40.7%	+40.7%	8.2	5.4	9.8	19.9%	81.7%	17	
White babies	2001	41	48	59	+43.9%	+28.3%	5.7	3.8	6.7	17.5%	75.5%	23	
African American and Other babies	2001	45	40	62	+37.8%	+55.0%	13.7	10.4	17.8	29.9%	71.0%	38	
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	2001	364	532	178	+51.1%	-66.5%	34.6	33.5	14.5	-58.1%	-56.7%	14	
White babies	2001	186	336	97	-47.8%	-71.1%	25.7	27.9	11.0	-57.2%	-60.6%	21	
African American and Other babies	2001	178	196	81	-54.5%	-58.7%	54.1	50.9	23.7	-57.1%	-54.4%	21	
Infant Mortality	2001	45	38	38	-15.6%	+26.7%	14.4	9.6	11.1	-25.5%	68.7%	10	
White babies	2001	19	19	19	+0.0%	+0.0%	8.9	8.5	8.8	-13.1%	38.9%	4	
African American and Other babies	2001	26	11	19	-26.9%	+72.7%	27.1	8.9	18.8	-33.2%	106.7%	36	
Family													
Births to mothers under 18	2001	62	66	45	-27.4%	-31.8%	5.9	4.2	3.7	-37.2%	-10.9%	4	
White babies	2001	31	37	20	-35.5%	-45.9%	4.3	3.1	2.3	-46.4%	-25.1%	11	
African American and Other babies	2001	31	29	25	-19.4%	-13.8%	9.4	7.5	7.2	-24.0%	-4.9%	4	
Births to mothers under 20	2001	168	194	178	+6.0%	-8.2%	16.0	12.2	14.5	-9.2%	18.8%	3	
White babies	2001	103	120	105	+1.9%	+12.5%	14.2	10.0	11.9	-16.5%	19.5%	13	
African American and Other babies	2001	65	74	73	+12.3%	+1.4%	19.8	19.2	20.9	5.9%	8.8%	3	
Births to mothers with less than a high school education	2001	239	289	221	-7.5%	-23.5%	22.7	18.2	18.0	-20.8%	-1.0%	4	
White babies	2001	136	209	156	+14.7%	-25.4%	18.8	17.3	17.7	-5.9%	2.1%	4	
African American and Other babies	2001	103	80	65	-36.9%	-18.8%	31.3	20.8	18.6	-40.5%	-10.4%	15	
Births to single mothers***	2001	151	335	464	+207.3%	+38.5%	14.4	21.1	37.7	162.7%	78.9%	4	
White babies	2001	46	145	240	+421.7%	+65.5%	6.4	12.0	27.2	327.5%	126.0%	21	
African American and Other babies	2001	105	190	224	+113.3%	+17.9%	31.9	49.4	64.2	101.1%	30.1%	1	
Children in single parent families	2000	2,504	4,096	6,771	+170.4%	+65.3%	13.2	18.3	27.1	105.2%	48.0%	2	
White	2000	1,358	2,256	3,397	+150.1%	+50.6%	9.5	13.4	19.6	106.4%	46.3%	17	
African American and Other	2000	1,114	1,767	3,374	+202.9%	+90.9%	22.0	33.2	44.0	99.9%	32.4%	18	
Education													
Not Ready for Grade 1	2001	342	403	205	-40.1%	-49.1%	31.9	26.7	15.8	-50.5%	-40.8%	10	
White males	2001	117	133	59	-49.6%	-55.6%	29.6	23.2	13.6	-54.1%	-41.4%	20	
White females	2001	72	67	47	-34.7%	-29.9%	22.0	14.2	11.7	-46.8%	-17.6%	27	
African American and Other males	2001	84	109	57	-32.1%	-47.7%	47.7	47.6	25.6	-46.3%	-46.2%	7	
African American and Other females	2001	69	93	42	-39.1%	-54.8%	40.1	39.4	17.9	-55.4%	-54.6%	7	
Repeating Grades 1-3	2000	315	245	70	-77.8%	-71.4%	30.2	17.4	4.9	-83.8%	-71.8%	42	
White males	2000	122	74	22	-82.0%	-70.3%	33.2	14.2	4.8	-85.5%	-66.2%	44	
White females	2000	65	42	15	-76.9%	-64.3%	19.1	8.9	3.4	-82.2%	-61.8%	44	
African American and Other males	2000	75	75	19	-74.7%	-74.7%	44.7	35.6	7.8	-82.6%	-78.1%	41	
African American and Other females	2000	51	54	12	-76.5%	-77.8%	31.3	25.2	4.8	-84.7%	-81.0%	42	
Grade 3 Math below standards****	2002	323	192	260	-19.5%	+35.4%	33.1	14.8	20.0	-39.6%	35.1%	8	
White males	2002	86	40	54	-37.2%	+35.0%	24.8	8.9	12.1	-51.2%	36.0%	9	
White females	2002	82	42	43	-47.6%	+2.4%	24.7	9.2	11.4	-53.8%	23.9%	13	
African American and Other males	2002	75	53	82	+9.3%	+54.7%	49.0	25.9	36.1	-26.3%	39.4%	8	
African American and Other females	2002	80	56	81	+1.3%	+44.6%	55.6	29.3	32.1	-42.3%	9.6%	31	
Grade 3 Reading below standards****	2002	211	108	231	+9.5%	+113.9%	21.6	8.3	17.8	-17.6%	114.5%	3	
White males	2002	64	29	66	+3.1%	+127.6%	18.3	6.5	14.9	-18.6%	129.2%	2	
White females	2002	29	16	29	+0.0%	+81.3%	8.8	3.5	7.7	-12.5%	120.0%	2	
African American and Other males	2002	75	35	85	+13.3%	+142.9%	49.3	17.1	37.6	-23.7%	119.9%	11	
African American and Other females	2002	43	28	51	+18.6%	+82.1%	29.9	14.7	20.3	-32.1%	38.1%	4	
Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT Grade 4	1998	174	323	373	+114.4%	+15.5%	17.1	24.8	25.8	45.8%	4.0%	2	
White males	1998	56	106	98	+75.0%	-7.5%	18.0	22.1	19.9	24.4%	-10.0%	4	
White females	1998	30	83	86	+186.7%	+3.6%	8.9	17.7	17.7	98.9%	0.0%	5	
African American and Other males	1998	53	74	102	+92.5%	+37.8%	40.1	44.8	47.4	18.2%	5.8%	5	
African American and Other females	1998	35	60	83	+137.1%	+38.3%	23.2	32.3	37.4	61.2%	15.8%	3	

*Year of data is approximate in many cases.
**1 is best, 46 is worst.
*** Data include paternity acknowledgements.
**** BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Dorchester County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Education (continued)

Indicators	Most Recent Year	Number					Percent				
		1980*	1990*	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres
Grade 8 Math below state standards**	2002	543	227	491	-9.6%	+116.3%	52.8	21.3	33.0	-37.5%	54.9%
White males	2002	110	52	106	-3.6%	+103.8%	32.3	13.2	21.4	-33.7%	62.1%
White females	2002	125	52	126	+0.8%	+142.3%	38.5	15.0	25.0	-35.1%	66.7%
African American and Other males	2002	158	58	141	-10.8%	+143.1%	83.2	37.9	53.8	-35.3%	42.0%
African American and Other females	2002	149	65	118	-20.8%	+81.5%	87.1	38.2	51.5	-40.9%	34.8%
Grade 8 Reading below state standards**	2002	441	209	374	-15.2%	+78.9%	42.6	19.7	25.1	-41.1%	27.4%
White males	2002	77	74	102	+32.5%	+37.8%	22.5	18.9	20.5	-8.9%	8.5%
White females	2002	77	43	78	+1.3%	+81.4%	23.7	12.4	15.5	-34.6%	25.0%
African American and Other males	2002	155	44	125	-19.4%	+184.1%	80.7	28.8	48.1	-40.4%	67.0%
African American and Other females	2002	129	48	69	-46.5%	+43.8%	74.6	28.2	30.1	-59.7%	6.7%
Grade 9 Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT	1998	NA	284	334	NA	+17.6%	NA	25.6	24.4	NA	-4.7%
White males	1998	NA	83	NA	NA	NA	NA	22	14.1	NA	-35.9%
White females	1998	NA	53	NA	NA	NA	NA	13.2	12.4	NA	-6.1%
African American and Other males	1998	NA	74	NA	NA	NA	NA	46.8	52.1	NA	11.3%
African American and Other females	1998	NA	72	NA	NA	NA	NA	42.6	30.4	NA	-28.6%
Exit Exam (not passing all parts on 1st attempt)	2002	385	240	339	-11.9%	+41.3%	38.0	27.7	26.8	-29.5%	-3.2%
White males	2002	108	49	70	-35.2%	+42.9%	29.4	16.4	16.5	-43.9%	0.6%
White females	2002	81	62	77	-4.9%	+24.2%	23.6	19.8	18.9	-19.9%	-4.5%
African American and Other males	2002	100	68	101	+1.0%	+48.5%	64.1	55.3	48.3	-24.6%	-12.7%
African American and Other females	2002	96	60	88	-8.3%	+46.7%	66.2	46.5	41.5	-37.3%	-10.8%
Dropout Rate (8th graders no longer enrolled in 12th grade 4 years later)	2000-02	333	403	378	+13.6%	-6.1%	28.4	32.6	24.4	-14.1%	-25.1%
White males	2000-02	139	184	168	+20.6%	-8.9%	33.3	40.4	31.8	-4.5%	-21.4%
White females	2000-02	90	95	82	-8.5%	-13.3%	23.2	23.6	17.3	-25.4%	-26.8%
African American and Other males	2000-02	64	86	82	+28.6%	-5.0%	34.0	43.8	29.0	-14.6%	-33.8%
African American and Other females	2000-02	41	38	47	+15.2%	+22.8%	22.7	20.7	17.5	-22.8%	-15.2%
Young Adults Not Completing High School (18-24)	2000	2,209	2,461	1,644	-25.6%	-33.2%	30.9	27.7	12.3	-60.1%	-55.4%
White males	NA	724	934	NA	NA	NA	28.2	28.1	NA	NA	NA
White females	NA	600	632	NA	NA	NA	24.0	20.2	NA	NA	NA
African American and Other males	NA	437	479	NA	NA	NA	44.1	38.0	NA	NA	NA
African American and Other females	NA	448	416	NA	NA	NA	40.7	35.0	NA	NA	NA

Economics

Poverty Rate	2000	2,985	3,251	3,268	+9.5%	+0.5%	15.0	13.4	11.9	-20.7%	-11.2%
White children	2000	1,060	1,451	850	-19.8%	-41.4%	7.5	8.2	4.6	-38.7%	-43.9%
African American and Other children	2000	1,873	1,800	2,418	+29.1%	+34.3%	33.7	27.3	26.8	-20.6%	-2.0%
Income of Families w/children (1999 $)	2000	$ 44,654	$ 48,883	$ 56,008	+25.4%	+14.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
White families	2000	$ 48,474	$ 51,874	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
African American and Other families	2000	$ 31,560	$ 37,511	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Adolescent Risk Factors

Teenage Pregnancy (ages 14-17)	2001	109	107	83	-23.9%	-22.4%	4.6	4.4	2.7	-40.8%	-38.6%
White	2001	63	64	44	-30.2%	-31.3%	3.8	3.7	2.1	-45.0%	-43.2%
African American and Other	2001	46	43	39	-15.2%	-9.3%	6.2	6.1	4.0	-35.7%	-34.4%
Delinquency	2002	89	156	279	+213.5%	+78.8%	2.4	3.8	6.1	153.8%	60.3%
White males	2002	44	87	109	+147.7%	+25.3%	3.5	6.1	7.0	100.9%	15.3%
White females	2002	23	33	44	+91.3%	+33.3%	1.8	2.2	3.1	69.8%	38.9%
African American and Other males	2002	12	28	84	+600.0%	+200.0%	2.1	4.7	10.2	387.8%	118.0%
African American and Other females	2002	10	8	42	+320.0%	+425.0%	1.7	1.3	5.5	220.9%	319.6%

*Closest available data to this year was used in many cases.

**BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Kids Count 2003

Edgefield County

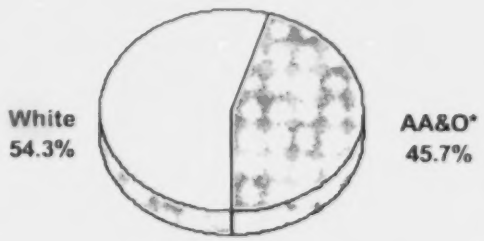
DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2000 there were an estimated 5,931 children under age 18 in the county. Of these, 3,222 were White, 2,563 were African-American, and 146 were other races. There were 5,293 children under age 18 in 1990, 5,681 in 1980, 6,328 in 1970, and 7,177 in 1960.

Children represent a shrinking portion of the county's population. Those under 18 constituted 24.1% of the population in 2000, down from 45.6% in 1960, 40.3% in 1970, and 32.4% in 1980.

In 2000 the 1,791 pre-schoolers under age 6 were 7.3% of the overall population: 7.2% of Whites and 7.2% of African Americans.

Figure 1: Population Ages 0-17 in 2000



* In all charts African-American is combined with other races, and often abbreviated as AA&O. Other races comprise 2.5% of children in the county, with "two or more races" at 1.0% and "some other race alone" at 0.8% as the largest Other groups.

FAMILY

Families have always been the most important influence in a child's life. Children depend on their families for material needs, stimulation and guidance. Family life is different in numerous ways from previous generations, and many families now face exceptional challenges.

Families with children now make up a smaller share of all households. Only 34.8% of all households in 2000, as compared with 48.0% of households in 1960, had children below the age of 18.

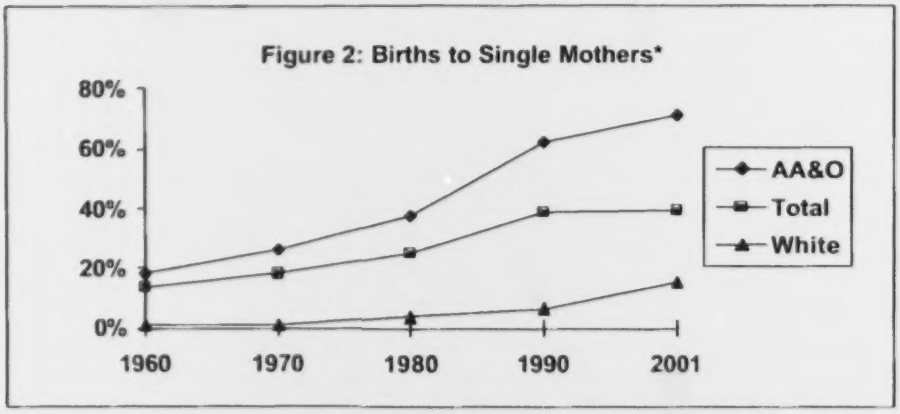
Births to Teen Mothers: In 2001, 6 babies were born to mothers younger than age 18. They were 2.2% of all babies born in the county; 2.5% of all White and 1.7% of all African-American and Other babies were born to teen mothers under the age of 18. Of the babies born to these teens in 2001, 66.7% were born to single mothers, including babies whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers.

In 2001, 39 babies were born to mothers younger than age 20. These babies were 14.0% of all born in the county; 10.7% of all White and 18.5% of all African-American and Other babies were born to mothers under the age of 20. Of the babies born to these mothers in 2001, 71.8% were born to single mothers, including paternity acknowledeged babies.

Education of Mothers Giving Birth: Children's success is strongly influenced by the education of their parents. In 2001, 70 babies, 25.2% of all babies, were born to mothers of all ages who had not completed the 12th grade. In 2001, 23.3% of White and 27.7% of African-American and Other babies were born to mothers who had completed less than the 12th grade. This is a substantial improvement from 60.0% in 1970. In addition, during 2001, 36.7% had completed 12 grades (30.2% of Whites and 45.4% of African Americans and Others) and 38.1% had more than a high school degree (46.5% of Whites and 26.9% of African American and Others).

Births to Single Mothers: Births to single mothers have increased steadily over four decades. In 2001, 95 babies, 34.2% of all babies, were recorded as born to single mothers. A decade earlier in 1990, the percentage was 38.6% and in 1960 it was 13.6%. In 2001, 11.3% of White children and 64.7% of African-American and Other children were born to single mothers. These numbers, however, do not include paternity acknowlegement births.

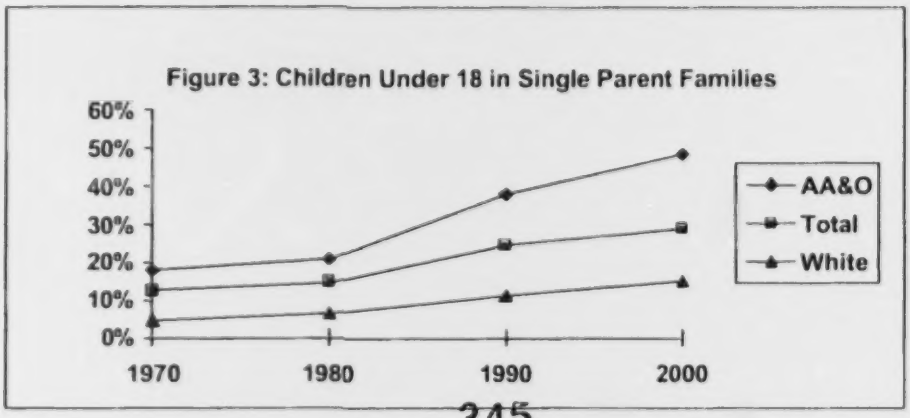
Thus, to these numbers should be added an additional group of 14 babies, 5.0% of all born in 2001, whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers. When the paternity-acknowledged babies are added, the total number born to single mothers in 2001 was 109, constituting 39.2% of all babies, 15.1% of White babies, and 71.4% of African-American and Others.



*Includes paternity acknowleged babies in 1980, 1990 and 2001. Prior to 1979, paternity acknowleged cases were not a statistical category, and thus were included in births to single mothers.

Divorce Rate: In 2001, 256 marriage licenses were issued, while 71 divorce decrees involving 67 children were filed. In 1970, only 14 children were in families involved in divorce.

Single-Parent Family: Increasing numbers of children live in single-parent families. In 2000, 1,474 children lived with only one parent. This was 28.9% of all children, up from 24.8% in 1990, 14.9% in 1980, and 12.6% in 1970. In 2000, 14.9% of White and 48.6% of African-American and Other children lived in single-parent families. Also in 2000, 386 or 26.9% of children under age 6 lived in single parent families: 11.2% of White and 53.6% of African American and Other pre-schoolers.



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Parents Working and Child Care: Increasingly, parents must divide their time between children and employers. In order to meet family financial needs, most parents must work and thus have less time for family life. In 2000, 60.9% of mothers with children under 6 and 66.8% with children 6 - 17 were in the labor force. This has increased substantially from 1960 when 34.4% of mothers with children under 6 were in the labor force. Most fathers also work: 55.4% of children under 6 are in families where the single parent or both parents work. Caring for children is a problem for parents unable to obtain quality, affordable daycare while they are at work.

Overall, there are 535 spaces in state-regulated childcare facilities* in the county, 86.7% of these are in licensed programs and 13.3% are in registered programs. Of the spaces, 80.0% are in licensed childcare centers serving more than 12 children, 12.3% are in registered or licensed family childcare homes serving six or fewer children, 6.7% are in licensed group childcare homes serving 7-12 children, and 0.9% are in registered or licensed church programs.

The homes and centers are severely constrained by the limited ability of parents to pay. In the county, the average weekly charge is $ 70.83 for centers and $ 67.50 for homes. Consequently, center wages are low: 33.3% of centers with pre-school staff and 50% of centers with assistant pre-school staff report paying these staff under $6 per hour. Paying $6-$8 per hour are 50% of centers with pre-school staff and 50% of centers with assistants. Low wages attract workers with limited education. In 33.3% of centers, most pre-school staff and in 100% of centers most assistants have only a high school degree. In 0% of centers few to none of the pre-school staff have early childhood credentials. In childcare homes, 66.7% of lead providers have no more education than a high school degree or GED; 0% have less than a high school degree.

Family Violence: In 2000, 239 domestic assaults were recorded by law enforcement officials. These domestic assaults comprised 37.9% of all assaults, which include aggravated assaults, simple assaults, and intimidation. Overall, 61.9% of all domestic assaults involve spouse abuse which constitutes 23.5% of all assaults. Since most family violence is not reported, the true incidence of family disruption is much more widespread than even the large number of reported cases would indicate.

Separation from Parents: Some children do not live with their natural parents. In 2000, 5.9% of all children did not live with their natural parents. Approximately 255 or 4.3% of all children lived with relatives, 73 or 1.2% lived with non-relatives, 3 or 0.1% were householders or spouses, and 16 or 0.3% were in institutional facilities.

Abuse and Neglect: In 2000-01, there were 66 investigations into reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children. Through its investigations, the Department of Social Services (DSS) determined that 38 of the investigations were indicated for abuse or neglect: 19.0% for physical abuse, 4.8% for sexual abuse, 0.0% for mental injury, 38.1% for physical neglect, 2.4% for educational neglect, 2.4% for medical neglect, 33.3% for threat of harm for physical/sexual abuse, and 0.0% for other types of abuse.

In the indicated cases of abuse and neglect, DSS determined there were 61 children who were victims of abuse or neglect. Of these, 55.7% were male, 44.3% were female; 42.6% were White, 57.4% were African-American and Other. By age, 41.7% were ages 0 - 5, 28.3% were ages 6 - 12, and 30.0% were ages 13 - 17. In the indicated cases, 19.7% of the children lived in two-parent families, 60.7% in single parent families, 19.7% with unmarried couples, and 0.0% in other circumstances.

Out of Home Placements: As of June 2001, 27 children lived in foster care. The median age at first placement in the county is 8.2 years. The ages of children in foster care were 3.7% 0-2, 3.7% 3-5, 14.8% 6-10, 37.0% 11-13, and 40.7% 14 and above. The foster care population is 55.6% males and 44.4% females. Regarding their future, 48.2% were under a plan for placement in adoptive homes, 7.4% for return to a parent or guardian, 0.0% for placement with a relative, 14.8% for independent living, 22.2% for permanent foster care, and 7.4% for other circumstances.

Adult/Child Ratio: A measure of potential adult attention for children from family and community is the ratio of adults to children and youth. In 2000 there were 3.15 adults for every person below age 18. This was up substantially from 1960, when there were only 1.19 adults for every person under the age 18. This indicates that today there are more adults potentially available to provide attention and care for each child than in the past.

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* This data is the best currently available; however, an effort is being made to check the coverage and improve the accuracy. As soon as more recent and complete data becomes available, it will be posted on the website.

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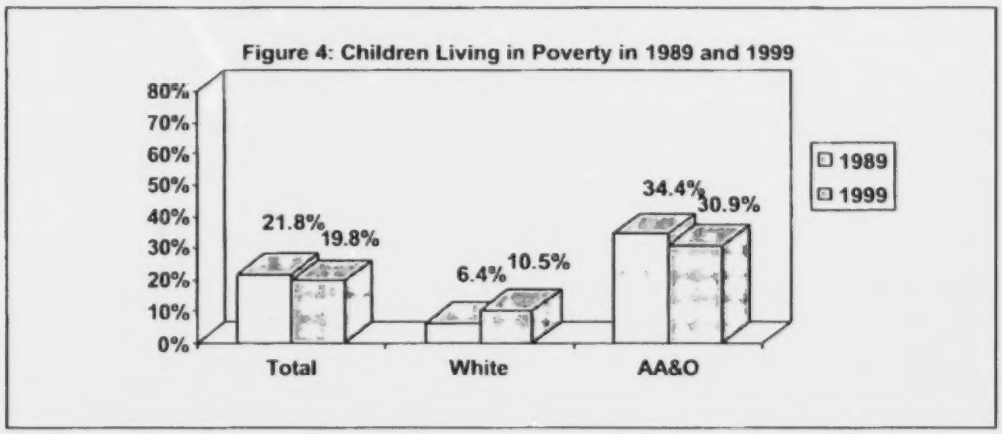
ECONOMIC STATUS

Low income makes it difficult for many families to provide the material and environmental enrichment necessary for healthy child development.

Poverty: In 1999, 1,159 children and youth under the age of 18 lved in 560 families with incomes below poverty, comprising 19.8% of all children and youth: 10.5% of Whites and 30.9% of African-Americans and Others. A rough estimate of child poverty in 2001 calculated by the Census Bureau was 23.0%.



Poverty has always been a serious problem. While the rate among children under age 18 in 1989 was 21.8%, it was 34.6% in 1979 and 42.5% in 1969.

Children and the elderly are the age groups most seriously affected by poverty. In 1999, 21.5% of children 0 - 5 (7.8% White, 40.6% African-American and Other), and 18.6% of children 6 - 17 (11.4% White, 27.2% African-American and Other), lived in poverty; 18.4% of persons 65 years and older lived in poverty. Historically, the poverty rate among the elderly was much higher. During the last three decades, federal policy actions have substantially improved the economic status of older persons but have not done so for children.

Single-parent families are most likely to be poor. In 1999, 41.0% of children in single-parent families lived in poverty, but only 9.7% of children in married-couple families were poor. Children in single-parent families made up 63.0% of all the county's children living in poverty.

In 2002, the poverty level was $15,020 for a family of three and $18,100 for a family of four. The poverty threshold is often criticized as an arbitrary number. People can still be poor but may be just above the poverty level. Federal programs utilize varying thresholds. For example, in 1999 there were 2,893 children ages 0-17 who were less than 200 percent of poverty; thus an additional 1,734 children were above the poverty level but could still be considered poor or near-poor with incomes below $30,040 and $36,200 respectively for 3 and 4 person families.

Children Under 18 in Poverty in 1999

Percent of Poverty	Total		White		African American & Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 50%	644	11.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 100%	1,159	19.8%	335	10.5%	824	30.9%
Under 125%	1,704	29.1%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 150%	2,063	35.2%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 175%	2,536	43.2%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 185%	2,596	44.3%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 200%	2,893	49.3%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total Children	5,931		3,222		2,709	

Note: Missing data will be released by the Census Bureau later in 2003, and will be posted on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

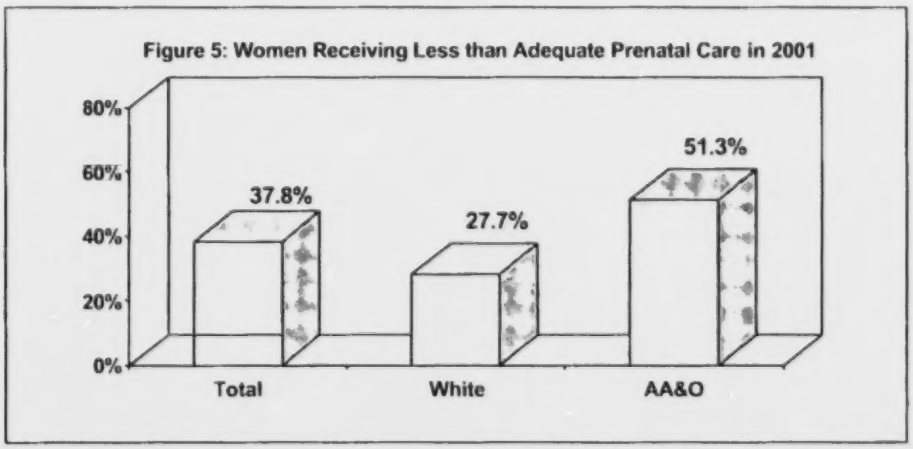
Income: The mean income of families with children in 1999 was $46,319. In 1989 it was $44,588, and 1979, it was $37,458, adjusted for inflation (i.e., in 1999 dollars). The mean income of single-parent families with children was $26,625 for single parents in 1999, as compared with $54,881 in married-couple families with children. From 1999 to 2000, Edgefield County real dollar per capita income (eliminating inflation) decreased by -1.0%.

Child Support Payments: There were 169[?] families receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families in fiscal year 2002, but only 29.0 % had child support court orders. Their average monthly payment of child support was $ 224, including child support receipts and tax refund intercepts. In addition, during fiscal year 2002, an estimated 315 parents in non-TANF families were obligated to pay a monthly average of $ 227. Information is not available regarding the amount actually paid.

HEALTH

Good health during a child's formative years helps children to reach their maximum potential. Good health requires healthy lifestyles and effective primary care, starting during the prenatal period and continuing through adolescence into adulthood. Children's health reflects the well-being of the community, as well as how adequately they are protected.

Prenatal Care: Early and continuous prenatal care can make a significant difference in assuring births of healthy babies. Delayed or insufficient prenatal care is associated with low birthweight and other health risks for infants. In 2001, 63, or 22.7% of pregnant women received no prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy. In 2001, 105, or 37.8% of pregnant women received less than adequate prenatal care: 44 or 27.7% of Whites and 61 or 51.3% of African-Americans and Others. In that same year, women received no prenatal care at all.



Low Birthweight: Low birthweight of less than 5.5 pounds and very low birthweight of less than 3.3 pounds are associated with health risks and growth and development problems. In 2001, 23 or 8.3% of all babies in the county were born with low birthweight: 16.0% of African-American and Other babies and 2.5% of White babies. During 1999-2001, approximately 21 or 2.4% of all babies were born with very low birthweight and had the most serious complications: 0.4% of White babies and 4.7% of African-American and Other babies. The cost of hospitalization for each newborn low birthweight baby in the county in 1999 - 2001 was $10,191 and $15,590 for each very low birthweight baby, compared with $1,639 for a baby of normal birthweight. The result was excess cost in the county of $79,959 for all low birthweight babies, of which $37,201 was for very low birthweight babies.

Infant Mortality: During the decade since 1989-91, the overall infant mortality rate increased by 75.2% from 9.7 to 17.0 per 1000 live births. For Whites, the rate decreased 43.2% from 7.4 to 4.2 per 1000 live births, while for African-Americans and Others the rate increased 178.6% from 11.5 to 32.0 per 1000 live births. Over the three-year period 1999-2001, 2 White and 13 African-American and Other infants died before age one. By comparison, 3 White and 6 African-American and Other infants died during 1989-91.

[?] Number is an unduplicated count for the entire fiscal year.

Child Injuries and Deaths: Childhood deaths and injuries reflect whether communities are safe for children. In 2001, children in the Edgefield County went to the emergency room 476 times because of injuries. Boys are injured more often than girls. Children visit the emergency room at comparable rates for each age from 0 to 17.

In South Carolina, the major causes of death among young children are unintentional injuries, cancer, homicide, and congenital anomalies. Over the three year period 1999-2001, 3 White and 2 African-American and Other children ages 1-14 died in the county. During 1989-91, 3 White and 3 African-American and Other children died.

Immunization: Immunization rates are an important indication of whether young children are receiving adequate preventive health care. During FY 1989-90, 44.1% of children less than two years old seen in public health clinics were not fully immunized against such preventable diseases as Polio, Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Haemophilus Influenza B and Whooping Cough. After a concerted statewide campaign to increase immunizations, the percentage of children seen in public health clinics who were not fully immunized in January 2001 had declined in the county to 6.7%. The DHEC statewide birth registry survey of all two year old children found that 88.1% were fully immunized in 2001. This success demonstrates the potential to improve the status of children when the leadership of the state and its communities act decisively together.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Children and youth are infected with sexually transmitted diseases through sexual abuse or irresponsible sexual activity. National prevalence rates indicate: a 1 in 8 chance that sexually active 15 year-old girls will develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), the most rapidly increasing cause of infertility; 10% of sexually active adolescent girls and boys are infected with chlamydia, the most common cause of PID; and as many as 15% of teen girls are infected with human papilloma virus, often with strains linked to cervical cancer. Furthermore, research evidence indicates that susceptibility to HIV/AIDS increases by 3 to 8 times through prior infection with various STDs.

According to national studies, approximately 1 in 4 sexually experienced youth aged 13-19 acquires a STD eve year; since two-thirds of all high school students have had sexual intercourse and half engage in intercourse over a thr month period, this would suggest that 10-15% of teens are infected with STDs annually. For 2000, this would indicate th an estimated 250 to 375 youth ages 13-19 in the county were infected with a STD. Many infections are either not identifi for treatment or not reported. In the county, there were reported cases of children under age 15 and 11 youth ages 1 19 infected with gonorrhea; 1 youth under 15 and 26 ages 15 - 19 were reported infected with chlamydia. Youth wi undiagnosed and untreated STDs often spread their infections.

Healthy Lifestyles: Although no county data is available, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2001 found that ma high school students are not following good health habits. The YRBS revealed that 26% felt that they were overweight; 42 were trying to lose weight: 27% of boys and 57% of girls. Although during a week 79% of high school students ate fru 59% ate salad, and over 83% ate vegetables, only 17% ate the recommended five or more servings of fruit and vegetabl per day. During a week, 49% did stretching or muscle strengthening exercises, and 59% exercised three or more times f 20 minutes in sports that made them sweat or breathe hard. However, 11% of students engaged in no vigorous or modera activity at all during a week: 8% of boys and 13% of girls.

Tobacco Use:* Cigarette smoking starts at a young age and often becomes habitual. In the county during 2002 among all students 15 and older, 17.4% first smoked by age 11, 38.2% by age 13, and 55.9% by age 15. In a typical month, 20.2% of 7th and 8th graders and 28.5% of high school students smoked cigarettes. White youths were much more likely than African-Americans to smoke: 32.2% of White male and 30.1% of White female 7th to 12th graders used cigarettes, as compared with 28.3% of African-American males and 16.0% of African American females. A smaller but significant group of high school students (9.0%) used smokeless tobacco monthly; it was used primarily by White males (35.5% compared with 1.5% of all other race and sex groups).

* Data is from the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking.

Disabilities: No data are collected on the true prevalence of disabilities within the county. According to national reported estimates, over 10% of children and youth have developmental disabilities at any point in time, and more than 17 are affected at some time before age 18 by deafness, blindness, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, speech defects, development delays, learning disabilities, and emotional or behavioral problems. For 2000 this suggests that at least 593 children ar youth under age 18 in the county are currently affected by disabilities.

Approximately 5% of children and youth nationally have serious disabilities which have lifelong implications fi work, social life and community living. Typically among children and youth, there are 1 - 2% who are mentally retarded, - 3% with serious emotional disturbances, over 1% with orthopedic or multiple disabilities, including cerebral palsy an many hereditary conditions, and under 1% with visual or hearing impairments.

Other chronic health problems also affect the lives of many children. Over 3% of children have one or more these limitations. Such serious chronic conditions affect 1 - 2% who have respiratory problems (asthma and chron bronchitis), 0.5 - 1.0% with neurological problems (epilepsy and seizures), and less than 1% with circulatory problen (congenital heart defects and acquired diseases).

Other disabilities are identified primarily in school performance. These would include 432 students in grades 1- with learning disabilities and 95 students in grades 1-12 with speech/language deficits.

Disabilities are caused by genetics, disease, poor prenatal conditions, injuries, and environmental factors. For example, lead exposure, primarily from paint dust, was detected in over 1% of all children screened, including 7 in Edgefield County.

Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: While over 20% of 9-17 year olds meet diagnostic criteria for some form of mental disorder, the number with serious emotional disturbance and impaired functioning in family, school, or community activities is: 9-13% for substantial functional impairment and 5-9% for extreme functional impairment. The rates among poor children are at the higher end of these ranges. Based on a federal formula for estimating prevalence, in the county there are 12% or 378 seriously emotionally disturbed 9-17 year olds with substantial functional impairment and 8% or 252 with extreme functional impairment during the course of a year. Conduct disorders, attention deficit, depression, and anxiety disorders are the most prevalent, each affecting 3% or more of school-aged children. These disorders may occur simultaneously in a child. The prevalence rates are highest among males, adolescents, and disadvantaged persons in communities under stress and lacking social cohesion; depression, however, is more prevalent among females. On the YRBS, 20% of boys and 33% of girls in high school reported that during the past year they felt so sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that they stopped doing some usual activities. Another indicator of emotional problems is the 8% of high school students in South Carolina who reported that they had "attempted suicide" in the past year: 5% of boys and 10% of girls. Suicide attempts resulted in 4% of high school students reporting that they required treatment by a doctor or nurse for injury, poisoning, or overdose.

Inadequate Healthcare: No county level data is routinely collected regarding the number of children and youth with inadequate healthcare. According to estimates for 2000-02 by the Bureau of the Census through the annual Current Population Survey, the statewide average rate of uninsured children and youth under age 18 in families with incomes under 200% of poverty in South Carolina was 16.6%, and 9.9% above 200% of poverty. If these rates are applied to the county, there are 481 children in the county below 200% of poverty with no health insurance, and 301 children above 200% of poverty with no health insurance, for a total of 782 uninsured children in Edgefield County. The number lacking basic accessible primary care is at least double the number lacking insurance. Those lacking primary care are often dependent on health services at school. The ratio of students to nurses recommended nationally is 750:1. In the county, this would suggest the need for 5 nurses, compared with 7 currently working in the schools.

Medicaid: For several years, the State of South Carolina has emphasized enrolling eligible children into Medicaid. In late 1997, South Carolina implemented its version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, Partners for Healthy Children (PHC), and aggressively pursued outreach enrollment for PHC and Medicaid. As a result, enrollment of children ages 0 through 18 in Edgefield County has increased by 70.0% from June 1997 to June 2001; thus Medicaid and PHC were serving 40.9% of all children in that age range. The total Medicaid expenditures in South Carolina for services provided to children ages 0 through 18 for state fiscal year 2002 were $991 million, at an average statewide expenditure of $2,343 per child enrolled, approximate Medicaid expenditure for children in the county would be $5.7 million.

In June 2001, the total number of Edgefield County children, birth through 18, enrolled in Medicaid was 2,424. The total can be broken down into the following age and race groupings:

	White	African American	Hispanic	Other	Total
Children under 1	60	113	15	7	195
Children 1 - 5	199	457	13	14	683
Children 6 - 14	323	756	7	43	1,129
Children 15 - 18	95	307	5	10	417
Total	677	1,633	40	74	2,424

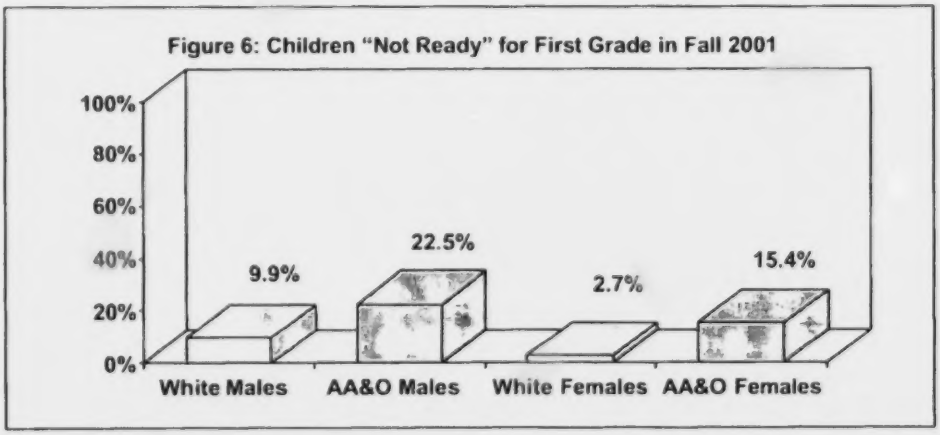
Ambulatory Care: When children lack adequate primary care, whether through lack of insurance, through limite access, or through failing to utilize available care, preventable and treatable conditions become serious and requi hospitalization. A useful indicator of inadequate primary care is the percentage of all hospitalizations that could typicall have been avoided through ambulatory care, especially for pneumonia, asthma, diarrhea and vomiting, dehydration, ar severe ear, nose, and throat infections. The share of hospitalizations for these types of conditions could normally be ke below 20%; for children in the county under the age of 18 during 2001, the share was 35.8% for Whites and 50.0% f African-Americans and Others.

READINESS AND EARLY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Too many children reach school without the readiness skills needed for success in learning, such as language, soci skills, visual and auditory discrimination, memory recall, and knowledge of colors, letters, numbers, names of objects, et Likewise, some schools are not ready to respond appropriately to the varying developmental levels of children in the ear grades. As a result, too many students do not experience the success needed to create the motivation and engagement th sustain learning.

1st Grade "Readiness" on 2001-02 Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB):

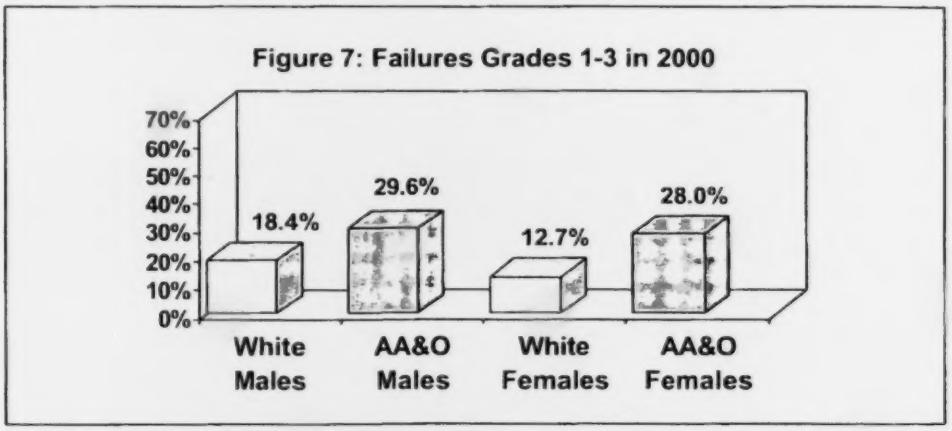
43 children not ready 12.9% children not ready



1st Grade Failures in 2002:

29 children failing 8.5% children failing

Failures Grades 1-3 in 2002 (approximate cumulative percentage of grades one, two and three):	
66 children failing	19.7% children failing



Over-age for Grade 3 in 2001	
80 children over-age	24.5% children over-age

Special Education: Large numbers of children are placed in special education classes. In elementary school, 79 six and seven year olds and 97 eight and nine year-olds were enrolled in special education classes during 2001-02, approximately 12.6% and 14.7% of their age groups respectively: 12.5% of White 8 – 9 year olds were in special education and 16.6% of African American and Others.

Readiness Summary: A serious problem exists in terms of student readiness and school success in the early grades. With 12.9% assessed not ready for the 1st grade, 24.5% over age in grade 3, and 14.7% of eight and nine year-olds placed in special education, unacceptably large numbers of students still begin school without good prospects of success in future school achievement and graduation; however, great improvement has occurred since the mid 1990s.

SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

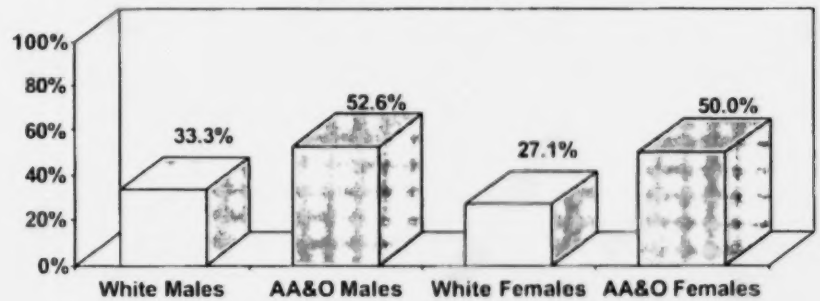
By the end of elementary school, significant numbers of students perform below minimum standards. The following standardized test measures, comparing student performance to state minimum standards, should be used in combination with routine classroom assessments more reflective of real-world performance skills.

Special Education: Special education placements reflect both the significant number of children with serious handicapping conditions and a large number of students with mild learning and behavioral problems that have not been accommodated successfully by the regular educational program. The result is a large system of self-contained, resource, and itinerant services to meet the needs of 95 speech and language impaired, 432 learning disabled, 18 emotionally disabled, 91 mentally impaired, and 12 physically handicapped, deaf, blind, and other handicapped students. Special education classes served approximately 16.5% of all students in grades 1 - 12 during 2001-2002.

Exit Exam - not passing all parts of Exit Exam on first attempt in the 10th grade in 2002

92 students did not pass all parts — 41.6% of students did not pass all parts

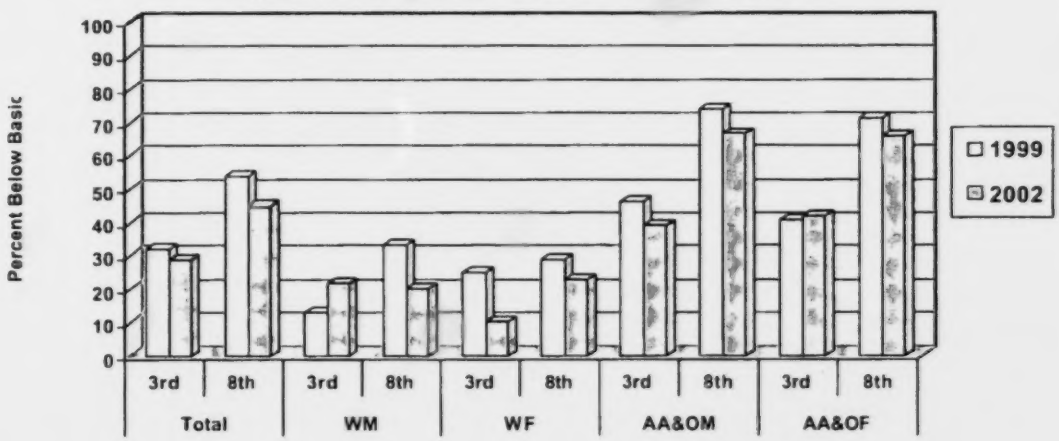
Figure 8: 10th Grade Students Not Passing All Parts of High School Exit Exam in 2000



Achievement Trends: How has performance on standardized achievement tests changed over the past 20 years? During the 1980s, student performance on the BSAP tests improved dramatically. Between 1981 and 1990, the percentage of 8th grade students in Edgefield County who did not meet standards declined from 53.1% to 31.5% in math and from 55.5% to 25% in reading. During the 1990's the BSAP trend changed, with 35.3% not meeting 8th grade math standards in 1998 and 36.9% in reading. On standardized tests, the first year when South Carolina students take the exam is comparable to the challenge encountered by the national norm group which took the test only once. Looking at first year data, the percentage of 4th grade students at or below the 25th percentile of national norms was 26.6% in 1983 on the CTBS, 37.5% in 1990 on the Stanford, and 29.9% in 1995 on the Metropolitan; for 9th graders, the percentage in the bottom quarter was 29.7% in 1990 and 32.5% in 1995. Although not comparable, the percent below basic on the 4th grade PACT in 1999, the first year of administration, was 35.7%, but in 2002 20.6% of 4th graders were below basic in reading and math; the percentage of 8th graders below basic in reading and math averaged 44.0% in 1999 and 37.4% in 2002.

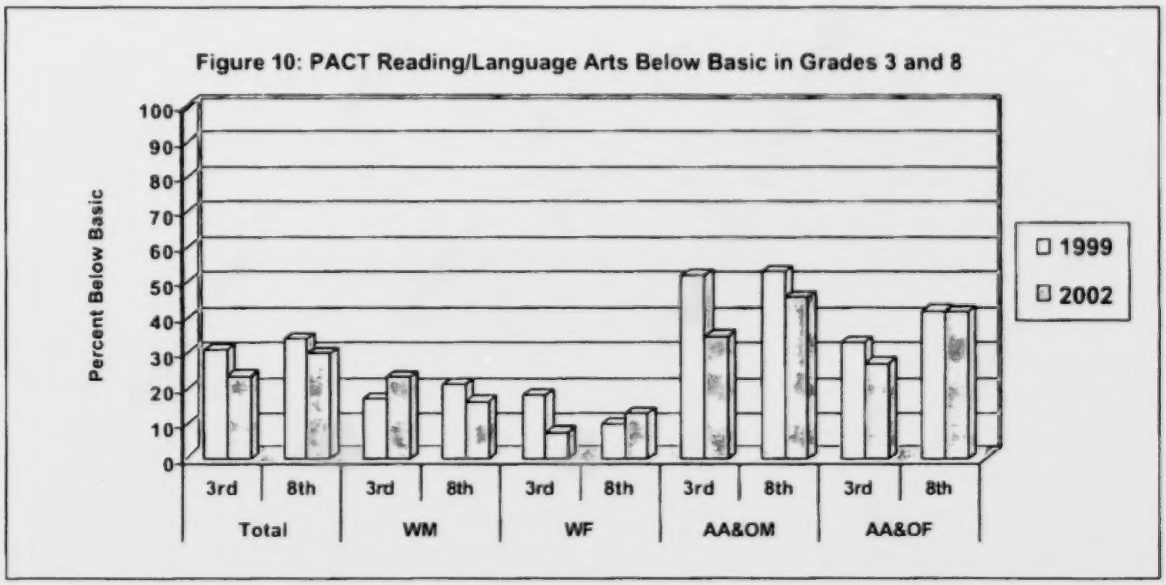
PACT: The Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) was first administered in 1999 for grades 3 - 8 in math and reading/language arts. Math assesses skills in numbers, numerical and algebraic concepts, patterns and functions, geometry, measurement, probability and statistics. The percentage of students scoring below basic in math has decreased by 24.6% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 424 students below basic in grades 3-8 but there would have been an additional 138 at 1999 performance rates.

Figure 9: PACT Math Below Basic in Grades 3 and 8



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
		Math (%)				
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	28.6	21.7	10.1	39.3	41.9
	4	22.6	14.4	11.8	32.9	31.9
	5	27.1	17.3	12.0	48.6	34.8
	6	31.8	19.0	18.8	43.8	41.6
	7	41.3	26.7	22.5	63.6	47.8
	8	44.9	20.3	22.9	66.7	65.8
Basic	3	43.7	46.4	36.7	43.8	48.6
	4	39.6	31.1	35.5	45.9	47.2
	5	48.8	43.9	54.2	40.0	56.2
	6	44.4	46.0	40.6	42.5	48.1
	7	35.6	38.9	42.3	23.2	42.0
	8	42.5	59.5	52.9	29.5	30.4
Proficient	3	14.5	20.3	21.5	11.2	5.4
	4	22.6	26.7	32.9	15.3	15.3
	5	15.3	22.4	24.1	8.6	4.5
	6	15.5	22.2	21.9	12.3	7.8
	7	14.6	20.0	21.1	9.1	8.7
	8	10.0	17.6	17.1	2.6	3.8
Advanced	3	13.2	11.6	31.6	5.6	4.1
	4	15.2	27.8	19.7	5.9	5.6
	5	8.8	16.3	9.6	2.9	4.5
	6	8.3	12.7	18.8	1.4	2.6
	7	8.5	14.4	14.1	4.0	1.4
	8	2.7	2.7	7.1	1.3	0.0

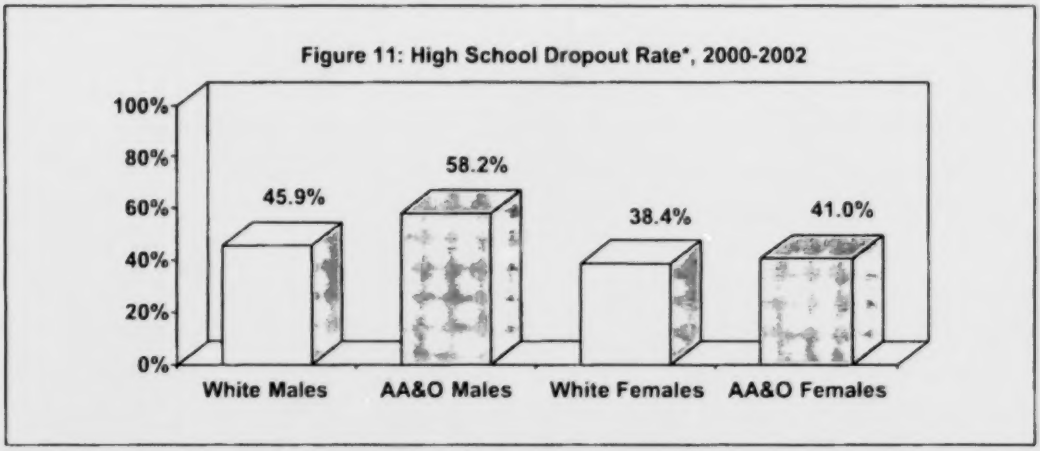
Reading/Language Arts assesses reading, listening, speaking, writing, research, and communication with technology. The first PACT assessment found a high percentage of elementary and middle grades students performing below standards and only a modest number above basic. The percentage of students scoring below basic in reading/language arts has decreased by 30.7% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 331 students below basic in grades 3 - 8 but there would have been an additional 147 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
		Reading/Language Arts (%)				
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	23.5	23.2	7.6	34.8	27.0
	4	18.6	12.2	7.9	32.1	22.2
	5	26.2	21.4	8.4	48.6	30.3
	6	36.5	23.8	23.4	53.4	41.6
	7	26.8	20.0	8.5	46.9	26.1
	8	29.9	16.2	12.9	45.7	41.8
Basic	3	39.2	30.4	19.0	50.6	55.4
	4	44.7	47.8	31.6	48.8	50.0
	5	53.2	52.0	61.4	40.0	57.3
	6	40.1	47.6	34.4	41.1	37.7
	7	49.1	53.3	45.1	41.8	58.0
	8	45.4	54.1	41.4	44.4	41.8
Proficient	3	33.4	42.0	62.0	14.6	17.6
	4	35.7	38.9	57.9	19.0	27.8
	5	20.0	26.5	27.7	11.4	12.4
	6	19.5	27.0	32.8	4.1	16.9
	7	20.7	23.3	39.4	10.2	13.0
	8	20.1	25.7	31.4	8.6	16.5
Advanced	3	3.9	4.3	11.4	0.0	0.0
	4	0.9	1.1	2.6	0.0	0.0
	5	0.6	0.0	2.4	0.0	0.0
	6	4.0	1.6	9.4	1.4	3.9
	7	3.4	3.3	7.0	1.0	2.9
	8	4.6	4.1	14.3	1.2	0.0

Dropout Rate - 8th grade students no longer enrolled in grade 12
(average of students for the three years ending 2000-2002)

152 students drop out annually **46.0% students drop out***



Dropouts: Distressing numbers of students drop out and fail to graduate. An average of 34.3% of 8th graders failed to graduate** from county schools five years later during the period 1980-84, 27.5% during 1985-89, and 29.9% during 1990-94, 34.8% during 1995-97 and 45.1% during 1998-2000***.

During 2001-02, 98.3% of all who did graduate received the State High School Diploma, while the remaining 1.7% received a State Certificate for meeting the required Carnegie units but not passing the Exit Exam.

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* 12th grade enrollment compared to 8th grade enrollment four years earlier

** This is calculated by using 8th grade enrollment to graduation data.

*** 2001 data will be available soon and will be posted on the website.

Fortunately, many dropouts enroll in adult education programs and either earn a high school diploma or obtain a GED. During 2001-02, 4 Adult Education high school diplomas were awarded to school completers and in 2001 16 GEDs were awarded in the county. Over time, adult education high school diplomas and GEDs increase the effective school completion rate substantially. In the 2000 Census, 22.3% of county resident 25 - 34 year-olds said they had not completed either high school or a GED.

Achievement Summary: The numbers of students testing below basic on the PACT and dropping out range from 18.6% to 46.0%. Thus, far too many students fail to acquire the knowledge, skills, learning habits, and motivation necessary to compete in the economy or contribute to society in the 21st Century.

ADOLESCENT RISK BEHAVIORS

Academic achievement is greatly influenced by the prevailing youth culture which often promotes popularity with peers and partying rather than studying and doing well in school. The prevalence of adolescent risk-taking and under-achievement is illustrated by the poor grades of substance-abusing teens.

Substance Abuser Rates at Levels of Academic Performance

	Usual School Grades in Past Year					
	A Range	B Range	C Range	D Range	F Range	Total
Smoked Cigarettes (in past 30 days)	19.0%	23.1%	34.8%	43.5%	38.3%	28.7%
Drank 5 or More Drinks on One Occasion (in past 30 days)	11.2%	17.8%	26.6%	20.6%	32.4%	21.1%
Used Any Illicit Drug (in past 30 days)	7.6%	18.3%	25.9%	28.7%	32.4%	20.9%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

As influence from parents and other adults declines during adolescence, significant numbers of students engage in violence, crime, school offenses, depressive emotions and attempted suicide:

Risk Behaviors Participated in During Past 12 Months	White Male		White Female		African American Male		African American Female		Total		Total (Grade 7-12)
	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	
Carried a handgun or knife for self-defense?	19.7%	32.8%	2.8%	4.1%	14.0%	21.2%	2.0%	5.4%	9.7%	14.9%	12.6%
Carried a handgun or knife as a weapon?	7.2%	12.9%	NA%	0.6%	8.9%	18.9%	2.5%	2.2%	0.0%	8.0%	4.5%
Been in a fight with someone?	45.3%	29.9%	9.3%	13.1%	35.3%	26.6%	20.1%	22.9%	27.7%	22.9%	25.0%
Hit your boyfriend or girlfriend?	1.0%	0.7%	5.1%	10.1%	6.3%	4.9%	17.3%	26.5%	7.4%	11.8%	9.9%
Been hit by your boyfriend or girlfriend?	7.0%	5.6%	4.6%	12.0%	11.8%	11.5%	6.7%	11.7%	7.6%	10.4%	9.2%
Rec'd detention or in-school suspension?	57.4%	38.6%	31.1%	20.8%	54.3%	45.4%	43.3%	35.2%	46.7%	34.8%	40.0%
Been suspended from school?	10.5%	6.5%	2.9%	2.6%	23.9%	13.9%	9.8%	13.3%	12.0%	9.4%	10.5%
Stolen anything worth > $5?	9.9%	20.2%	3.6%	13.2%	13.6%	16.2%	5.0%	4.7%	8.1%	12.8%	10.8%
Had an accident while driving?	NA	17.7%	NA	12.0%	NA	9.7%	NA	4.3%	NA	10.7%	NA
Been arrested and booked?	3.6%	7.8%	0.6%	3.3%	5.0%	7.9%	1.5%	2.4%	2.7%	5.1%	4.1%
Felt hopeless for two weeks or more?	11.9%	17.1%	17.6%	35.4%	12.2%	11.0%	16.5%	27.7%	14.6%	23.4%	19.6%
Seriously considered attempting suicide?	3.3%	5.8%	6.3%	17.6%	4.5%	6.3%	4.9%	10.7%	4.7%	10.3%	7.9%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

Adolescence is often a time of taking risks and asserting independence from adults. When asked whether they would tell an adult about a problem, the following percentages of county students said they would be "not likely" or "very unlikely" to tell if they:

-heard a student threaten to harm someone: 33.6% middle school, 44.7% high school;
-saw a student with a handgun at school: 26.4% middle school, 19.9% high school;
-saw a student with a knife at school: 27.2% middle school, 31.5% high school;
-saw a student with drugs at school: 34.8% middle school, 59.5% high school;

Alcohol Use:* In the county during 2001-02, 22.3% of 7th and 8th graders and 42.1% of high schoolers said they had used alcohol in the past month. Of White males in grades 7 - 12, 40.1% had used it in the past month, compared with 31.4% of African-American males; likewise, 38.9% of White females said they had used alcohol, compared with 31.1% of African-American females. Many youth first used alcohol at an early age: 14.1% had used alcohol by age 11 or younger, 33.5% by age 13, and 63.7% by age 15.

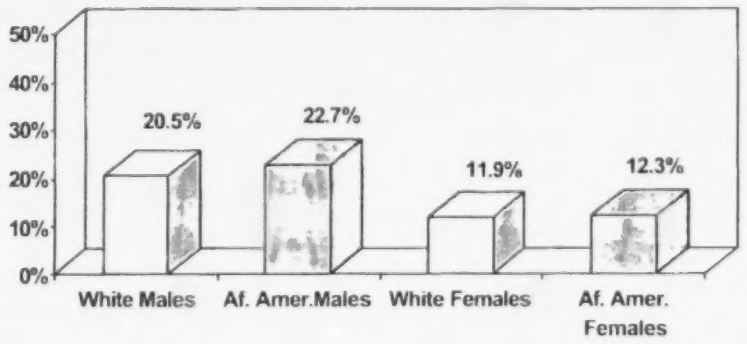
During the previous year, 22.9% of 7th and 8th graders and 33.2% of high schoolers said they had ridden with a drinking driver. Of seniors who drive, 20.4% said they had driven after drinking. Widespread use is encouraged by the ready availability and perceived low risk of alcohol use. Among students who expressed an opinion, 35.8% of eighth graders and 72.5% of seniors felt that beer was easy to get. Also, 72.7% of eighth graders and 73.4% of seniors felt there was not a great risk in drinking two drinks a day, and 45.9% of eighth graders and 50.0% of high schoolers felt there was not a great risk in drinking 5 drinks every weekend.

Heavy Drinking:* In 2001-02, 7.1% of 7th and 8th graders and 20.9% of high school students in the county repor drinking 5 or more drinks in a day during the past month. When asked how many drinks, if any, they usually consu 15.6% of all county students in grades 7 - 12 in 2001-02 responded 3 or more drinks at a time and 8.7% reported usually 5 more drinks. Among high school students, 21.5% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 12.5% 5 or mo Among seniors, 30.9% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 15.1% 5 or more; however 24.3% of seni said that they drank 5 or more drinks in a day once or more during the past month.

Drugs:* In 2001-02, 8.3% of 7th and 8th graders and 20.9% of high schoolers in the county reported using ille drugs during the previous month. Among students in grades 7 - 12, use was reported by 20.5% of White males, 11.9% Wh females, 22.7% of African-American males, and 12.3% of African-American females. Some young people initiated drug at an early age: 4.1% had experienced their first use by age 11 or sooner; 15.1% had used a drug by age 13, and 35.2% by a 15.

In the past year, 10.9% of all high school students in the county who drive and 19.1% of seniors who drive said that they had driven after using drugs. Such use is encouraged by the ready availability of drugs: 17.6% of 8th graders who had an opinion said it is easy to get marijuana and 7.9% said it is easy to get cocaine or crack; 56.6% of seniors said it is easy to get marijuana and 23.8% said it was easy to get cocaine or crack.

Figure 12: Drug Use among Students Grades 7-12 during 2001-02*



* Data is from the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking.

Sexual Activity and Pregnancy: Many teenagers now engage in sexual activity. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) administered to a representative sample of high school students throughout South Carolina in 2001 showed that sexual activity begins at an early age: 7% of female and 21% of male students have engaged in intercourse before age 13; by age 15, 38% the females and 49% of males have engaged in sexual intercourse. Statewide, 48% of females and 50% of males in the 11th and 12th grades reported engaging in intercourse during the past three months. Furthermore, 27% of female and 33% of male 12th graders have had intercourse with four or more partners during their lifetimes.

Premature sexual activity often results in pregnancy. In the county, 22 girls between the ages of 14 and 17 became pregnant in 1999, 21 in 2000 and 11 in 2001. This represented 1.6% of all girls ages 14 – 17 in 2001; several times this percentage become pregnant at least once by age 18. The 2001 pregnancy rate for ages 14 - 17 was 1.7% for Whites and 1.6% for African-Americans and Others. Of all pregnancies of 14-17 year olds, 54.5% resulted in live births, with almost all other pregnancies ending in abortions.

Teen pregnancy rates increased substantially across the state during the 1980s; as a result, greater emphasis v devoted to preventing teen pregnancy. Since 1989, the teen pregnancy rate in Edgefield County has decreased by 68.C Overall, it has decreased by 56.4% for Whites, and decreased by 72.9% for African Americans and Others.

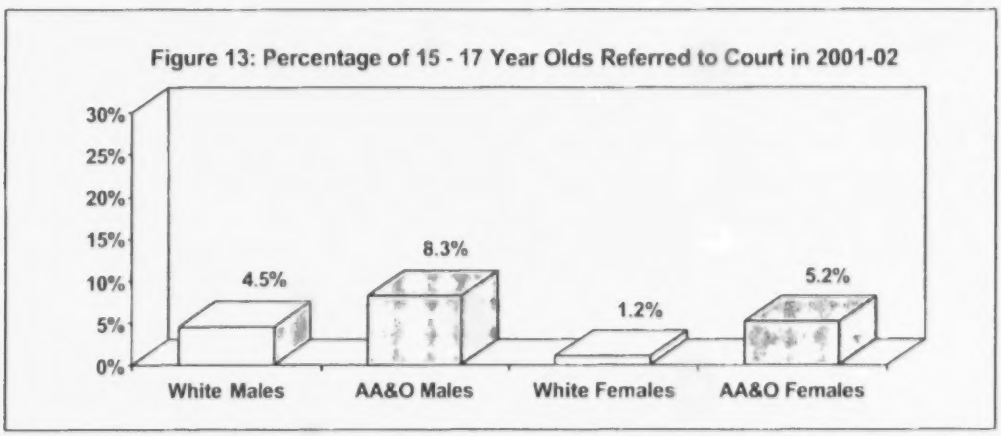
Juvenile Delinquency: In 2001-02, 87 individual juvenile offenders in the county were referred to the Solicitor for delinquency; of these, 19.5% were age 12 or younger, 20.7% were 13 or 14, and 59.8% were 15 or older.

Of the referrals to the family court, 9.4% of all referrals were for violent and serious crimes which include drug trafficking, acts against persons for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and serious property offenses for arson and burglary. Also, 11 juvenile cases constituting 9.4% of all referrals were for status offenses. Status offenses include truancy, running away, incorrigibility, and other offenses that would not be crimes for adults.

Delinquents are likely to live in families with low income: 8.2% lived in families with income under $10,000, 36.7% with $10,000-$19,999 and 55.1% with $20,000 or more. Furthermore, only 27.3% of delinquents lived with both natural parents, while 54.5% lived in a single parent household, 18.2% lived with other relatives, and 0.0% in other situations including parent plus step-parent. Delinquency or criminal activity occurs among many related family members: 37.0% had at least one family member who was delinquent or had some criminal record.

Youth referred to the family courts are likely to have been there before. In 2001-02, 44.8% had at least one prior referral and 12.6% had been referred to court 3 times or more. Many were referred at an early age. For delinquents 15 - 17 years old, 0.0% had been referred by the age of 10, 4.3% by the age of 12, and 21.4% by the age of 14.

During 2001-02, 52 youth ages 15 to 17 were referred to the family courts. In the county, 4.8% of all youth 15 to 17 were referred to court in one year and roughly double that percentage are referred at least once by age 18. Furthermore, the National Youth Survey indicates that typically across the United States the proportion of youth engaging in crime is two or three times the number ever apprehended. In 2001-02, there were 7 juveniles committed from the county to DJJ custody and placed in residential programs.



Not in School or Employed: During 2000, 332 teenagers ages 16-19 were idle, meaning they neither worked any hours nor were enrolled in school, even part-time. Idle teens comprised 21.5% of their age group: 19.6% for White and 23.5% African-American & Other teens. A much larger number, perhaps twice as many, were not engaged in either school full time or work full time. The data reflect a serious failure in both school completion and the critical transition from school to work, significantly affecting their development as future workers. For an in-depth description of the problems of young adults seeking to enter the labor force, visit our website at www.scyoungadults.org for our state and county reports on 18-29 year olds.

Deaths: During 1997-2001, 10 youth ages 15 to 19 died. Historically, automobile accidents have been the major cause, resulting in 4 deaths between 1996 and 2000; homicides killed youth 15 to 19 years old during the five-year period, and 1 youth committed suicide. Alcohol use is often a significant factor in deaths among teenagers.

Summary

Facing the Scope of Problems: The data on families, economic status, health, readiness, school achievement, and adolescent risk behaviors provide a troublesome picture of the condition of children in Edgefield County. The 28.9% of children in single-parent families, 19.8% in poverty, 45.1% not graduating from school, 42.1% of high school students using alcohol and 20.9% using drugs each month, and other data profiled in this report suggest that too many children are at risk of not growing up to become self-supporting adults, good family members, and responsible community citizens.

Emphasizing the Positive: South Carolina Kids Count reports have been developed to describe the problems of children in each of the counties. Fortunately, the majority of children and youth are doing well, and some very well. One simple description is the percentage of children who do not fall into the problem categories reported. For the county, 86.0% of children are born to non-teen mothers ages 20 or older, 60.8% are born to married parents, and 71.1% lived in two-parent families; 80.2% were not poor and 50.7% lived in families with incomes above twice the poverty level for a family of three, $30,040 in 2002; 91.7% of babies were born with normal birthweights; 87.1% were assessed as ready for the first grade, 55.1% scored basic or better on PACT for 8th grade math and 70.1% for 8th grade reading, 58.4% passed all parts of the Exit Exam in the 10th grade, and 54.9% graduated with their class. In a typical month, 57.9% of high school students do not drink alcohol, 79.1% do not use drugs, and 71.5% do not smoke. Unfortunately, the absence of a problem is not always an indicator of success. Some data is available for exemplary performance: for example, 37.3% of 3rd graders and 24.7% of 8th graders scored proficient or advanced on PACT in reading and 27.7% of 3rd graders and 12.7% of 8th graders in math. Unfortunately, data on success is not generally available.

Despite the limitations of success data, we must emphasize the positive in providing good support and appropriate influences for children and youth. Recent philosophy and publications such as those of the Search Institute (700 South Third Street, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN, 55415-1138, tel. 1-800-888-7828, www.search-institute.org), emphasize the critical importance of "developmental assets" to promote and support positive development. One short book from the Search Institute, (What Kids Need to Succeed, by Peter J. Benson, Judy Gailbraith, and Pamela Espeland, 1995) presents an excellent array of suggestions for promoting developmental assets through families, community, faith congregations, and schools. If each family, school, religious congregation and community organization assertively worked to build such assets, the problems described in this report would be reduced dramatically. Such positive family-school-community efforts could improve South Carolina's national Kids Count ranking from the bottom 10 to the average or even into the top 10 by prevention of unnecessary problems affecting children and youth, as shown on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

All data presented in this report is the most recent available at the date it goes to the printer. This version of the Kids Count report will be revised as more recent and additional data become available. Please send us your corrections and suggestions for improvement. We welcome your ideas for ways to make the state and county reports more useful and accurate. Please utilize local data sources whenever possible to supplement the profile provided through our report.

Data related inquiries should be directed to:

Anne Wilson, Data Manager (awilson@drss.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-4810

Calls for **copies of reports** for other counties and inquiries regarding more recent reports should be made to:

Kim Hazel-Lohr, Project Manager (khazel@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-1295

For **policy questions and general comments**, please contact:

Dr. A. Baron Holmes, Project Director (bholmes@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-2291

Comparable reports for all 46 counties and for the state can also be found on the World Wide Web at

www.sckidscount.org

Our website also provides: links to other websites for indicators in our report; high to low rankings for individual indicators; information on how to improve SC's national rank; and a glossary of definitions.

The national Kids Count Report can be found on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website at

www.aecf.org

Edgefield County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Indicators		Number					Percent					R	
	Most Recent Year	1980*	1990*	Most Recent Data	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980 Rank	199
Health													
Low Birth Weight	2001	29	27	23	-20.7%	-14.8%	9.7	9.1	8.3	-14.1%	-8.4%	35	
White babies	2001	8	7	4	-50.0%	-42.9%	7.4	5.6	2.5	-66.2%	-55.7%	40	
African American and Other babies	2001	21	20	19	-9.5%	-5.0%	10.9	11.5	16.0	46.0%	38.9%	14	
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	2001	166	126	105	+36.7%	-16.7%	55.3	42.3	37.8	-31.6%	-10.6%	42	
White babies	2001	30	32	44	+46.7%	+37.5%	27.8	25.8	27.7	-0.4%	7.3%	28	
African American and Other babies	2001	136	94	61	-55.1%	-35.1%	70.8	54.0	51.3	-27.6%	-5.1%	43	
Infant Mortality	2001	12	9	15	+25.0%	+66.7%	1.3	1.0	1.7	29.7%	75.2%	6	
White babies	2001	2	3	2	+0.0%	-33.3%	0.6	0.7	0.4	-25.3%	-43.2%	2	
African American and Other babies	2001	10	6	13	+30.0%	+116.7%	1.8	1.1	3.2	79.3%	178.6%	10	
Family													
Births to mothers under 18	2001	24	19	6	-75.0%	-68.4%	8.0	6.4	2.2	-72.5%	-65.5%	16	
White babies	2001	2	4	4	+100.0%	+0.0%	1.9	3.2	2.5	35.0%	-22.5%	1	
African American and Other babies	2001	22	15	2	-90.9%	-86.7%	11.5	8.6	1.7	-85.3%	-80.5%	15	
Births to mothers under 20	2001	63	48	39	-38.1%	-18.8%	21.0	16.1	14.0	-33.3%	-13.1%	26	
White babies	2001	11	11	17	+54.5%	-54.5%	10.2	8.9	10.7	5.1%	20.6%	4	
African American and Other babies	2001	52	37	22	-57.7%	+40.5%	27.1	21.3	18.5	-31.7%	-13.1%	26	
Births to mothers with less than a high school education	2001	98	85	70	-28.6%	-17.6%	32.7	28.5	25.2	-22.9%	-11.7%	18	
White babies	2001	25	27	37	+48.0%	+37.0%	23.1	21.8	23.3	0.7%	7.0%	12	
African American and Other babies	2001	73	58	33	-54.8%	-43.1%	38.0	33.3	27.7	-27.1%	-16.8%	7	
Births to single mothers****	2001	76	116	109	+43.4%	-6.0%	25.3	38.9	39.2	54.7%	0.7%	24	
White babies	2001	4	8	24	+500.0%	+200.0%	3.7	6.5	15.1	307.7%	134.1%	6	
African American and Other babies	2001	72	108	85	+18.1%	-21.3%	37.5	62.1	71.4	90.5%	15.1%	3	
Children in single parent families	2000	779	1,141	1,474	+89.2%	+29.2%	14.9	24.8	28.9	94.1%	16.6%	6	
White	2000	152	256	445	+192.8%	+73.8%	6.6	11.3	14.9	126.3%	32.1%	2	
African American and Other	2000	627	883	1,029	+64.1%	+16.5%	20.9	37.9	48.6	132.7%	28.3%	6	
Education													
Not Ready for Grade 1	2001	139	102	43	-69.1%	-57.8%	43.8	28.4	12.9	-70.5%	-54.6%	33	
White males	2001	11	18	9	-18.2%	-50.0%	20.8	22.2	9.9	-52.4%	-55.4%	3	
White females	2001	15	8	2	-86.7%	-75.0%	30.0	13.3	2.7	-91.0%	-79.7%	40	
African American and Other males	2001	58	40	20	-65.5%	-50.0%	57.4	34.8	22.5	-60.8%	-35.3%	31	
African American and Other females	2001	55	36	12	-78.2%	-66.7%	48.7	35.0	15.4	-68.4%	-56.0%	28	
Repeating Grades 1-3	2000	108	105	83	-23.1%	-21.0%	37.2	30.8	22.3	-40.1%	-27.6%	46	
White males	2000	18	17	18	+0.0%	+5.9%	35.4	23.1	18.4	-48.0%	-20.3%	45	
White females	2000	8	8	11	+37.5%	+37.5%	17.0	13.4	12.7	-25.3%	-5.2%	43	
African American and Other males	2000	52	44	28	-46.2%	-36.4%	57.7	44.0	29.6	-48.7%	-32.7%	46	
African American and Other females	2000	30	36	26	-13.3%	-27.8%	28.9	33.0	28.0	-3.1%	-15.2%	41	
Grade 3 Math below standards****	2002	89	40	89	+0.0%	+122.5%	35.2	13.5	28.6	-18.8%	111.9%	14	
White males	2002	10	5	15	+50.0%	+200.0%	22.7	8.6	21.7	-4.4%	152.3%	4	
White females	2002	7	7	8	+14.3%	+14.3%	15.2	11.5	10.1	-33.6%	-12.2%	2	
African American and Other males	2002	38	14	35	-7.9%	+150.0%	47.5	17.7	39.3	-17.3%	122.0%	6	
African American and Other females	2002	33	14	31	-6.1%	+121.4%	40.7	14.3	41.9	2.9%	193.0%	7	
Grade 3 Reading below standards****	2002	66	23	73	+10.6%	+217.4%	26.1	7.7	23.5	-10.0%	205.2%	7	
White males	2002	13	4	16	+23.1%	+300.0%	29.6	6.8	23.2	-21.6%	241.2%	23	
White females	2002	5	4	6	+20.0%	+50.0%	10.9	6.6	7.6	-30.3%	15.2%	5	
African American and Other males	2002	31	7	31	+0.0%	+342.9%	38.7	8.8	34.8	-10.1%	295.5%	2	
African American and Other females	2002	16	8	20	+25.0%	+150.0%	19.8	8.1	27.0	36.4%	233.3%	2	
Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT Grade 4	1998	67	120	48	-28.4%	-60.0%	26.6	37.5	17.3	-35.0%	-53.9%	13	
White males	1998	8	14	4	-50.0%	-71.4%	16.7	25.0	5.9	-64.7%	-76.4%	5	
White females	1998	4	8	6	+50.0%	-25.0%	10.0	14.0	7.9	-21.0%	-43.6%	8	
African American and Other males	1998	28	54	18	-35.7%	-66.7%	37.8	50.5	32.1	-15.1%	-36.4%	4	
African American and Other females	1998	26	44	20	-23.1%	-54.5%	32.1	44.0	27.0	-15.9%	-38.6%	12	

*Year of data is approximate in many cases.
**1 is best, 46 is worst.
*** Data include paternity acknowledgements.
**** BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Edgefield County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Education (continued)

Indicators		Number					Percent				
	Most Recent Year	1980*	1990*	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres
Grade 8 Math below state standards**	2002	135	79	135	+0.0%	+70.9%	53.1	31.5	44.9	-15.4%	42.5%
White males	2002	11	6	15	+36.4%	+150.0%	26.2	14.3	20.3	-22.5%	42.0%
White females	2002	13	6	16	+23.1%	+166.7%	31.7	12.8	22.9	-27.8%	78.9%
African American and Other males	2002	60	36	52	-13.3%	+44.4%	63.8	44.4	66.7	4.5%	50.2%
African American and Other females	2002	49	31	52	+6.1%	+67.7%	66.2	38.7	65.8	-0.6%	70.0%
Grade 8 Reading below state standards**	2002	142	63	91	-35.9%	+44.4%	55.5	25.0	29.9	-46.1%	19.6%
White males	2002	13	11	12	-7.7%	+9.1%	31.0	26.2	16.2	-47.7%	-38.2%
White females	2002	10	3	9	-10.0%	+200.0%	24.4	6.4	12.9	-47.1%	101.6%
African American and Other males	2002	68	27	37	-45.6%	+37.0%	71.6	33.3	45.7	-36.2%	37.2%
African American and Other females	2002	49	21	33	-32.7%	+57.1%	65.3	25.9	41.8	-36.0%	61.4%
Grade 9 Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT	1998	NA	71	56	NA	-21.1%	NA	29.7	24.8	NA	-16.5%
White males	1998	NA	12	NA	NA	NA	NA	19.1	10.6	NA	-44.5%
White females	1998	NA	4	NA	NA	NA	NA	9.5	10.9	NA	14.7%
African American and Other males	1998	NA	32	NA	NA	NA	NA	53.3	33.9	NA	-36.4%
African American and Other females	1998	NA	23	NA	NA	NA	NA	31.1	38.5	NA	23.8%
Exit Exam (not passing all parts on 1st attempt)	2002	149	69	92	-38.3%	+33.3%	55.4	32.1	41.6	-24.9%	29.6%
White males	2002	16	7	19	+18.8%	+171.4%	31.4	14.6	33.3	6.1%	128.1%
White females	2002	11	5	13	+18.2%	+160.0%	28.2	12.8	27.1	-3.9%	111.7%
African American and Other males	2002	55	20	30	-45.5%	+50.0%	67.9	45.5	52.6	-22.5%	15.6%
African American and Other females	2002	65	37	29	-55.4%	-21.6%	67.7	44.1	50.0	-26.1%	13.4%
Dropout Rate (8th graders no longer enrolled in 12th grade 4 years later)	2000-02	82	75	152	+85.8%	+104.5%	29.4	28.1	46.0	56.4%	63.8%
White males	2000-02	10	16	38	+296.5%	+143.0%	18.4	29.5	45.9	149.0%	55.6%
White females	2000-02	13	24	29	+134.7%	+24.8%	29.4	42.3	38.4	30.7%	-9.2%
African American and Other males	2000-02	42	20	49	+15.9%	+149.6%	39.6	25.0	58.2	46.8%	132.7%
African American and Other females	2000-02	18	16	37	+103.7%	+129.2%	22.8	20.1	41.0	80.1%	103.9%
Young Adults Not Completing High School (18-24)	2000	754	583	807	+7.0%	+38.4%	36.0	37.1	22.3	-38.0%	-39.8%
White males	NA	138	108	NA	NA	NA	33.3	31.1	NA	NA	NA
White females	NA	139	102	NA	NA	NA	29.9	29.0	NA	NA	NA
African American and Other males	NA	300	217	NA	NA	NA	51.4	49.2	NA	NA	NA
African American and Other females	NA	177	156	NA	NA	NA	28.1	36.3	NA	NA	NA

Economics

Poverty Rate	2000	1,958	1,164	1,159	-40.8%	-0.4%	34.6	21.8	19.8	-42.8%	-9.2%
White children	2000	602	152	335	-44.4%	+120.4%	26.7	6.4	10.5	-60.7%	64.1%
African American and Other children	2000	1,356	1,012	824	-39.2%	-18.6%	39.9	34.4	30.9	-22.5%	-10.2%
Income of Families w/children (1999 $)	2000	$ 37,458	$ 44,588	$ 46,319	+23.7%	+3.9%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
White families	2000	$ 44,143	$ 53,156	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
African American and Other families	2000	$ 30,921	$ 34,437	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Adolescent Risk Factors

Teenage Pregnancy (ages 14-17)	2001	29	27	11	-62.1%	-59.3%	4.3	4.9	1.6	-63.0%	-67.3%
White	2001	4	7	6	+50.0%	-14.3%	1.5	2.9	1.7	10.4%	-41.4%
African American and Other	2001	25	20	5	-80.0%	-75.0%	6.1	6.5	1.6	-73.8%	-75.4%
Delinquency	2002	23	21	52	+126.1%	+147.6%	2.3	2.3	4.8	109.3%	109.3%
White males	2002	5	4	13	+160.0%	+225.0%	2.4	2.0	4.5	86.8%	124.1%
White females	2002	2	2	3	+50.0%	+50.0%	1.0	1.0	1.2	15.4%	15.4%
African American and Other males	2002	7	13	24	+242.9%	+84.6%	2.4	5.6	8.3	244.8%	47.8%
African American and Other females	2002	9	2	12	+33.3%	+500.0%	3.0	0.8	5.2	73.9%	552.2%

*Closest available data to this year was used in many cases.

**BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Kid's Count 2003

Fairfield County

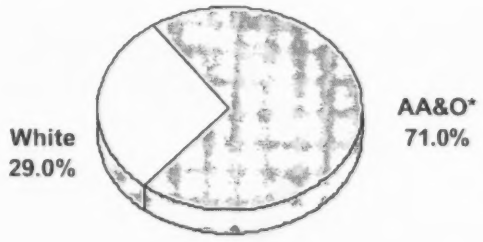
DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2000 there were an estimated 6,128 children under age 18 in the county. Of these, 1,779 were White, 4,232 were African-American, and 117 were other races. There were 6,343 children under age 18 in 1990, 6,764 in 1980, 8,172 in 1970, and 9,321 in 1960.

Children represent a shrinking portion of the county's population. Those under 18 constituted 26.1% of the population in 2000, down from 45.0% in 1960, 40.9% in 1970, and 32.7% in 1980.

In 2000 the 1,927 pre-schoolers under age 6 were 8.2% of the overall population: 6.2% of Whites and 9.3% of African Americans.

Figure 1: Population Ages 0-17 in 2000



* In all charts African-American is combined with other races, and often abbreviated as AA&O. Other races comprise 1.9% of children in the county, with "two or more races" at 0.9% and "some other race alone" at 0.6% as the largest Other groups.

FAMILY

Families have always been the most important influence in a child's life. Children depend on their families for material needs, stimulation and guidance. Family life is different in numerous ways from previous generations, and many families now face exceptional challenges.

Families with children now make up a smaller share of all households. Only 32.4% of all households in 2000, as compared with 46.0% of households in 1960, had children below the age of 18.

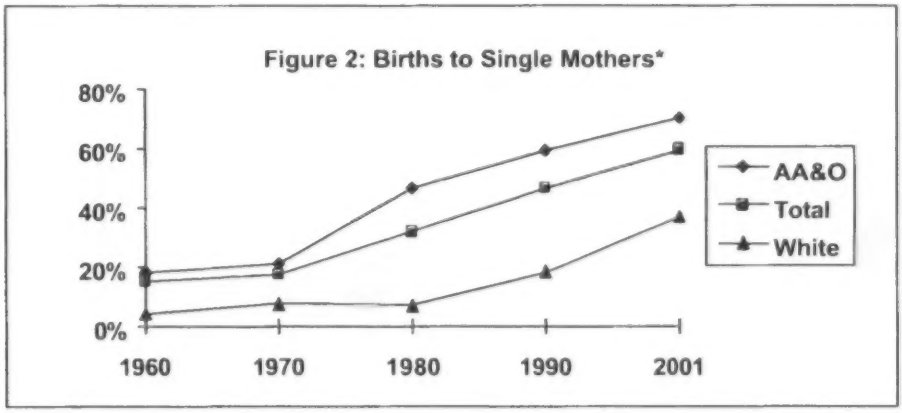
Births to Teen Mothers: In 2001, 25 babies were born to mothers younger than age 18. They were 7.8% of all babies born in the county; 5.8% of all White and 8.8% of all African-American and Other babies were born to teen mothers under the age of 18. Of the babies born to these teens in 2001, 96.0% were born to single mothers, including babies whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers.

In 2001, 66 babies were born to mothers younger than age 20. These babies were 20.7% of all born in the county; 14.6% of all White and 23.6% of all African-American and Other babies were born to mothers under the age of 20. Of the babies born to these mothers in 2001, 95.5% were born to single mothers, including paternity acknowledeged babies.

Education of Mothers Giving Birth: Children's success is strongly influenced by the education of their parents. In 2001, 79 babies, 24.8% of all babies, were born to mothers of all ages who had not completed the 12th grade. In 2001, 29.1% of White and 22.8% of African-American and Other babies were born to mothers who had completed less than the 12th grade. This is a substantial improvement from 56.0% in 1970. In addition, during 2001, 43.4% had completed 12 grades (29.1% of Whites and 50.2% of African Americans and Others) and 31.8% had more than a high school degree (41.7% of Whites and 27.0% of African American and Others).

Births to Single Mothers: Births to single mothers have increased steadily over four decades. In 2001, 134 babies, 42.0% of all babies, were recorded as born to single mothers. A decade earlier in 1990, the percentage was 42.1% and in 1960 it was 14.9%. In 2001, 17.5% of White children and 53.7% of African-American and Other children were born to single mothers. These numbers, however, do not include paternity acknowlegement births.

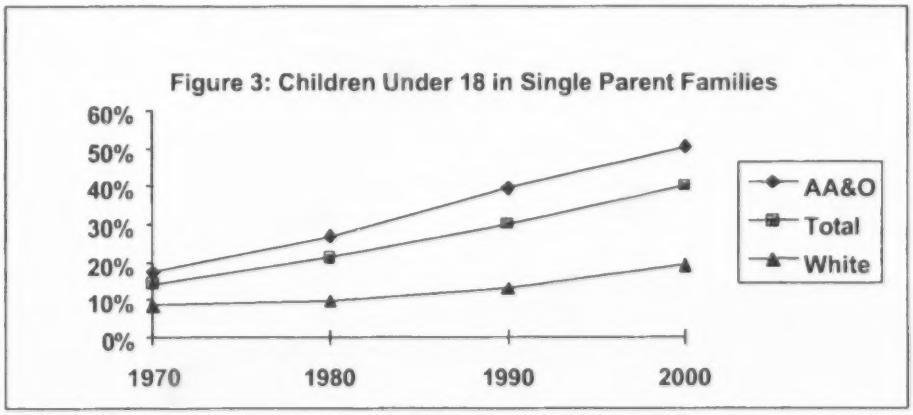
Thus, to these numbers should be added an additional group of 56 babies, 17.6% of all born in 2001, whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers. When the paternity-acknowledged babies are added, the total number born to single mothers in 2001 was 190, constituting 59.6% of all babies, 36.9% of White babies, and 70.4% of African-American and Others.



*Includes paternity acknowleged babies in 1980, 1990 and 2001. Prior to 1979, paternity acknowleged cases were not a statistical category, and thus were included in births to single mothers.

Divorce Rate: In 2001, 165 marriage licenses were issued, while 82 divorce decrees involving 76 children were filed. In 1970, only 23 children were in families involved in divorce.

Single-Parent Family: Increasing numbers of children live in single-parent families. In 2000, 2,011 children lived with only one parent. This was 40.2% of all children, up from 29.9% in 1990, 21.0% in 1980, and 14.3% in 1970. In 2000, 19.1% of White and 50.4% of African-American and Other children lived in single-parent families. Also in 2000, 470 or 39.3% of children under age 6 lived in single parent families: 15.9% of White and 51.9% of African American and Other pre-schoolers.



Parents Working and Child Care: Increasingly, parents must divide their time between children and employers. In order to meet family financial needs, most parents must work and thus have less time for family life. In 2000, 68.0% of mothers with children under 6 and 72.6% with children 6 - 17 were in the labor force. This has increased substantially from 1960 when 36.3% of mothers with children under 6 were in the labor force. Most fathers also work: 67.5% of children under 6 are in families where the single parent or both parents work. Caring for children is a problem for parents unable to obtain quality, affordable daycare while they are at work.

Overall, there are 846 spaces in state-regulated childcare facilities* in the county, 93.0% of these are in licensed programs and 7.0% are in registered programs. Of the spaces, 90.4% are in licensed childcare centers serving more than 12 children, 6.4% are in registered or licensed family childcare homes serving six or fewer children, 2.6% are in licensed group childcare homes serving 7-12 children, and 0.6% are in registered or licensed church programs.

The homes and centers are severely constrained by the limited ability of parents to pay. In the county, the average weekly charge is $ 106.20 for centers and $ 57.19 for homes. Consequently, center wages are low: 25% of centers with pre-school staff and 0% of centers with assistant pre-school staff report paying these staff under $6 per hour. Paying $6-$8 per hour are 25% of centers with pre-school staff and 0% of centers with assistants. Low wages attract workers with limited education. In 50% of centers, most pre-school staff and in 100% of centers most assistants have only a high school degree. In 100% of centers few to none of the pre-school staff have early childhood credentials. In childcare homes, 85.7% of lead providers have no more education than a high school degree or GED; 14.3% have less than a high school degree.

Family Violence: In 2000, 427 domestic assaults were recorded by law enforcement officials. These domestic assaults comprised 35.4% of all assaults, which include aggravated assaults, simple assaults, and intimidation. Overall, 54.6% of all domestic assaults involve spouse abuse which constitutes 19.3% of all assaults. Since most family violence is not reported, the true incidence of family disruption is much more widespread than even the large number of reported cases would indicate.

Separation from Parents: Some children do not live with their natural parents. In 2000, 7.3% of all children did not live with their natural parents. Approximately 327 or 5.3% of all children lived with relatives, 108 or 1.8% lived with non-relatives, 7 or 0.1% were householders or spouses, and 3 or 0.0% were in institutional facilities.

Abuse and Neglect: In 2000-01, there were 125 investigations into reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children. Through its investigations, the Department of Social Services (DSS) determined that 57 of the investigations were indicated for abuse or neglect: 14.5% for physical abuse, 8.1% for sexual abuse, 0.0% for mental injury, 37.1% for physical neglect, 1.6% for educational neglect, 1.6% for medical neglect, 37.1% for threat of harm for physical/sexual abuse, and 0.0% for other types of abuse.

In the indicated cases of abuse and neglect, DSS determined there were 102 children who were victims of abuse or neglect. Of these, 52.9% were male, 47.1% were female; 26.5% were White, 73.5% were African-American and Other. By age, 33.7% were ages 0 - 5, 39.6% were ages 6 - 12, and 26.7% were ages 13 - 17. In the indicated cases, 30.4% of the children lived in two-parent families, 43.1% in single parent families, 15.7% with unmarried couples, and 10.8% in other circumstances.

Out of Home Placements: As of June 2001, 31 children lived in foster care. The median age at first placement in the county is 5.0 years. The ages of children in foster care were 16.1% 0-2, 16.1% 3-5, 19.4% 6-10, 29.0% 11-13, and 19.4% 14 and above. The foster care population is 48.4% males and 51.6% females. Regarding their future, 45.2% were under a plan for placement in adoptive homes, 25.8% for return to a parent or guardian, 0.0% for placement with a relative, 6.5% for independent living, 22.6% for permanent foster care, and 0.0% for other circumstances.

Adult/Child Ratio: A measure of potential adult attention for children from family and community is the ratio of adults to children and youth. In 2000 there were 2.83 adults for every person below age 18. This was up substantially from 1960, when there were only 1.22 adults for every person under the age 18. This indicates that today there are more adults potentially available to provide attention and care for each child than in the past.

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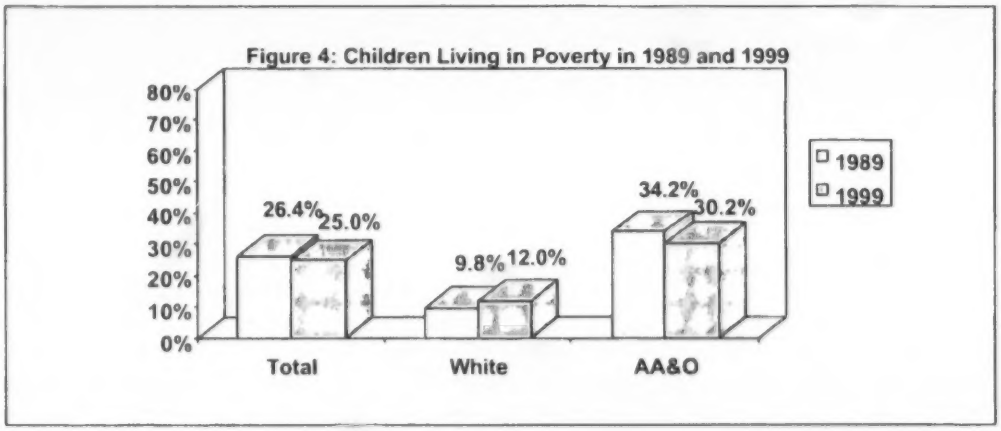
* This data is the best currently available; however, an effort is being made to check the coverage and improve the accuracy. As soon as more recent and complete data becomes available, it will be posted on the website.

ECONOMIC STATUS

Low income makes it difficult for many families to provide the material and environmental enrichment necessary for healthy child development.

Poverty: In 1999, 1,518 children and youth under the age of 18 lved in 780 families with incomes below poverty, comprising 25.0% of all children and youth: 12.0% of Whites and 30.2% of African-Americans and Others. A rough estimate of child poverty in 2001 calculated by the Census Bureau was 23.0%.



Poverty has always been a serious problem. While the rate among children under age 18 in 1989 was 26.4%, it was 26.1% in 1979 and 44.2% in 1969.

Children and the elderly are the age groups most seriously affected by poverty. In 1999, 29.0% of children 0 - 5 (16.6% White, 34.3% African-American and Other), and 23.2% of children 6 - 17 (10.5% White, 28.3% African-American and Other), lived in poverty; 24.1% of persons 65 years and older lived in poverty. Historically, the poverty rate among the elderly was much higher. During the last three decades, federal policy actions have substantially improved the economic status of older persons but have not done so for children.

Single-parent families are most likely to be poor. In 1999, 45.3% of children in single-parent families lived in poverty, but only 9.7% of children in married-couple families were poor. Children in single-parent families made up 57.8% of all the county's children living in poverty.

In 2002, the poverty level was $15,020 for a family of three and $18,100 for a family of four. The poverty threshold is often criticized as an arbitrary number. People can still be poor but may be just above the poverty level. Federal programs utilize varying thresholds. For example, in 1999 there were 3,190 children ages 0-17 who were less than 200 percent of poverty; thus an additional 1,672 children were above the poverty level but could still be considered poor or near-poor with incomes below $30,040 and $36,200 respectively for 3 and 4 person families.

Children Under 18 in Poverty in 1999

Percent of Poverty	Total		White		African American & Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 50%	588	9.7%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 100%	1,518	25.0%	209	12.0%	1,309	30.2%
Under 125%	1,997	32.9%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 150%	2,415	39.7%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 175%	2,749	45.2%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 185%	2,944	48.5%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 200%	3,190	52.5%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total Children	6,128		1,779		4,349	

Note: Missing data will be released by the Census Bureau later in 2003, and will be posted on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

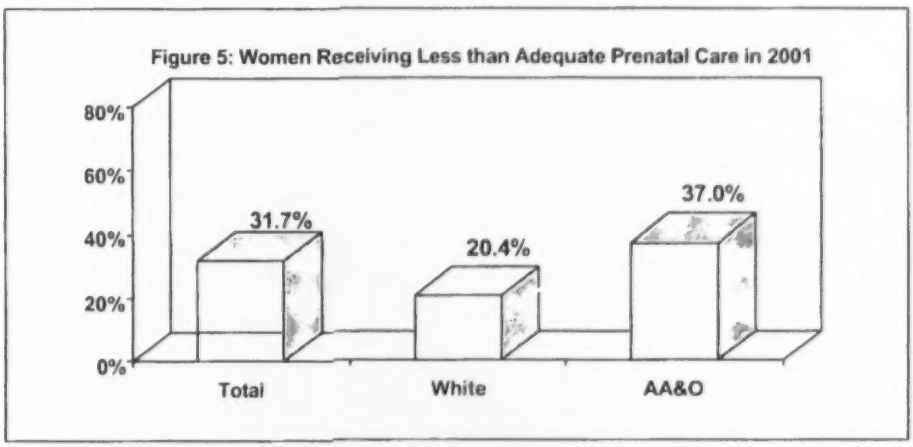
Income: The mean income of families with children in 1999 was $39,070. In 1989 it was $37,779, and 1979, it was $35,378, adjusted for inflation (i.e., in 1999 dollars). The mean income of single-parent families with children was $19,279 for single parents in 1999, as compared with $52,724 in married-couple families with children. From 1999 to 2000, Fairfield County real dollar per capita income (eliminating inflation) increased by 1.3%.

Child Support Payments: There were 176[7] families receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families in fiscal year 2002, but only 30.1 % had child support court orders. Their average monthly payment of child support was $ 199, including child support receipts and tax refund intercepts. In addition, during fiscal year 2002, an estimated 605 parents in non-TANF families were obligated to pay a monthly average of $ 200. Information is not available regarding the amount actually paid.

HEALTH

Good health during a child's formative years helps children to reach their maximum potential. Good health requires healthy lifestyles and effective primary care, starting during the prenatal period and continuing through adolescence into adulthood. Children's health reflects the well-being of the community, as well as how adequately they are protected.

Prenatal Care: Early and continuous prenatal care can make a significant difference in assuring births of healthy babies. Delayed or insufficient prenatal care is associated with low birthweight and other health risks for infants. In 2001, 76, or 23.8% of pregnant women received no prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy. In 2001, 101, or 31.7% of pregnant women received less than adequate prenatal care: 21 or 20.4% of Whites and 80 or 37.0% of African-Americans and Others. In that same year, 2 women received no prenatal care at all.



Low Birthweight: Low birthweight of less than 5.5 pounds and very low birthweight of less than 3.3 pounds are associated with health risks and growth and development problems. In 2001, 29 or 9.1% of all babies in the county were born with low birthweight: 9.3% of African-American and Other babies and 8.7% of White babies. During 1999-2001, approximately 27 or 2.8% of all babies were born with very low birthweight and had the most serious complications: 2.3% of White babies and 3.0% of African-American and Other babies. The cost of hospitalization for each newborn low birthweight baby in the county in 1999 - 2001 was $14,156 and $110,884 for each very low birthweight baby, compared with $2,174 for a baby of normal birthweight. The result was excess cost in the county of $1,000,912 for all low birthweight babies, of which $797,212 was for very low birthweight babies.

Infant Mortality: During the decade since 1989-91, the overall infant mortality rate decreased by 15.8% from 8.6 to 7.2 per 1000 live births. For Whites, the rate increased 17.2% from 2.8 to 3.2 per 1000 live births, while for African-Americans and Others the rate decreased 18.9% from 11.2 to 9.1 per 1000 live births. Over the three-year period 1999-2001, 1 White and 6 African-American and Other infants died before age one. By comparison, 1 White and 9 African-American and Other infants died during 1989-91.

[7] Number is an unduplicated count for the entire fiscal year.

Child Injuries and Deaths: Childhood deaths and injuries reflect whether communities are safe for children. In 2001, children in the Fairfield County went to the emergency room 1,068 times because of injuries. Boys are injured more often than girls. Children visit the emergency room at comparable rates for each age from 0 to 17.

In South Carolina, the major causes of death among young children are unintentional injuries, cancer, homicide, and congenital anomalies. Over the three year period 1999-2001, 1 White and 2 African-American and Other children ages 1-14 died in the county. During 1989-91, 1 White and 2 African-American and Other children died.

Immunization: Immunization rates are an important indication of whether young children are receiving adequate preventive health care. During FY 1989-90, 52.7% of children less than two years old seen in public health clinics were not fully immunized against such preventable diseases as Polio, Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Haemophilus Influenza B and Whooping Cough. After a concerted statewide campaign to increase immunizations, the percentage of children seen in public health clinics who were not fully immunized in January 2001 had declined in the county to 0.8%. The DHEC statewide birth registry survey of all two year old children found that 88.1% were fully immunized in 2001. This success demonstrates the potential to improve the status of children when the leadership of the state and its communities act decisively together.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Children and youth are infected with sexually transmitted diseases through sexual abuse or irresponsible sexual activity. National prevalence rates indicate: a 1 in 8 chance that sexually active 15 year-old girls will develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), the most rapidly increasing cause of infertility; 10% of sexually active adolescent girls and boys are infected with chlamydia, the most common cause of PID; and as many as 15% of teen girls are infected with human papilloma virus, often with strains linked to cervical cancer. Furthermore, research evidence indicates that susceptibility to HIV/AIDS increases by 3 to 8 times through prior infection with various STDs.

According to national studies, approximately 1 in 4 sexually experienced youth aged 13-19 acquires a STD ever year; since two-thirds of all high school students have had sexual intercourse and half engage in intercourse over a three month period, this would suggest that 10-15% of teens are infected with STDs annually. For 2000, this would indicate that an estimated 235 to 352 youth ages 13-19 in the county were infected with a STD. Many infections are either not identified for treatment or not reported. In the county, there were reported cases of children under age 15 and 23 youth ages 15 - 19 infected with gonorrhea; 2 youth under 15 and 54 ages 15 - 19 were reported infected with chlamydia. Youth with undiagnosed and untreated STDs often spread their infections.

Healthy Lifestyles: Although no county data is available, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2001 found that many high school students are not following good health habits. The YRBS revealed that 26% felt that they were overweight; 42% were trying to lose weight: 27% of boys and 57% of girls. Although during a week 79% of high school students ate fruit, 59% ate salad, and over 83% ate vegetables, only 17% ate the recommended five or more servings of fruit and vegetables per day. During a week, 49% did stretching or muscle strengthening exercises, and 59% exercised three or more times for 20 minutes in sports that made them sweat or breathe hard. However, 11% of students engaged in no vigorous or moderate activity at all during a week: 8% of boys and 13% of girls.

Tobacco Use:* Cigarette smoking starts at a young age and often becomes habitual. In the county during 2002 among all students 15 and older, 15.5% first smoked by age 11, 32.4% by age 13, and 48.2% by age 15. In a typical month, 17.2% of 7th and 8th graders and 22.9% of high school students smoked cigarettes. White youths were much more likely than African-Americans to smoke: 34.6% of White male and 23.2% of White female 7th to 12th graders used cigarettes, as compared with 24.7% of African-American males and 16.4% of African American females. A smaller but significant group of high school students (2.5%) used smokeless tobacco monthly; it was used primarily by White males (20.5% compared with 1.0% of all other race and sex groups).

* Data is from the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking.

Disabilities: No data are collected on the true prevalence of disabilities within the county. According to national reported estimates, over 10% of children and youth have developmental disabilities at any point in time, and more than 17 are affected at some time before age 18 by deafness, blindness, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, speech defects, development delays, learning disabilities, and emotional or behavioral problems. For 2000 this suggests that at least 613 children ar youth under age 18 in the county are currently affected by disabilities.

Approximately 5% of children and youth nationally have serious disabilities which have lifelong implications f work, social life and community living. Typically among children and youth, there are 1 - 2% who are mentally retarded, - 3% with serious emotional disturbances, over 1% with orthopedic or multiple disabilities, including cerebral palsy an many hereditary conditions, and under 1% with visual or hearing impairments.

Other chronic health problems also affect the lives of many children. Over 3% of children have one or more these limitations. Such serious chronic conditions affect 1 - 2% who have respiratory problems (asthma and chron bronchitis), 0.5 - 1.0% with neurological problems (epilepsy and seizures), and less than 1% with circulatory problem (congenital heart defects and acquired diseases).

Other disabilities are identified primarily in school performance. These would include 235 students in grades 1- with learning disabilities and 255 students in grades 1-12 with speech/language deficits.

Disabilities are caused by genetics, disease, poor prenatal conditions, injuries, and environmental factors. For example, lead exposure, primarily from paint dust, was detected in over 1% of all children screened, including 2 in Fairfield County.

Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: While over 20% of 9-17 year olds meet diagnostic criteria for some form of mental disorder, the number with serious emotional disturbance and impaired functioning in family, school, or community activities is: 9-13% for substantial functional impairment and 5-9% for extreme functional impairment. The rates among poor children are at the higher end of these ranges. Based on a federal formula for estimating prevalence, in the county there are 12% or 380 seriously emotionally disturbed 9-17 year olds with substantial functional impairment and 8% or 253 with extreme functional impairment during the course of a year. Conduct disorders, attention deficit, depression, and anxiety disorders are the most prevalent, each affecting 3% or more of school-aged children. These disorders may occur simultaneously in a child. The prevalence rates are highest among males, adolescents, and disadvantaged persons in communities under stress and lacking social cohesion; depression, however, is more prevalent among females. On the YRBS, 20% of boys and 33% of girls in high school reported that during the past year they felt so sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that they stopped doing some usual activities. Another indicator of emotional problems is the 8% of high school students in South Carolina who reported that they had "attempted suicide" in the past year: 5% of boys and 10% of girls. Suicide attempts resulted in 4% of high school students reporting that they required treatment by a doctor or nurse for injury, poisoning, or overdose.

Inadequate Healthcare: No county level data is routinely collected regarding the number of children and youth with inadequate healthcare. According to estimates for 2000-02 by the Bureau of the Census through the annual Current Population Survey, the statewide average rate of uninsured children and youth under age 18 in families with incomes under 200% of poverty in South Carolina was 16.6%, and 9.9% above 200% of poverty. If these rates are applied to the county, there are 530 children in the county below 200% of poverty with no health insurance, and 292 children above 200% of poverty with no health insurance, for a total of 822 uninsured children in Fairfield County. The number lacking basic accessible primary care is at least double the number lacking insurance. Those lacking primary care are often dependent on health services at school. The ratio of students to nurses recommended nationally is 750:1. In the county, this would suggest the need for 5 nurses, compared with 1 currently working in the schools.

Medicaid: For several years, the State of South Carolina has emphasized enrolling eligible children into Medicaid. In late 1997, South Carolina implemented its version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, Partners for Healthy Children (PHC), and aggressively pursued outreach enrollment for PHC and Medicaid. As a result, enrollment of children ages 0 through 18 in Fairfield County has increased by 77.9% from June 1997 to June 2001; thus Medicaid and PHC were serving 53.6% of all children in that age range. The total Medicaid expenditures in South Carolina for services provided to children ages 0 through 18 for state fiscal year 2002 were $991 million, at an average statewide expenditure of $2,343 per child enrolled, approximate Medicaid expenditure for children in the county would be $7.7 million.

In June 2001, the total number of Fairfield County children, birth through 18, enrolled in Medicaid was 3,284. The total can be broken down into the following age and race groupings:

	White	African American	Hispanic	Other	Total
Children under 1	47	163	0	6	216
Children 1 - 5	188	694	0	30	912
Children 6 - 14	229	1,327	0	61	1,617
Children 15 - 18	69	458	0	12	539
Total	533	2,642	0	109	3,284

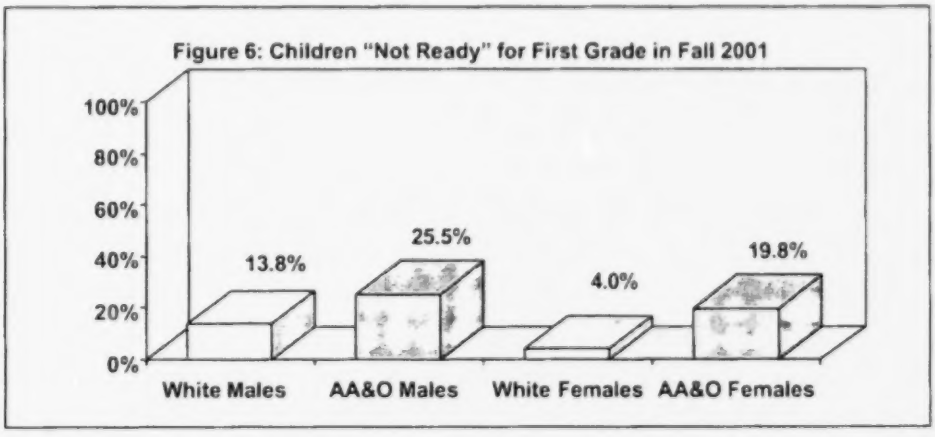
Ambulatory Care: When children lack adequate primary care, whether through lack of insurance, through limite access, or through failing to utilize available care, preventable and treatable conditions become serious and requi hospitalization. A useful indicator of inadequate primary care is the percentage of all hospitalizations that could typicall have been avoided through ambulatory care, especially for pneumonia, asthma, diarrhea and vomiting, dehydration, ar severe ear, nose, and throat infections. The share of hospitalizations for these types of conditions could normally be ke below 20%; for children in the county under the age of 18 during 2001, the share was 33.3% for Whites and 34.0% f African-Americans and Others.

READINESS AND EARLY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Too many children reach school without the readiness skills needed for success in learning, such as language, soci skills, visual and auditory discrimination, memory recall, and knowledge of colors, letters, numbers, names of objects, et Likewise, some schools are not ready to respond appropriately to the varying developmental levels of children in the ear grades. As a result, too many students do not experience the success needed to create the motivation and engagement th sustain learning.

1st Grade "Readiness" on 2001-02 Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB):

56 children not ready 19.9% children not ready

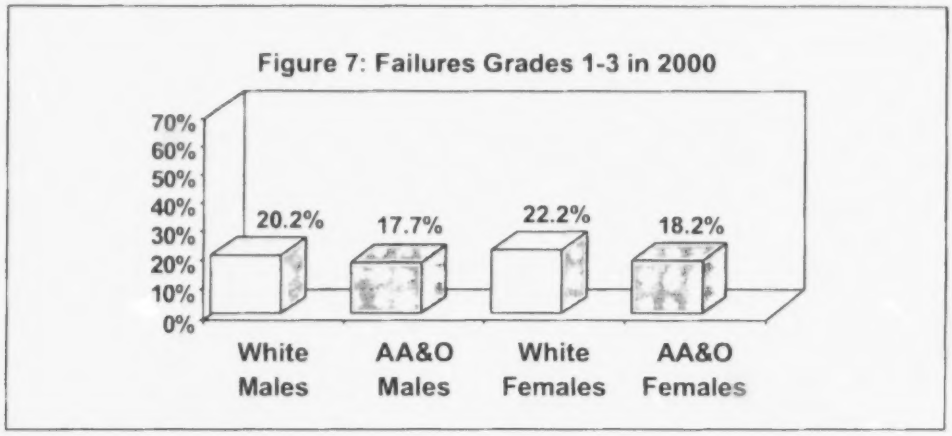


1st Grade Failures in 2002:

12 children failing 4.2% children failing

Failures Grades 1-3 in 2002 (approximate cumulative percentage of grades one, two and three):

26 children failing 8.6% children failing



Over-age for Grade 3 in 2001

49 children over-age 18.5% children over-age

Special Education: Large numbers of children are placed in special education classes. In elementary school, 124 six and seven year olds and 112 eight and nine year-olds were enrolled in special education classes during 2001-02, approximately 22.8% and 17.9% of their age groups respectively: 6.7% of White 8 – 9 year olds were in special education and 19.7% of African American and Others.

Readiness Summary: A serious problem exists in terms of student readiness and school success in the early grades. With 19.9% assessed not ready for the 1st grade, 18.5% over age in grade 3, and 17.9% of eight and nine year-olds placed in special education, unacceptably large numbers of students still begin school without good prospects of success in future school achievement and graduation; however, great improvement has occurred since the mid 1990s.

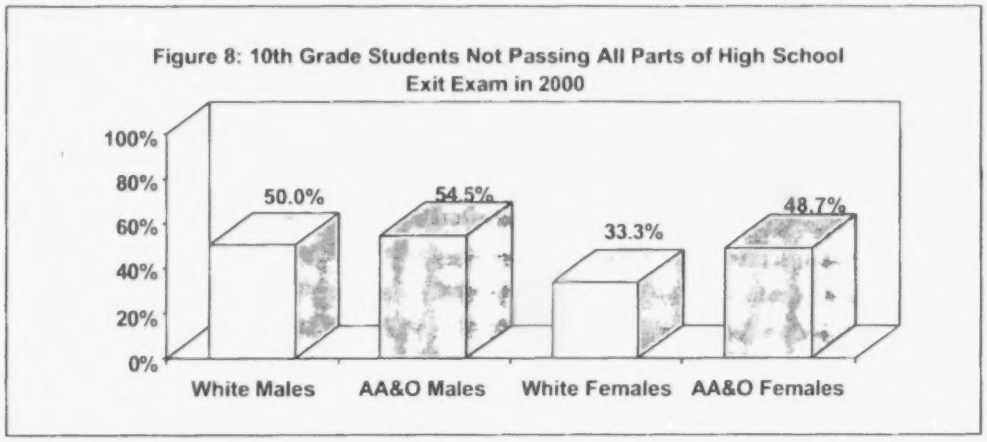
SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

By the end of elementary school, significant numbers of students perform below minimum standards. The following standardized test measures, comparing student performance to state minimum standards, should be used in combination with routine classroom assessments more reflective of real-world performance skills.

Special Education: Special education placements reflect both the significant number of children with serious handicapping conditions and a large number of students with mild learning and behavioral problems that have not been accommodated successfully by the regular educational program. The result is a large system of self-contained, resource, and itinerant services to meet the needs of 255 speech and language impaired, 235 learning disabled, 118 emotionally disabled, 57 mentally impaired, and 54 physically handicapped, deaf, blind, and other handicapped students. Special education classes served approximately 19.8% of all students in grades 1 - 12 during 2001-2002.

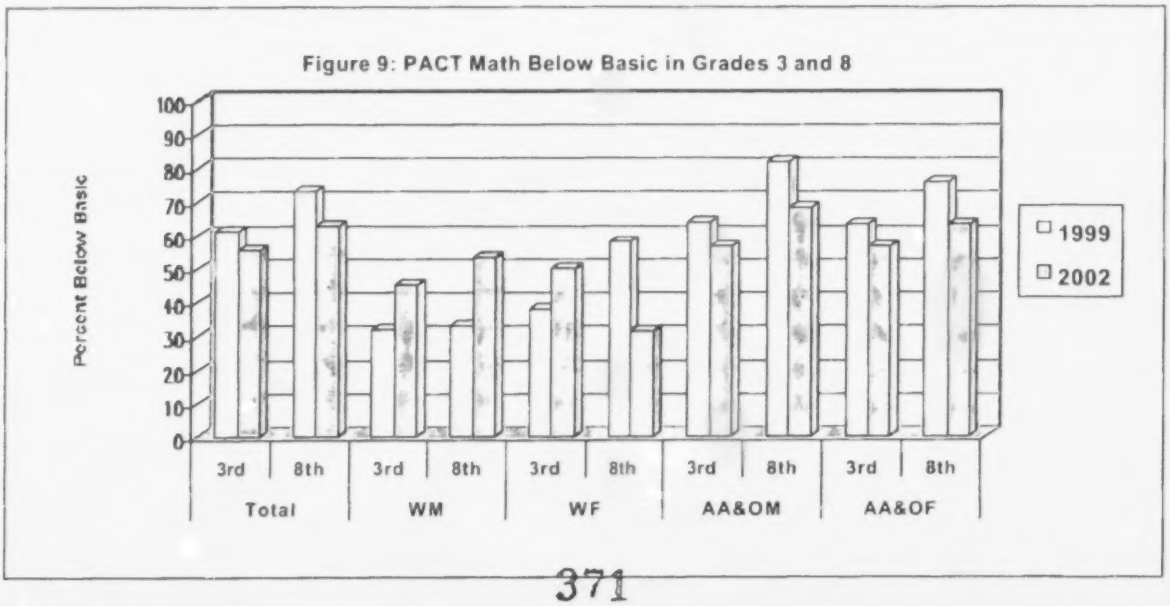
Exit Exam - not passing all parts of Exit Exam on first attempt in the 10th grade in 2002

100 students did not pass all parts	49.8% of students did not pass all parts



Achievement Trends: How has performance on standardized achievement tests changed over the past 20 years? During the 1980s, student performance on the BSAP tests improved dramatically. Between 1981 and 1990, the percentage of 8th grade students in Fairfield County who did not meet standards declined from 77.4% to 27.5% in math and from 77.3% to 36% in reading. During the 1990's the BSAP trend changed, with 58.2% not meeting 8th grade math standards in 1998 and 39.5% in reading. On standardized tests, the first year when South Carolina students take the exam is comparable to the challenge encountered by the national norm group which took the test only once. Looking at first year data, the percentage of 4th grade students at or below the 25th percentile of national norms was 47.8% in 1983 on the CTBS, 54.4% in 1990 on the Stanford, and 53.3% in 1995 on the Metropolitan; for 9th graders, the percentage in the bottom quarter was 59.8% in 1990 and 53.7% in 1995. Although not comparable, the percent below basic on the 4th grade PACT in 1999, the first year of administration, was 58.3%, but in 2002 42.4% of 4th graders were below basic in reading and math; the percentage of 8th graders below basic in reading and math averaged 60.3% in 1999 and 59.6% in 2002.

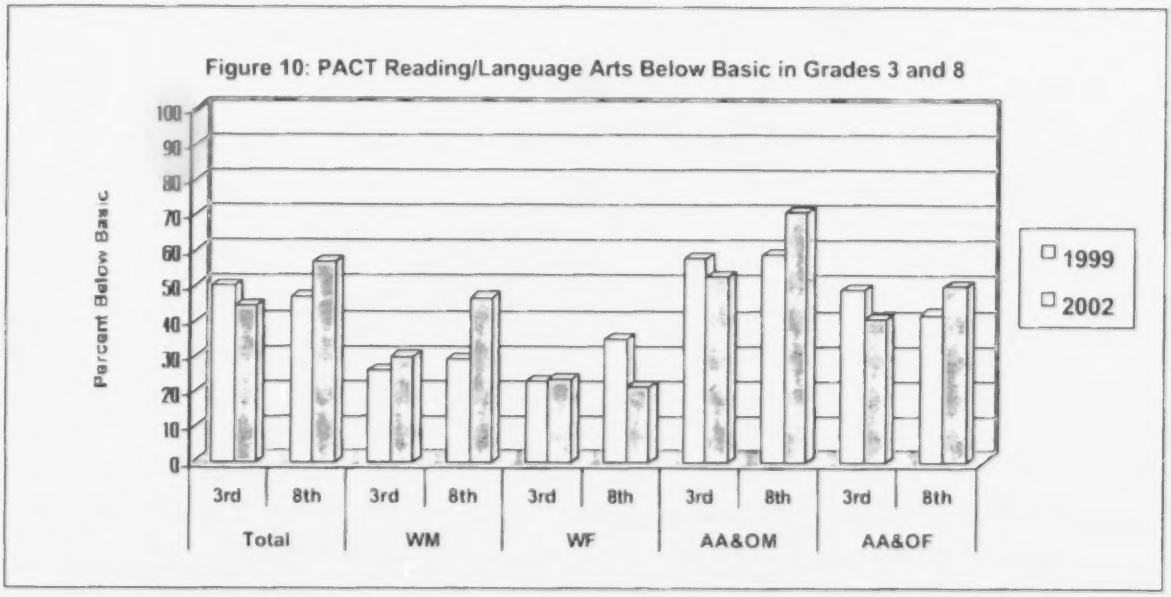
PACT: The Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) was first administered in 1999 for grades 3 - 8 in math and reading/language arts. Math assesses skills in numbers, numerical and algebraic concepts, patterns and functions, geometry, measurement, probability and statistics. The percentage of students scoring below basic in math has decreased by 15.5% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 715 students below basic in grades 3-8 but there would have been an additional 131 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
	Math (%)					
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	55.4	45.0	50.0	56.8	56.5
	4	51.0	25.0	28.6	60.0	50.0
	5	55.2	45.8	47.1	57.1	56.3
	6	56.0	52.9	33.3	64.8	50.4
	7	72.0	61.1	50.0	79.5	68.3
	8	62.5	53.3	31.6	68.4	63.0
Basic	3	36.7	45.0	38.9	35.2	36.5
	4	36.8	25.0	57.1	30.5	41.8
	5	33.9	33.3	35.3	32.8	34.9
	6	35.8	23.5	66.7	28.7	41.2
	7	23.2	27.8	50.0	18.2	24.4
	8	34.0	26.7	68.4	30.7	32.4
Proficient	3	7.6	10.0	11.1	7.2	7.0
	4	7.7	25.0	14.3	4.8	6.6
	5	8.0	16.7	17.6	6.7	6.3
	6	6.7	17.6	0.0	5.7	6.9
	7	3.8	5.6	0.0	2.3	5.7
	8	2.7	6.7	0.0	0.9	4.6
Advanced	3	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.0
	4	4.6	25.0	0.0	4.8	1.6
	5	2.8	4.2	0.0	3.4	2.4
	6	1.4	5.9	0.0	0.8	1.5
	7	1.0	5.6	0.0	0.0	1.6
	8	0.8	13.3	0.0	0.0	0.0

Reading/Language Arts assesses reading, listening, speaking, writing, research, and communication with technology. The first PACT assessment found a high percentage of elementary and middle grades students performing below standards and only a modest number above basic. The percentage of students scoring below basic in reading/language arts has decreased by 11.9% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 572 students below basic in grades 3 - 8 but there would have been an additional 77 at 1999 performance rates.

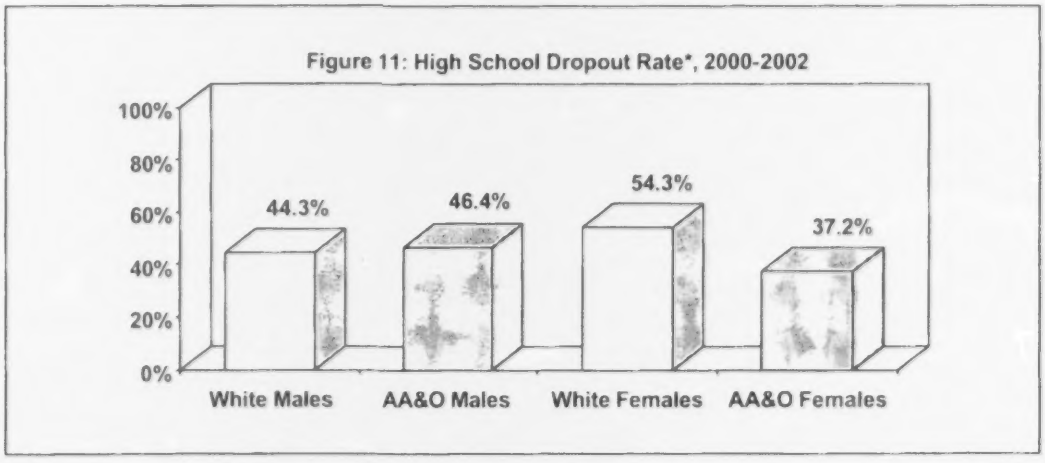
Figure 10: PACT Reading/Language Arts Below Basic in Grades 3 and 8



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
	Reading/Language Arts (%)					
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	44.4	30.0	23.5	52.8	40.9
	4	33.8	25.0	21.4	45.8	26.2
	5	49.0	41.7	35.3	57.0	44.4
	6	46.8	47.1	16.7	55.7	41.2
	7	58.5	64.7	25.0	71.8	48.0
	8	56.8	46.7	21.1	70.8	50.0
Basic	3	37.8	35.0	41.2	34.1	41.7
	4	52.5	40.0	42.9	49.5	58.2
	5	41.0	41.7	47.1	35.5	45.2
	6	37.6	23.5	75.0	32.8	40.5
	7	32.4	17.6	62.5	23.7	39.8
	8	31.1	20.0	36.8	26.5	36.4
Proficient	3	17.5	35.0	35.3	13.0	16.5
	4	12.9	35.0	28.6	4.7	14.8
	5	9.7	16.7	17.6	7.4	9.5
	6	13.8	29.4	8.3	9.8	16.0
	7	8.7	17.6	6.3	4.6	12.2
	8	10.5	26.7	36.8	2.7	11.8
Advanced	3	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9
	4	0.8	0.0	7.1	0.0	0.8
	5	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8
	6	1.8	0.0	0.0	1.6	2.3
	7	0.3	0.0	6.3	0.0	0.0
	8	1.6	6.7	5.3	0.0	1.8

Dropout Rate - 8th grade students no longer enrolled in grade 12
(average of students for the three years ending 2000-2002)

122 students drop out annually **43.1% students drop out?**



Dropouts: Distressing numbers of students drop out and fail to graduate. An average of 40.5% of 8th graders failed to graduate** from county schools five years later during the period 1980-84, 32.4% during 1985-89, and 39.5% during 1990-94, 41.2% during 1995-97 and 45.0% during 1998-2000***.

During 2001-02, 93.5% of all who did graduate received the State High School Diploma, while the remaining 6.5% received a State Certificate for meeting the required Carnegie units but not passing the Exit Exam.

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* 12th grade enrollment compared to 8th grade enrollment four years earlier

** This is calculated by using 8th grade enrollment to graduation data.

*** 2001 data will be available soon and will be posted on the website.

Fortunately, many dropouts enroll in adult education programs and either earn a high school diploma or obtain a GED. During 2001-02, 30 Adult Education high school diplomas were awarded to school completers and in 2001 22 GEDs were awarded in the county. Over time, adult education high school diplomas and GEDs increase the effective school completion rate substantially. In the 2000 Census, 24.6% of county resident 25 - 34 year-olds said they had not completed either high school or a GED.

Achievement Summary: The numbers of students testing below basic on the PACT and dropping out range from 33.8% to 72.0%. Thus, far too many students fail to acquire the knowledge, skills, learning habits, and motivation necessary to compete in the economy or contribute to society in the 21st Century.

ADOLESCENT RISK BEHAVIORS

Academic achievement is greatly influenced by the prevailing youth culture which often promotes popularity with peers and partying rather than studying and doing well in school. The prevalence of adolescent risk-taking and under-achievement is illustrated by the poor grades of substance-abusing teens.

Substance Abuser Rates at Levels of Academic Performance

	Usual School Grades in Past Year					Total
	A Range	B Range	C Range	D Range	F Range	
Smoked Cigarettes (in past 30 days)	18.2%	16.2%	26.6%	43.3%	80.6%	22.7%
Drank 5 or More Drinks on One Occasion (in past 30 days)	12.4%	11.1%	16.3%	26.4%	15.0%	14.3%
Used Any Illicit Drug (in past 30 days)	14.3%	11.9%	21.9%	36.0%	65.6%	18.2%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

As influence from parents and other adults declines during adolescence, significant numbers of students engage in violence, crime, school offenses, depressive emotions and attempted suicide:

Risk Behaviors Participated in During Past 12 Months	White Male		White Female		African American Male		African American Female		Total		Total (Grade 7-12)
	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	
Carried a handgun or knife for self-defense?	28.9%	22.4%	2.4%	4.5%	17.6%	21.1%	3.0%	8.8%	10.6%	14.4%	12.8%
Carried a handgun or knife as a weapon?	7.2%	8.6%	NA%	2.3%	9.6%	19.5%	3.4%	5.0%	0.0%	10.8%	6.3%
Been in a fight with someone?	45.4%	21.7%	25.2%	16.9%	34.6%	32.0%	28.8%	26.9%	31.9%	27.9%	29.6%
Hit your boyfriend or girlfriend?	5.7%	4.2%	4.0%	9.0%	8.4%	4.9%	22.4%	27.9%	14.4%	16.1%	15.4%
Been hit by your boyfriend or girlfriend?	8.1%	12.7%	4.8%	NA%	11.4%	11.8%	8.5%	9.1%	9.5%	0.0%	3.9%
Rec'd detention or in-school suspension?	46.4%	20.8%	16.8%	23.1%	28.7%	32.6%	31.2%	19.5%	30.2%	25.0%	27.1%
Been suspended from school?	15.3%	6.0%	4.8%	5.2%	19.4%	25.9%	17.7%	20.8%	17.4%	20.8%	19.4%
Stolen anything worth > $5?	10.1%	3.9%	16.0%	12.7%	10.6%	12.0%	7.9%	3.5%	9.7%	7.4%	8.4%
Had an accident while driving?	NA	10.9%	NA	8.8%	NA	12.9%	NA	7.2%	NA	9.7%	NA
Been arrested and booked?	10.3%	4.2%	2.4%	5.2%	4.4%	8.8%	1.6%	2.6%	3.4%	5.3%	4.5%
Felt hopeless for two weeks or more?	21.6%	10.2%	26.9%	45.2%	14.1%	12.8%	25.1%	26.0%	20.5%	20.9%	20.7%
Seriously considered attempting suicide?	4.6%	2.1%	12.4%	17.2%	5.4%	4.4%	4.6%	7.4%	5.5%	6.5%	6.1%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

Adolescence is often a time of taking risks and asserting independence from adults. When asked whether they would tell an adult about a problem, the following percentages of county students said they would be "not likely" or "very unlikely" to tell if they:

-heard a student threaten to harm someone: 37.9% middle school, 46.4% high school;
-saw a student with a handgun at school: 36.8% middle school, 28.6% high school;
-saw a student with a knife at school: 34.5% middle school, 35.7% high school;
-saw a student with drugs at school: 46.0% middle school, 63.2% high school;

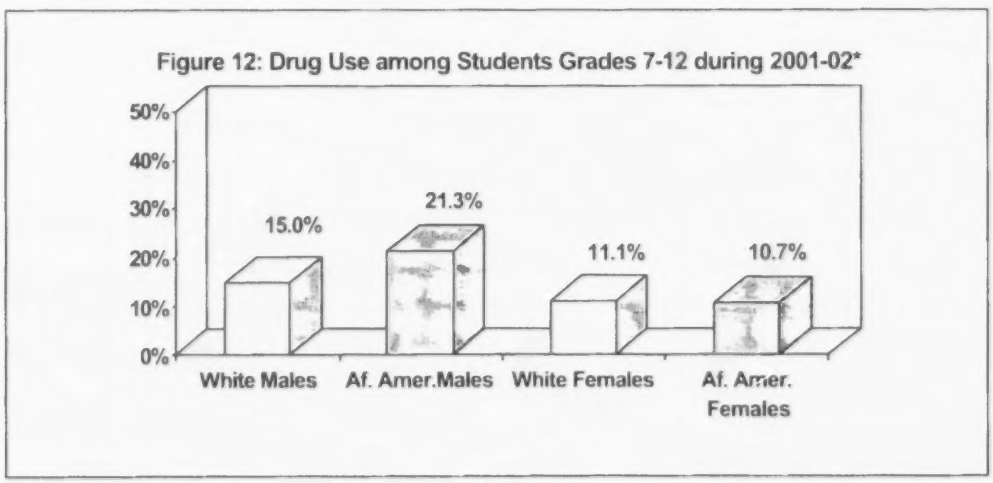
Alcohol Use:* In the county during 2001-02, 25.5% of 7th and 8th graders and 35.7% of high schoolers said they had used alcohol in the past month. Of White males in grades 7 - 12, 38.0% had used it in the past month, compared with 33.1% of African-American males; likewise, 34.4% of White females said they had used alcohol, compared with 29.1% of African-American females. Many youth first used alcohol at an early age: 18.1% had used alcohol by age 11 or younger, 33.2% by age 13, and 60.2% by age 15.

During the previous year, 24.5% of 7th and 8th graders and 30.9% of high schoolers said they had ridden with a drinking driver. Of seniors who drive, 18.0% said they had driven after drinking. Widespread use is encouraged by the ready availability and perceived low risk of alcohol use. Among students who expressed an opinion, 54.0% of eighth graders and 69.2% of seniors felt that beer was easy to get. Also, 68.8% of eighth graders and 65.2% of seniors felt there was not a great risk in drinking two drinks a day, and 52.3% of eighth graders and 40.6% of high schoolers felt there was not a great risk in drinking 5 drinks every weekend.

Heavy Drinking:* In 2001-02, 9.4% of 7th and 8th graders and 14.5% of high school students in the county repor drinking 5 or more drinks in a day during the past month. When asked how many drinks, if any, they usually consume, 9.. of all county students in grades 7 - 12 in 2001-02 responded 3 or more drinks at a time and 3.1% reported usually 5 or m drinks. Among high school students, 11.4% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 3.4% 5 or more. Amc seniors, 21.2% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 8.2% 5 or more; however 21.8% of seniors said t they drank 5 or more drinks in a day once or more during the past month.

Drugs:* In 2001-02, 9.3% of 7th and 8th graders and 18.4% of high schoolers in the county reported using ille drugs during the previous month. Among students in grades 7 - 12, use was reported by 15.0% of White males, 11.1% Wh females, 21.3% of African-American males, and 10.7% of African-American females. Some young people initiated drug u at an early age: 4.1% had experienced their first use by age 11 or sooner; 13.7% had used a drug by age 13, and 29.2% by a 15.

In the past year, 9.1% of all high school students in the county who drive and 13.8% of seniors who drive said that they had driven after using drugs. Such use is encouraged by the ready availability of drugs: 29.8% of 8th graders who had an opinion said it is easy to get marijuana and 13.4% said it is easy to get cocaine or crack; 73.4% of seniors said it is easy to get marijuana and 35.5% said it was easy to get cocaine or crack.



* Data is from the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking.

Sexual Activity and Pregnancy: Many teenagers now engage in sexual activity. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) administered to a representative sample of high school students throughout South Carolina in 2001 showed that sexual activity begins at an early age: 7% of female and 21% of male students have engaged in intercourse before age 13; by age 15, 38% the females and 49% of males have engaged in sexual intercourse. Statewide, 48% of females and 50% of males in the 11th and 12th grades reported engaging in intercourse during the past three months. Furthermore, 27% of female and 33% of male 12th graders have had intercourse with four or more partners during their lifetimes.

Premature sexual activity often results in pregnancy. In the county, 30 girls between the ages of 14 and 17 became pregnant in 1999, 31 in 2000 and 33 in 2001. This represented 4.9% of all girls ages 14 – 17 in 2001; several times this percentage become pregnant at least once by age 18. The 2001 pregnancy rate for ages 14 - 17 was 3.7% for Whites and 5.3% for African-Americans and Others. Of all pregnancies of 14-17 year olds, 72.7% resulted in live births, with almost all other pregnancies ending in abortions.

Teen pregnancy rates increased substantially across the state during the 1980s; as a result, greater emphasis v devoted to preventing teen pregnancy. Since 1989, the teen pregnancy rate in Fairfield County has decreased by 16.5 Overall, it has decreased by 21.3% for Whites, and decreased by 18.5% for African Americans and Others.

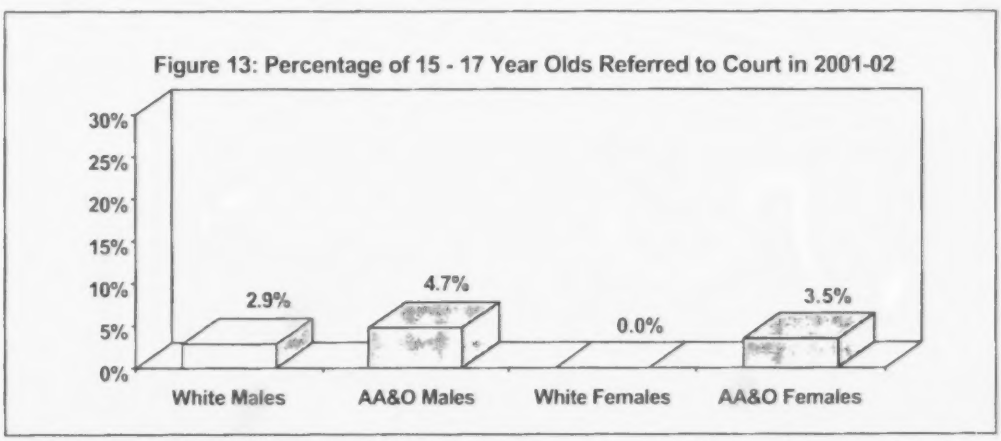
Juvenile Delinquency: In 2001-02, 49 individual juvenile offenders in the county were referred to the Solicitor for delinquency; of these, 4.1% were age 12 or younger, 24.5% were 13 or 14, and 71.4% were 15 or older.

Of the referrals to the family court, 12.9% of all referrals were for violent and serious crimes which include drug trafficking, acts against persons for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and serious property offenses for arson and burglary. Also, 25 juvenile cases constituting 40.3% of all referrals were for status offenses. Status offenses include truancy, running away, incorrigibility, and other offenses that would not be crimes for adults.

Delinquents are likely to live in families with low income: 37.5% lived in families with income under $10,000, 37.5% with $10,000-$19,999 and 25.0% with $20,000 or more. Furthermore, only 14.6% of delinquents lived with both natural parents, while 56.1% lived in a single parent household, 26.8% lived with other relatives, and 2.4% in other situations including parent plus step-parent. Delinquency or criminal activity occurs among many related family members: 29.3% had at least one family member who was delinquent or had some criminal record.

Youth referred to the family courts are likely to have been there before. In 2001-02, 67.3% had at least one prior referral and 22.4% had been referred to court 3 times or more. Many were referred at an early age. For delinquents 15 - 17 years old, 3.3% had been referred by the age of 10, 11.7% by the age of 12, and 28.3% by the age of 14.

During 2001-02, 34 youth ages 15 to 17 were referred to the family courts. In the county, 3.4% of all youth 15 to 17 were referred to court in one year and roughly double that percentage are referred at least once by age 18. Furthermore, the National Youth Survey indicates that typically across the United States the proportion of youth engaging in crime is two or three times the number ever apprehended. In 2001-02, there were 18 juveniles committed from the county to DJJ custody and placed in residential programs.



Not in School or Employed: During 2000, 82 teenagers ages 16-19 were idle, meaning they neither worked any hours nor were enrolled in school, even part-time. Idle teens comprised 6.5% of their age group: 1.6% for White and 8.4% African-American & Other teens. A much larger number, perhaps twice as many, were not engaged in either school full time or work full time. The data reflect a serious failure in both school completion and the critical transition from school to work, significantly affecting their development as future workers. For an in-depth description of the problems of young adults seeking to enter the labor force, visit our website at www.scyoungadults.org for our state and county reports on 18-29 year olds.

Deaths: During 1997-2001, 5 youth ages 15 to 19 died. Historically, automobile accidents have been the major cause, resulting in 3 deaths between 1996 and 2000; homicides killed 2 youth 15 to 19 years old during the five-year period, and 0 youth committed suicide. Alcohol use is often a significant factor in deaths among teenagers.

SUMMARY

Facing the Scope of Problems: The data on families, economic status, health, readiness, school achievement, and adolescent risk behaviors provide a troublesome picture of the condition of children in Fairfield County. The 40.2% of children in single-parent families, 25.0% in poverty, 45.0% not graduating from school, 35.7% of high school students using alcohol and 18.4% using drugs each month, and other data profiled in this report suggest that too many children are at risk of not growing up to become self-supporting adults, good family members, and responsible community citizens.

Emphasizing the Positive: South Carolina Kids Count reports have been developed to describe the problems of children in each of the counties. Fortunately, the majority of children and youth are doing well, and some very well. One simple description is the percentage of children who do not fall into the problem categories reported. For the county, 79.3% of children are born to non-teen mothers ages 20 or older, 40.4% are born to married parents, and 59.8% lived in two-parent families; 75.0% were not poor and 47.5% lived in families with incomes above twice the poverty level for a family of three, $30,040 in 2002; 90.9% of babies were born with normal birthweights; 80.1% were assessed as ready for the first grade, 37.5% scored basic or better on PACT for 8th grade math and 43.2% for 8th grade reading, 50.2% passed all parts of the Exit Exam in the 10th grade, and 55.0% graduated with their class. In a typical month, 64.3% of high school students do not drink alcohol, 81.6% do not use drugs, and 77.1% do not smoke. Unfortunately, the absence of a problem is not always an indicator of success. Some data is available for exemplary performance: for example, 17.9% of 3rd graders and 12.1% of 8th graders scored proficient or advanced on PACT in reading and 8.0% of 3rd graders and 3.5% of 8th graders in math. Unfortunately, data on success is not generally available.

Despite the limitations of success data, we must emphasize the positive in providing good support and appropriate influences for children and youth. Recent philosophy and publications such as those of the Search Institute (700 South Third Street, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN, 55415-1138, tel. 1-800-888-7828, www.search-institute.org), emphasize the critical importance of "developmental assets" to promote and support positive development. One short book from the Search Institute, (What Kids Need to Succeed, by Peter J. Benson, Judy Gailbraith, and Pamela Espeland, 1995) presents an excellent array of suggestions for promoting developmental assets through families, community, faith congregations, and schools. If each family, school, religious congregation and community organization assertively worked to build such assets, the problems described in this report would be reduced dramatically. Such positive family-school-community efforts could improve South Carolina's national Kids Count ranking from the bottom 10 to the average or even into the top 10 by prevention of unnecessary problems affecting children and youth, as shown on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

All data presented in this report is the most recent available at the date it goes to the printer. This version of the Kids Count report will be revised as more recent and additional data become available. Please send us your corrections and suggestions for improvement. We welcome your ideas for ways to make the state and county reports more useful and accurate. Please utilize local data sources whenever possible to supplement the profile provided through our report.

Data related inquiries should be directed to:

Anne Wilson, Data Manager (awilson@drss.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-4810

Calls for **copies of reports** for other counties and inquiries regarding more recent reports should be made to:

Kim Hazel-Lohr, Project Manager (khazel@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-1295

For **policy questions and general comments**, please contact:

Dr. A. Baron Holmes, Project Director (bholmes@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-2291

Comparable reports for all 46 counties and for the state can also be found on the World Wide Web at

www.sckidscount.org

Our website also provides: links to other websites for indicators in our report; high to low rankings for individual indicators; information on how to improve SC's national rank; and a glossary of definitions.

The national Kids Count Report can be found on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website at

www.aecf.org

Fairfield County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Indicators	Most Recent Year	Number					Percent					R	
		1980*	1990*	Most Recent Data	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980 Rank	199
Health													
Low Birth Weight	2001	37	33	29	-21.6%	-12.1%	10.9	8.6	9.1	-16.4%	5.3%	41	
White babies	*2001*	*6*	*3*	*9*	*+50.0%*	*+200.0%*	*5.9*	*2.5*	*8.7*	*47.5%*	*245.1%*	*25*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*31*	*30*	*20*	*-35.5%*	*-33.3%*	*13.0*	*11.4*	*9.3*	*-28.9%*	*-18.8%*	*32*	
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	2001	131	166	101	+22.9%	-39.2%	38.5	43.5	31.7	-17.7%	-27.1%	20	
White babies	*2001*	*20*	*25*	*21*	*+5.0%*	*-16.0%*	*19.6*	*21.0*	*20.4*	*4.1%*	*-2.9%*	*8*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*111*	*141*	*80*	*-27.9%*	*-43.3%*	*46.6*	*53.6*	*37.0*	*-20.5%*	*-30.9%*	*10*	
Infant Mortality	2001	25	10	7	-72.0%	-30.0%	2.5	0.9	0.7	-70.6%	-15.8%	41	
White babies	*2001*	*2*	*1*	*1*	*-50.0%*	*+0.0%*	*0.6*	*0.3*	*0.3*	*-49.4%*	*17.2%*	*3*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*23*	*9*	*6*	*-73.9%*	*-33.3%*	*3.3*	*1.1*	*0.9*	*-72.1%*	*-18.9%*	*42*	
Family													
Births to mothers under 18	2001	31	29	25	-19.4%	-13.8%	9.1	7.6	7.8	-14.5%	2.7%	24	
White babies	*2001*	*3*	*7*	*6*	*+100.0%*	*-14.3%*	*2.9*	*5.9*	*5.8*	*97.2%*	*-1.4%*	*6*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*28*	*22*	*19*	*-32.1%*	*-13.6%*	*11.8*	*8.4*	*8.8*	*-25.2%*	*5.2%*	*17*	
Births to mothers under 20	2001	71	78	66	-7.0%	-15.4%	20.9	20.4	20.7	-0.9%	1.4%	25	
White babies	*2001*	*13*	*22*	*15*	*+15.4%*	*+31.8%*	*12.7*	*18.5*	*14.6*	*14.6%*	*-21.0%*	*9*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*58*	*56*	*51*	*-12.1%*	*+8.9%*	*24.4*	*21.3*	*23.6*	*-3.1%*	*10.9%*	*12*	
Births to mothers with less than a high school education	2001	118	82	79	-33.1%	-3.7%	34.7	21.5	24.8	-28.5%	15.5%	24	
White babies	*2001*	*22*	*17*	*30*	*+36.4%*	*+76.5%*	*21.6*	*14.3*	*29.1*	*34.9%*	*103.7%*	*8*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*96*	*65*	*49*	*-49.0%*	*-24.6%*	*40.3*	*24.7*	*22.7*	*-43.8%*	*-8.2%*	*14*	
Births to single mothers****	2001	118	178	190	+61.0%	+6.7%	34.7	46.6	59.6	71.7%	27.9%	39	
White babies	*2001*	*7*	*22*	*38*	*+442.9%*	*+72.7%*	*6.9*	*18.5*	*36.9*	*437.7%*	*99.6%*	*28*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*111*	*156*	*152*	*+36.9%*	*-2.6%*	*46.6*	*59.3*	*70.4*	*50.9%*	*18.6%*	*22*	
Children in single parent families	2000	1,283	1,546	2,011	+56.7%	+30.1%	21.0	29.9	40.2	91.6%	34.6%	33	
White	*2000*	*208*	*249*	*310*	*+49.0%*	*+24.5%*	*9.6*	*13.2*	*19.1*	*99.3%*	*45.0%*	*18*	
African American and Other	*2000*	*1,071*	*1,291*	*1,701*	*+58.8%*	*+31.8%*	*26.7*	*39.5*	*50.4*	*88.7%*	*27.5%*	*14*	
Education													
Not Ready for Grade 1	2001	191	73	56	-70.7%	-23.3%	54.4	22.9	19.9	-63.4%	-13.1%	45	
White males	*2001*	*12*	*6*	*4*	*-66.7%*	*-33.3%*	*37.5*	*14.0*	*13.8*	*-63.2%*	*-1.4%*	*39*	
White females	*2001*	*7*	*1*	*1*	*-85.7%*	*+0.0%*	*25.0*	*4.8*	*4.0*	*-84.0%*	*-16.7%*	*37*	
African American and Other males	*2001*	*99*	*45*	*27*	*-72.7%*	*-40.0%*	*65.1*	*32.4*	*25.5*	*-60.8%*	*-21.3%*	*38*	
African American and Other females	*2001*	*73*	*21*	*24*	*-67.1%*	*+14.3%*	*52.5*	*18.1*	*19.8*	*-62.3%*	*9.4%*	*36*	
Repeating Grades 1-3	2000	88	74	55	-37.5%	-25.7%	24.4	24.3	18.2	-25.4%	-25.1%	36	
White males	*2000*	*8*	*10*	*5*	*-37.5%*	*-50.0%*	*18.4*	*25.4*	*20.2*	*9.8%*	*-20.5%*	*26*	
White females	*2000*	*3*	*1*	*4*	*+33.3%*	*+300.0%*	*10.5*	*2.0*	*22.2*	*111.4%*	*1010.0%*	*25*	
African American and Other males	*2000*	*43*	*44*	*21*	*-51.2%*	*-52.3%*	*28.5*	*37.1*	*17.7*	*-37.9%*	*-52.3%*	*26*	
African American and Other females	*2000*	*34*	*19*	*25*	*-26.5%*	*+31.6%*	*24.3*	*16.6*	*18.2*	*-25.1%*	*9.6%*	*34*	
Grade 3 Math below standards****	2002	196	60	154	-21.4%	+156.7%	49.0	21.7	55.4	13.1%	155.3%	34	
White males	*2002*	*21*	*3*	*9*	*-57.1%*	*+200.0%*	*42.0*	*8.8*	*45.0*	*7.1%*	*411.4%*	*42*	
White females	*2002*	*10*	*-*	*9*	*-10.0%*	*NA*	*29.4*	*-*	*50.0*	*70.1%*	*NA*	*30*	
African American and Other males	*2002*	*96*	*33*	*71*	*-26.0%*	*+115.2%*	*58.2*	*33.0*	*56.8*	*-2.4%*	*72.1%*	*19*	
African American and Other females	*2002*	*69*	*24*	*65*	*-5.8%*	*+170.8%*	*46.0*	*20.9*	*56.5*	*22.8%*	*170.3%*	*13*	
Grade 3 Reading below standards****	2002	228	38	122	-46.5%	+221.1%	56.6	13.8	44.4	-21.6%	221.7%	44	
White males	*2002*	*23*	*3*	*6*	*-73.9%*	*+100.0%*	*46.0*	*8.8*	*30.0*	*-34.8%*	*240.9%*	*45*	
White females	*2002*	*9*	*-*	*4*	*-55.6%*	*NA*	*25.7*	*-*	*23.5*	*-8.6%*	*NA*	*41*	
African American and Other males	*2002*	*113*	*17*	*65*	*-42.5%*	*+282.4%*	*68.5*	*17.0*	*52.8*	*-22.9%*	*210.6%*	*41*	
African American and Other females	*2002*	*83*	*18*	*47*	*-43.4%*	*+161.1%*	*54.6*	*15.7*	*40.9*	*-25.1%*	*160.5%*	*41*	
Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT Grade 4	1998	145	156	101	-30.3%	-35.3%	47.8	54.4	40.6	-15.1%	-25.4%	42	
White males	*1998*	*12*	*14*	*3*	*-75.0%*	*-78.6%*	*31.6*	*43.7*	*15.8*	*-50.0%*	*-63.8%*	*39*	
White females	*1998*	*9*	*8*	*-*	*-100.0%*	*-100.0%*	*34.6*	*30.8*	*0.0*	*-100.0%*	*-100.0%*	*44*	
African American and Other males	*1998*	*71*	*81*	*61*	*-14.1%*	*-24.7%*	*57.3*	*63.3*	*55.6*	*-3.0%*	*-12.2%*	*36*	
African American and Other females	*1998*	*48*	*52*	*37*	*-22.9%*	*-28.8%*	*45.7*	*52.0*	*35.0*	*-23.4%*	*-32.7%*	*37*	

*Year of data is approximate in many cases.
**1 is best, 46 is worst.
*** Data include paternity acknowledgements.
**** BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Fairfield County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Education (continued)

Indicators		Number					Percent				
	Most Recent Year	1980*	1990*	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres
Grade 8 Math below state standards**	2002	284	77	160	-43.7%	+107.8%	77.4	27.5	62.5	-19.3%	127.3%
White males	2002	28	5	8	-71.4%	+60.0%	58.3	18.5	53.3	-8.6%	188.1%
White females	2002	15	6	6	-60.0%	+0.0%	57.7	16.2	31.6	-45.2%	95.1%
African American and Other males	2002	128	37	78	-39.1%	+110.8%	82.0	36.3	68.4	-16.6%	88.4%
African American and Other females	2002	109	29	68	-37.6%	+134.5%	82.0	25.4	63.0	-23.2%	148.0%
Grade 8 Reading below state standards**	2002	269	102	146	-45.7%	+43.1%	77.3	36.0	56.8	-26.5%	57.8%
White males	2002	25	7	7	-72.0%	+0.0%	53.2	25.0	46.7	-12.2%	86.8%
White females	2002	12	6	4	-66.7%	-33.3%	48.0	16.2	21.1	-56.0%	30.2%
African American and Other males	2002	132	53	80	-39.4%	+50.9%	90.4	51.5	70.8	-21.7%	37.5%
African American and Other females	2002	97	36	55	-43.3%	+52.8%	76.4	31.3	50.0	-34.6%	59.7%
Grade 9 Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT	1998	NA	198	100	NA	-49.5%	NA	59.8	43.1	NA	-27.9%
White males	1998	NA	17	NA	NA	NA	NA	42.5	23.5	NA	-44.7%
White females	1998	NA	12	NA	NA	NA	NA	34.3	33.3	NA	-2.9%
African American and Other males	1998	NA	98	NA	NA	NA	NA	71	54.3	NA	-23.5%
African American and Other females	1998	NA	70	NA	NA	NA	NA	60.3	37.0	NA	-38.6%
Exit Exam (not passing all parts on 1st attempt)	2002	168	119	100	-40.5%	-16.0%	60.4	45.1	49.8	-17.5%	10.4%
White males	2002	12	8	3	-75.0%	-62.5%	35.3	26.7	50.0	41.6%	87.3%
White females	2002	10	5	3	-70.0%	-40.0%	27.8	17.2	33.3	19.8%	93.6%
African American and Other males	2002	56	50	36	-35.7%	-28.0%	64.4	58.1	54.5	-15.4%	-6.2%
African American and Other females	2002	89	55	57	-36.0%	+3.6%	74.2	47.4	48.7	-34.4%	2.7%
Dropout Rate (8th graders no longer enrolled in 12th grade 4 years later)	2000-02	141	102	122	-12.9%	+20.5%	38.2	26.5	43.1	12.8%	62.8%
White males	2000-02	23	17	12	-49.3%	-31.4%	51.1	35.1	44.3	-13.3%	26.4%
White females	2000-02	8	11	13	+68.9%	+15.2%	21.7	29.7	54.3	149.7%	82.6%
African American and Other males	2000-02	65	42	54	-15.8%	+29.4%	43.1	26.8	46.4	7.6%	73.0%
African American and Other females	2000-02	46	32	44	-4.0%	+38.6%	32.7	22.3	37.2	13.7%	67.2%
Young Adults Not Completing High School (18-24)	2000	914	830	701	-23.3%	-15.5%	36.3	37.2	24.6	-32.2%	-33.9%
White males	NA	143	148	NA	NA	NA	37.8	41.9	NA	NA	NA
White females	NA	119	69	NA	NA	NA	30.7	21.4	NA	NA	NA
African American and Other males	NA	444	307	NA	NA	NA	51.3	43.8	NA	NA	NA
African American and Other females	NA	208	306	NA	NA	NA	23.3	35.7	NA	NA	NA

Economics

Poverty Rate	2000	1,746	1,675	1,518	-13.1%	-9.4%	26.1	26.4	25.0	-4.2%	-5.3%
White children	2000	219	200	209	-4.6%	+4.5%	10.1	9.8	12.0	18.8%	22.4%
African American and Other children	2000	1,499	1,475	1,309	-12.7%	-11.3%	33.9	34.2	30.2	-10.8%	-11.6%
Income of Families w/children (1999 $)	2000	$ 35,378	$ 37,779	$ 39,070	+10.4%	+3.4%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
White families	2000	$ 43,373	$ 47,417	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
African American and Other families	2000	$ 29,732	$ 31,051	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Adolescent Risk Factors

Teenage Pregnancy (ages 14-17)	2001	49	48	33	-32.7%	-31.3%	5.7	6.4	4.9	-14.0%	-23.4%
White	2001	7	9	7	+0.0%	-22.2%	2.8	4.3	3.7	32.1%	-14.0%
African American and Other	2001	42	39	26	-38.1%	-33.3%	7.0	7.2	5.3	-24.3%	-26.4%
Delinquency	2002	22	101	34	+54.5%	-66.3%	1.8	8.7	3.4	87.0%	-61.3%
White males	2002	6	15	4	-33.3%	-73.3%	3.1	7.4	2.9	-7.8%	-61.4%
White females	2002	-	12	-	NA	-100.0%	0.0	5.9	0.0	NA	-100.0%
African American and Other males	2002	9	48	17	+88.9%	-64.6%	2.2	12.9	4.7	114.6%	-63.4%
African American and Other females	2002	7	26	13	+85.7%	-50.0%	1.6	6.7	3.5	119.6%	-47.6%

*Closest available data to this year was used in many cases.

**BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Kids Count 2003

Florence County

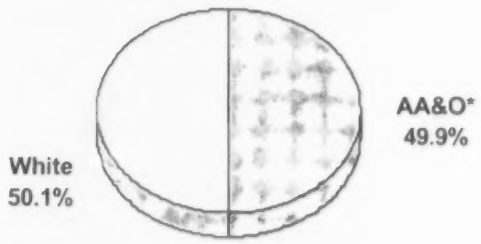
DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2000 there were an estimated 32,601 children under age 18 in the county. Of these, 16,326 were White, 15,411 were African-American, and 864 were other races. There were 32,456 children under age 18 in 1990, 35,539 in 1980, 34,904 in 1970, and 37,803 in 1960.

Children represent a shrinking portion of the county's population. Those under 18 constituted 25.9% of the population in 2000, down from 44.8% in 1960, 38.9% in 1970, and 32.3% in 1980.

In 2000 the 9,920 pre-schoolers under age 6 were 7.9% of the overall population: 6.8% of Whites and 9.2% of African Americans.

Figure 1: Population Ages 0-17 in 2000



* In all charts African-American is combined with other races, and often abbreviated as AA&O. Other races comprise 2.7% of children in the county, with "two or more races" at 1.0% and Asian Alone at 0.8% as the largest Other groups.

FAMILY

Families have always been the most important influence in a child's life. Children depend on their families for material needs, stimulation and guidance. Family life is different in numerous ways from previous generations, and many families now face exceptional challenges.

Families with children now make up a smaller share of all households. Only 33.8% of all households in 2000, as compared with 51.0% of households in 1960, had children below the age of 18.

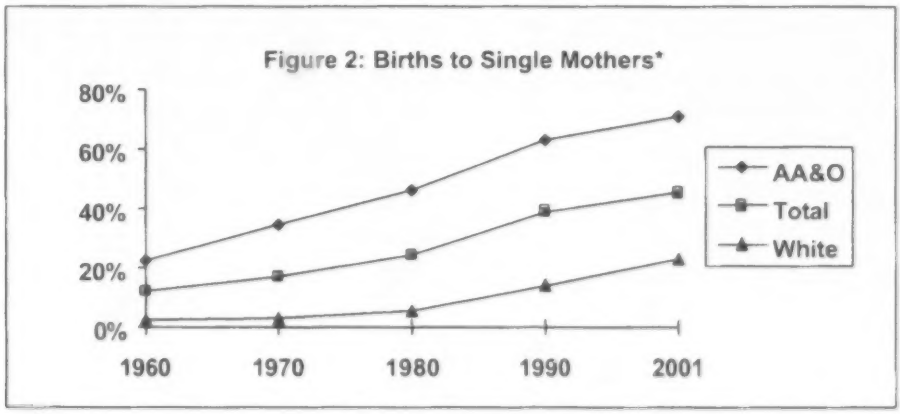
Births to Teen Mothers: In 2001, 118 babies were born to mothers younger than age 18. They were 6.2% of all babies born in the county; 4.3% of all White and 8.4% of all African-American and Other babies were born to teen mothers under the age of 18. Of the babies born to these teens in 2001, 94.1% were born to single mothers, including babies whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers.

In 2001, 296 babies were born to mothers younger than age 20. These babies were 15.5% of all born in the county; 11.6% of all White and 20.0% of all African-American and Other babies were born to mothers under the age of 20. Of the babies born to these mothers in 2001, 86.5% were born to single mothers, including paternity acknowledeged babies.

Education of Mothers Giving Birth: Children's success is strongly influenced by the education of their parents. In 2001, 333 babies, 17.5% of all babies, were born to mothers of all ages who had not completed the 12th grade. In 2001, 14.3% of White and 21.3% of African-American and Other babies were born to mothers who had completed less than the 12th grade. This is a substantial improvement from 47.3% in 1970. In addition, during 2001, 36.3% had completed 12 grades (31.2% of Whites and 42.3% of African Americans and Others) and 46.1% had more than a high school degree (54.5% of Whites and 36.5% of African American and Others).

Births to Single Mothers: Births to single mothers have increased steadily over four decades. In 2001, 739 babies, 38.8% of all babies, were recorded as born to single mothers. A decade earlier in 1990, the percentage was 33.7% and in 1960 it was 12.3%. In 2001, 16.7% of White children and 64.3% of African-American and Other children were born to single mothers. These numbers, however, do not include paternity acknowlegement births.

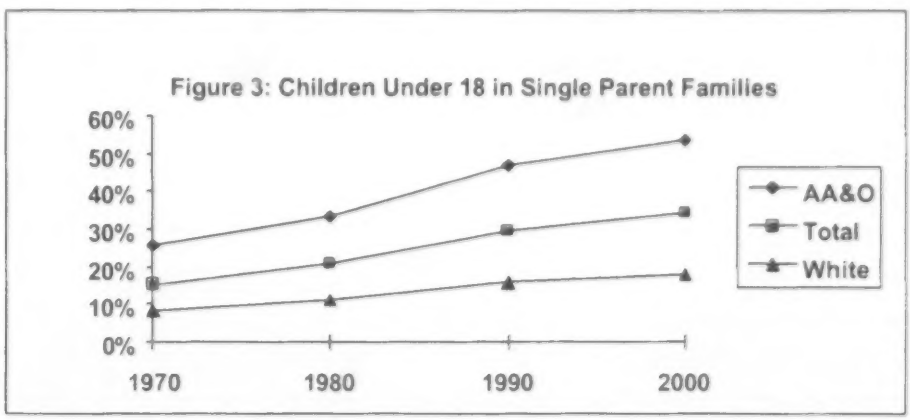
Thus, to these numbers should be added an additional group of 122 babies, 6.4% of all born in 2001, whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers. When the paternity-acknowledged babies are added, the total number born to single mothers in 2001 was 861, constituting 45.2% of all babies, 23.0% of White babies, and 70.9% of African-American and Others.



*Includes paternity acknowleged babies in 1980, 1990 and 2001. Prior to 1979, paternity acknowleged cases were not a statistical category, and thus were included in births to single mothers.

Divorce Rate: In 2001, 1,114 marriage licenses were issued, while 487 divorce decrees involving 390 children were filed. In 1970, only 170 children were in families involved in divorce.

Single-Parent Family: Increasing numbers of children live in single-parent families. In 2000, 9,521 children lived with only one parent. This was 34.2% of all children, up from 29.6% in 1990, 20.7% in 1980, and 15.1% in 1970. In 2000, 17.8% of White and 53.6% of African-American and Other children lived in single-parent families. Also in 2000, 2,625 or 31.8% of children under age 6 lived in single parent families: 13.9% of White and 54.9% of African American and Other pre-schoolers.



Parents Working and Child Care: Increasingly, parents must divide their time between children and employers. In order to meet family financial needs, most parents must work and thus have less time for family life. In 2000, 65.4% of mothers with children under 6 and 72.2% with children 6 - 17 were in the labor force. This has increased substantially from 1960 when 34.3% of mothers with children under 6 were in the labor force. Most fathers also work: 60.9% of children under 6 are in families where the single parent or both parents work. Caring for children is a problem for parents unable to obtain quality, affordable daycare while they are at work.

Overall, there are 5,417 spaces in state-regulated childcare facilities* in the county, 80.0% of these are in licensed programs and 20.0% are in registered programs. Of the spaces, 67.1% are in licensed childcare centers serving more than 12 children, 19.0% are in registered or licensed family childcare homes serving six or fewer children, 8.0% are in licensed group childcare homes serving 7-12 children, and 5.9% are in registered or licensed church programs.

The homes and centers are severely constrained by the limited ability of parents to pay. In the county, the average weekly charge is $ 73.55 for centers and $ 61.75 for homes. Consequently, center wages are low: 22.9% of centers with pre-school staff and 50% of centers with assistant pre-school staff report paying these staff under $6 per hour. Paying $6-$8 per hour are 57.1% of centers with pre-school staff and 27.8% of centers with assistants. Low wages attract workers with limited education. In 45.7% of centers, most pre-school staff and in 100% of centers most assistants have only a high school degree. In 42.9% of centers few to none of the pre-school staff have early childhood credentials. In childcare homes, 61.6% of lead providers have no more education than a high school degree or GED; 23.1% have less than a high school degree.

Family Violence: In 2000, 1,095 domestic assaults were recorded by law enforcement officials. These domestic assaults comprised 26.9% of all assaults, which include aggravated assaults, simple assaults, and intimidation. Overall, 57.0% of all domestic assaults involve spouse abuse which constitutes 15.3% of all assaults. Since most family violence is not reported, the true incidence of family disruption is much more widespread than even the large number of reported cases would indicate.

Separation from Parents: Some children do not live with their natural parents. In 2000, 6.9% of all children did not live with their natural parents. Approximately 1,653 or 5.1% of all children lived with relatives, 446 or 1.4% lived with non-relatives, 38 or 0.1% were householders or spouses, and 105 or 0.3% were in institutional facilities.

Abuse and Neglect: In 2000-01, there were 590 investigations into reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children. Through its investigations, the Department of Social Services (DSS) determined that 140 of the investigations were indicated for abuse or neglect: 16.6% for physical abuse, 7.6% for sexual abuse, 0.0% for mental injury, 22.8% for physical neglect, 5.5% for educational neglect, 4.1% for medical neglect, 43.4% for threat of harm for physical/sexual abuse, and 0.0% for other types of abuse.

In the indicated cases of abuse and neglect, DSS determined there were 211 children who were victims of abuse or neglect. Of these, 51.9% were male, 48.1% were female; 37.9% were White, 62.1% were African-American and Other. By age, 37.9% were ages 0 - 5, 44.8% were ages 6 - 12, and 17.2% were ages 13 - 17. In the indicated cases, 19.4% of the children lived in two-parent families, 58.3% in single parent families, 15.2% with unmarried couples, and 7.1% in other circumstances.

Out of Home Placements: As of June 2001, 156 children lived in foster care. The median age at first placement in the county is 8.1 years. The ages of children in foster care were 13.5% 0-2, 7.1% 3-5, 23.1% 6-10, 16.0% 11-13, and 40.4% 14 and above. The foster care population is 46.8% males and 53.2% females. Regarding their future, 30.1% were under a plan for placement in adoptive homes, 37.2% for return to a parent or guardian, 4.5% for placement with a relative, 18.0% for independent living, 10.3% for permanent foster care, and 0.0% for other circumstances.

Adult/Child Ratio: A measure of potential adult attention for children from family and community is the ratio of adults to children and youth. In 2000 there were 2.86 adults for every person below age 18. This was up substantially from 1960, when there were only 1.23 adults for every person under the age 18. This indicates that today there are more adults potentially available to provide attention and care for each child than in the past.

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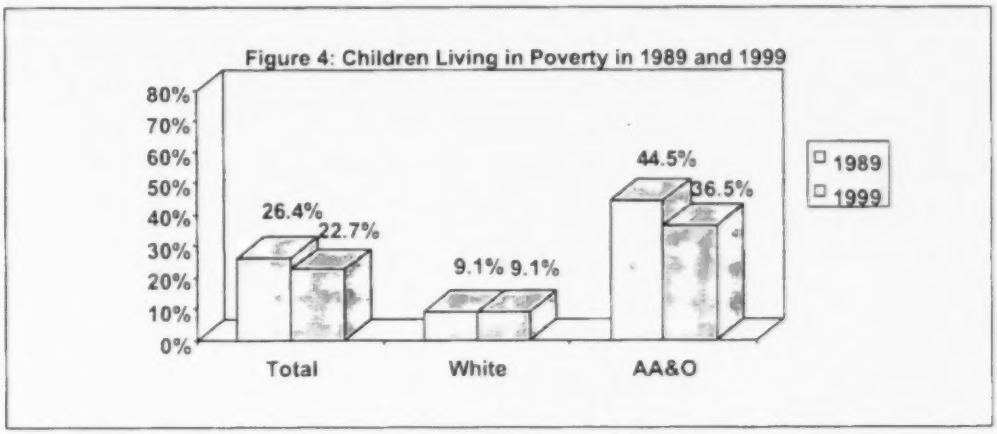
* This data is the best currently available; however, an effort is being made to check the coverage and improve the accuracy. As soon as more recent and complete data becomes available, it will be posted on the website.

ECONOMIC STATUS

Low income makes it difficult for many families to provide the material and environmental enrichment necessary for healthy child development.

Poverty: In 1999, 7,313 children and youth under the age of 18 lved in 3,394 families with incomes below poverty, comprising 22.7% of all children and youth: 9.1% of Whites and 36.5% of African-Americans and Others. A rough estimate of child poverty in 2001 calculated by the Census Bureau was 23.0%.



Poverty has always been a serious problem. While the rate among children under age 18 in 1989 was 26.4%, it was 27.8% in 1979 and 32.4% in 1969.

Children and the elderly are the age groups most seriously affected by poverty. In 1999, 24.5% of children 0 - 5 (10.6% White, 39.3% African-American and Other), and 21.4% of children 6 - 17 (7.7% White, 34.9% African-American and Other), lived in poverty; 16.5% of persons 65 years and older lived in poverty. Historically, the poverty rate among the elderly was much higher. During the last three decades, federal policy actions have substantially improved the economic status of older persons but have not done so for children.

Single-parent families are most likely to be poor. In 1999, 47.3% of children in single-parent families lived in poverty, but only 7.2% of children in married-couple families were poor. Children in single-parent families made up 65.6% of all the county's children living in poverty.

In 2002, the poverty level was $15,020 for a family of three and $18,100 for a family of four. The poverty threshold is often criticized as an arbitrary number. People can still be poor but may be just above the poverty level. Federal programs utilize varying thresholds. For example, in 1999 there were 14,964 children ages 0-17 who were less than 200 percent of poverty; thus an additional 7,651 children were above the poverty level but could still be considered poor or near-poor with incomes below $30,040 and $36,200 respectively for 3 and 4 person families.

Children Under 18 in Poverty in 1999

Percent of Poverty	Total		White		African American & Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 50%	4,262	13.2%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 100%	7,313	22.7%	1,468	9.1%	5,845	36.5%
Under 125%	9,086	28.2%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 150%	11,204	34.8%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 175%	13,145	40.9%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 185%	14,021	43.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 200%	14,964	46.5%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total Children	32,601		16,326		16,275	

Note: Missing data will be released by the Census Bureau later in 2003, and will be posted on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

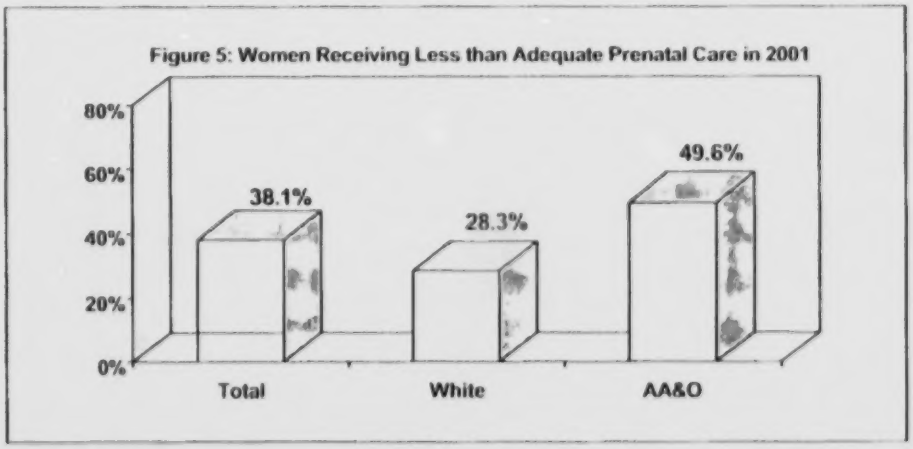
Income: The mean income of families with children in 1999 was $52,314. In 1989 it was $45,044, and 1979, it was $40,989, adjusted for inflation (i.e., in 1999 dollars). The mean income of single-parent families with children was $24,666 for single parents in 1999, as compared with $65,927 in married-couple families with children. From 1999 to 2000, Florence County real dollar per capita income (eliminating inflation) increased by 2.6%.

Child Support Payments: There were 1,312[7] families receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families in fiscal year 2002, but only 29.2 % had child support court orders. Their average monthly payment of child support was $ 229, including child support receipts and tax refund intercepts. In addition, during fiscal year 2002, an estimated 2,430 parents in non-TANF families were obligated to pay a monthly average of $ 201. Information is not available regarding the amount actually paid.

HEALTH

Good health during a child's formative years helps children to reach their maximum potential. Good health requires healthy lifestyles and effective primary care, starting during the prenatal period and continuing through adolescence into adulthood. Children's health reflects the well-being of the community, as well as how adequately they are protected.

Prenatal Care: Early and continuous prenatal care can make a significant difference in assuring births of healthy babies. Delayed or insufficient prenatal care is associated with low birthweight and other health risks for infants. In 2001, 644, or 33.8% of pregnant women received no prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy. In 2001, 727, or 38.1% of pregnant women received less than adequate prenatal care: 289 or 28.3% of Whites and 438 or 49.6% of African-Americans and Others. In that same year, 21 women received no prenatal care at all.



Low Birthweight: Low birthweight of less than 5.5 pounds and very low birthweight of less than 3.3 pounds are associated with health risks and growth and development problems. In 2001, 218 or 11.4% of all babies in the county were born with low birthweight: 15.2% of African-American and Other babies and 8.2% of White babies. During 1999-2001, approximately 157 or 2.8% of all babies were born with very low birthweight and had the most serious complications: 1.5% of White babies and 4.2% of African-American and Other babies. The cost of hospitalization for each newborn low birthweight baby in the county in 1999 - 2001 was $18,672 and $136,496 for each very low birthweight baby, compared with $1,878 for a baby of normal birthweight. The result was excess cost in the county of $6,951,634 for all low birthweight babies, of which $5,115,501 was for very low birthweight babies.

Infant Mortality: During the decade since 1989-91, the overall infant mortality rate decreased by 19.8% from 16.1 to 12.9 per 1000 live births. For Whites, the rate decreased 2.2% from 7.3 to 7.1 per 1000 live births, while for African-Americans and Others the rate decreased 20.8% from 24.2 to 19.2 per 1000 live births. Over the three-year period 1999-2001, 21 White and 52 African-American and Other infants died before age one. By comparison, 20 White and 72 African-American and Other infants died during 1989-91.

[7] Number is an unduplicated count for the entire fiscal year.

Child Injuries and Deaths: Childhood deaths and injuries reflect whether communities are safe for children. In 2001, children in the Florence County went to the emergency room 4,408 times because of injuries. Boys are injured more often than girls. Children visit the emergency room at comparable rates for each age from 0 to 17.

In South Carolina, the major causes of death among young children are unintentional injuries, cancer, homicide, and congenital anomalies. Over the three year period 1999-2001, 10 White and 17 African-American and Other children ages 1-14 died in the county. During 1989-91, 11 White and 16 African-American and Other children died.

Immunization: Immunization rates are an important indication of whether young children are receiving adequate preventive health care. During FY 1989-90, 50.8% of children less than two years old seen in public health clinics were not fully immunized against such preventable diseases as Polio, Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Haemophilus Influenza B and Whooping Cough. After a concerted statewide campaign to increase immunizations, the percentage of children seen in public health clinics who were not fully immunized in January 2001 had declined in the county to 9.9%. The DHEC statewide birth registry survey of all two year old children found that 88.1% were fully immunized in 2001. This success demonstrates the potential to improve the status of children when the leadership of the state and its communities act decisively together.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Children and youth are infected with sexually transmitted diseases through sexual abuse or irresponsible sexual activity. National prevalence rates indicate: a 1 in 8 chance that sexually active 15 year-old girls will develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), the most rapidly increasing cause of infertility; 10% of sexually active adolescent girls and boys are infected with chlamydia, the most common cause of PID; and as many as 15% of teen girls are infected with human papilloma virus, often with strains linked to cervical cancer. Furthermore, research evidence indicates that susceptibility to HIV/AIDS increases by 3 to 8 times through prior infection with various STDs.

According to national studies, approximately 1 in 4 sexually experienced youth aged 13-19 acquires a STD ever year; since two-thirds of all high school students have had sexual intercourse and half engage in intercourse over a thr month period, this would suggest that 10-15% of teens are infected with STDs annually. For 2000, this would indicate th an estimated 1,329 to 1,993 youth ages 13-19 in the county were infected with a STD. Many infections are either n identified for treatment or not reported. In the county, there were 6 reported cases of children under age 15 and 125 you ages 15 - 19 infected with gonorrhea; 4 youth under 15 and 234 ages 15 - 19 were reported infected with chlamydi Youth with undiagnosed and untreated STDs often spread their infections.

Healthy Lifestyles: Although no county data is available, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2001 found that mar high school students are not following good health habits. The YRBS revealed that 26% felt that they were overweight; 42 were trying to lose weight: 27% of boys and 57% of girls. Although during a week 79% of high school students ate fru 59% ate salad, and over 83% ate vegetables, only 17% ate the recommended five or more servings of fruit and vegetabl per day. During a week, 49% did stretching or muscle strengthening exercises, and 59% exercised three or more times f 20 minutes in sports that made them sweat or breathe hard. However, 11% of students engaged in no vigorous or modera activity at all during a week: 8% of boys and 13% of girls.

Tobacco Use:* Cigarette smoking starts at a young age and often becomes habitual. In the county during 2002 among all students 15 and older, 16.6% first smoked by age 11, 33.7% by age 13, and 49.6% by age 15. In a typical month, 17.9% of 7th and 8th graders and 25.7% of high school students smoked cigarettes. White youths were much more likely than African-Americans to smoke: 35.2% of White male and 29.5% of White female 7th to 12th graders used cigarettes, as compared with 20.7% of African-American males and 9.9% of African American females. A smaller but significant group of high school students (4.7%) used smokeless tobacco monthly; it was used primarily by White males (17.0% compared with 1.4% of all other race and sex groups).

* County participation in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking was not complete but county data is presented to provide the best available picture of teen risk-taking attitudes and behavior in Florence County. Five of 5 districts participated, but there was partial participation by the largest (District 1).

Disabilities: No data are collected on the true prevalence of disabilities within the county. According to national reported estimates, over 10% of children and youth have developmental disabilities at any point in time, and more than 17 are affected at some time before age 18 by deafness, blindness, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, speech defects, development delays, learning disabilities, and emotional or behavioral problems. For 2000 this suggests that at least 3,260 children ar youth under age 18 in the county are currently affected by disabilities.

Approximately 5% of children and youth nationally have serious disabilities which have lifelong implications fo work, social life and community living. Typically among children and youth, there are 1 - 2% who are mentally retarded, - 3% with serious emotional disturbances, over 1% with orthopedic or multiple disabilities, including cerebral palsy an many hereditary conditions, and under 1% with visual or hearing impairments.

Other chronic health problems also affect the lives of many children. Over 3% of children have one or more these limitations. Such serious chronic conditions affect 1 - 2% who have respiratory problems (asthma and chron bronchitis), 0.5 - 1.0% with neurological problems (epilepsy and seizures), and less than 1% with circulatory problen (congenital heart defects and acquired diseases).

Other disabilities are identified primarily in school performance. These would include 1,323 students in grades 12 with learning disabilities and 701 students in grades 1-12 with speech/language deficits.

Disabilities are caused by genetics, disease, poor prenatal conditions, injuries, and environmental factors. For example, lead exposure, primarily from paint dust, was detected in over 1% of all children screened, including 20 in Florence County.

Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: While over 20% of 9-17 year olds meet diagnostic criteria for some form of mental disorder, the number with serious emotional disturbance and impaired functioning in family, school, or community activities is: 9-13% for substantial functional impairment and 5-9% for extreme functional impairment. The rates among poor children are at the higher end of these ranges. Based on a federal formula for estimating prevalence, in the county there are 12% or 2,064 seriously emotionally disturbed 9-17 year olds with substantial functional impairment and 8% or 1,376 with extreme functional impairment during the course of a year. Conduct disorders, attention deficit, depression, and anxiety disorders are the most prevalent, each affecting 3% or more of school-aged children. These disorders may occur simultaneously in a child. The prevalence rates are highest among males, adolescents, and disadvantaged persons in communities under stress and lacking social cohesion; depression, however, is more prevalent among females. On the YRBS, 20% of boys and 33% of girls in high school reported that during the past year they felt so sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that they stopped doing some usual activities. Another indicator of emotional problems is the 8% of high school students in South Carolina who reported that they had "attempted suicide" in the past year: 5% of boys and 10% of girls. Suicide attempts resulted in 4% of high school students reporting that they required treatment by a doctor or nurse for injury, poisoning, or overdose.

Inadequate Healthcare: No county level data is routinely collected regarding the number of children and youth with inadequate healthcare. According to estimates for 2000-02 by the Bureau of the Census through the annual Current Population Survey, the statewide average rate of uninsured children and youth under age 18 in families with incomes under 200% of poverty in South Carolina was 16.6%, and 9.9% above 200% of poverty. If these rates are applied to the county, there are 2,487 children in the county below 200% of poverty with no health insurance, and 1,750 children above 200% of poverty with no health insurance, for a total of 4,238 uninsured children in Florence County. The number lacking basic accessible primary care is at least double the number lacking insurance. Those lacking primary care are often dependent on health services at school. The ratio of students to nurses recommended nationally is 750:1. In the county, this would suggest the need for 28 nurses, compared with 21 currently working in the schools.

Medicaid: For several years, the State of South Carolina has emphasized enrolling eligible children into Medicaid. In late 1997, South Carolina implemented its version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, Partners for Healthy Children (PHC), and aggressively pursued outreach enrollment for PHC and Medicaid. As a result, enrollment of children ages 0 through 18 in Florence County has increased by 79.6% from June 1997 to June 2001; thus Medicaid and PHC were serving 51.9% of all children in that age range. The total Medicaid expenditures in South Carolina for services provided to children ages 0 through 18 for state fiscal year 2002 were $991 million, at an average statewide expenditure of $2,343 per child enrolled, approximate Medicaid expenditure for children in the county would be $39.7 million.

In June 2001, the total number of Florence County children, birth through 18, enrolled in Medicaid was 16,931. The total can be broken down into the following age and race groupings:

	White	African American	Hispanic	Other	Total
Children under 1	378	773	20	48	1,219
Children 1 - 5	1,274	3,198	37	229	4,738
Children 6 - 14	1,840	5,891	31	304	8,066
Children 15 - 18	717	2,139	8	44	2,908
Total	4,209	12,001	96	625	16,931

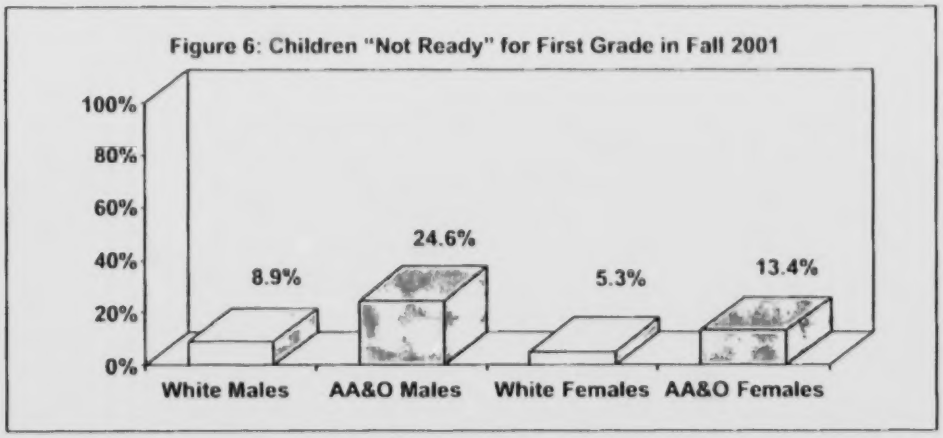
Ambulatory Care: When children lack adequate primary care, whether through lack of insurance, through limite access, or through failing to utilize available care, preventable and treatable conditions become serious and requi hospitalization. A useful indicator of inadequate primary care is the percentage of all hospitalizations that could typicall have been avoided through ambulatory care, especially for pneumonia, asthma, diarrhea and vomiting, dehydration, ar severe ear, nose, and throat infections. The share of hospitalizations for these types of conditions could normally be ke below 20%; for children in the county under the age of 18 during 2001, the share was 35.3% for Whites and 32.7% f African-Americans and Others.

READINESS AND EARLY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Too many children reach school without the readiness skills needed for success in learning, such as language, soci skills, visual and auditory discrimination, memory recall, and knowledge of colors, letters, numbers, names of objects, et Likewise, some schools are not ready to respond appropriately to the varying developmental levels of children in the ear grades. As a result, too many students do not experience the success needed to create the motivation and engagement th sustain learning.

1st Grade "Readiness" on 2001-02 Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB):

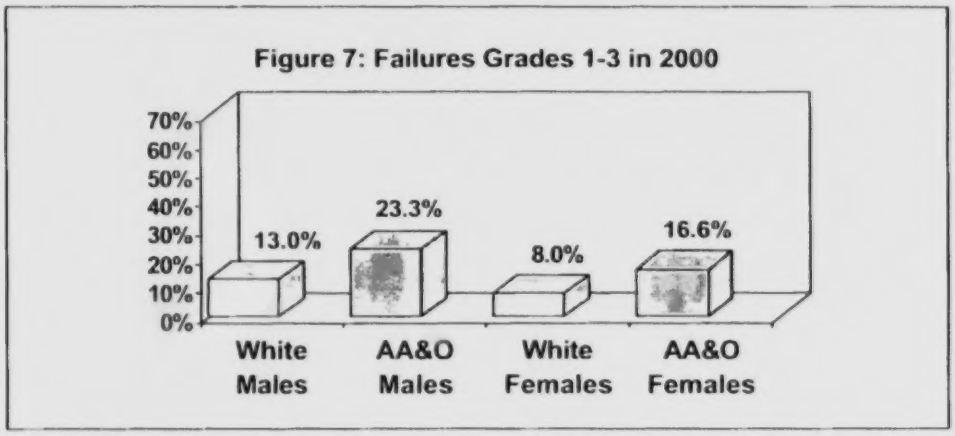
220 children not ready 14.2% children not ready



1st Grade Failures in 2002:

127 children failing 7.8% children failing

Failures Grades 1-3 in 2002 (approximate cumulative percentage of grades one, two and three):	
336 children failing	20.0% children failing



Over-age for Grade 3 in 2001	
293 children over-age	18.9% children over-age

Special Education: Large numbers of children are placed in special education classes. In elementary school, 512 six and seven year olds and 551 eight and nine year-olds were enrolled in special education classes during 2001-02, approximately 16.4% and 16.1% of their age groups respectively: 16.1% of White 8 – 9 year olds were in special education and 16.1% of African American and Others.

Readiness Summary: A serious problem exists in terms of student readiness and school success in the early grades. With 14.2% assessed not ready for the 1st grade, 18.9% over age in grade 3, and 16.1% of eight and nine year-olds placed in special education, unacceptably large numbers of students still begin school without good prospects of success in future school achievement and graduation; however, great improvement has occurred since the mid 1990s.

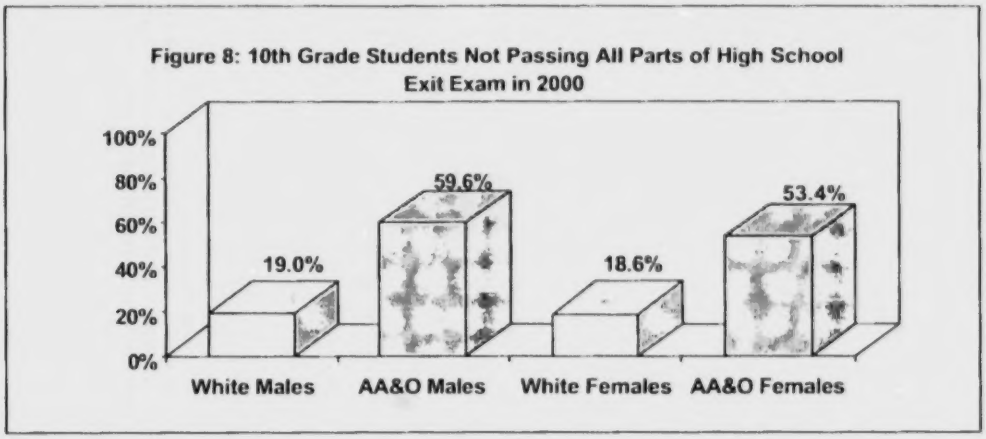
SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

By the end of elementary school, significant numbers of students perform below minimum standards. The following standardized test measures, comparing student performance to state minimum standards, should be used in combination with routine classroom assessments more reflective of real-world performance skills.

Special Education: Special education placements reflect both the significant number of children with serious handicapping conditions and a large number of students with mild learning and behavioral problems that have not been accommodated successfully by the regular educational program. The result is a large system of self-contained, resource, and itinerant services to meet the needs of 701 speech and language impaired, 1,323 learning disabled, 118 emotionally disabled, 864 mentally impaired, and 360 physically handicapped, deaf, blind, and other handicapped students. Special education classes served approximately 15.8% of all students in grades 1 - 12 during 2001-2002.

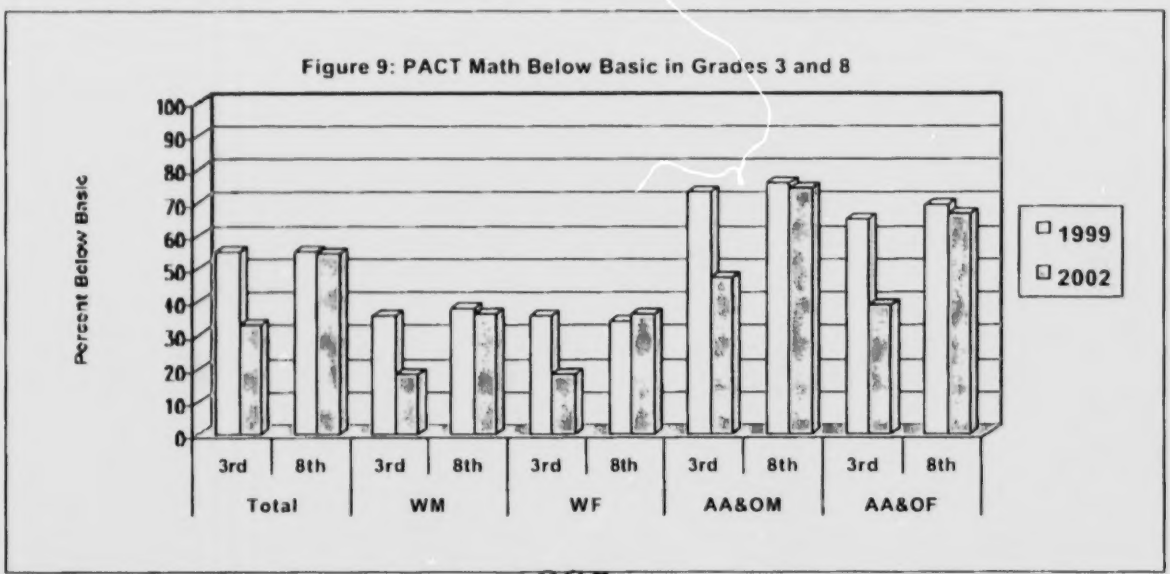
Exit Exam - not passing all parts of Exit Exam on first attempt in the 10th grade in 2002

479 students did not pass all parts	37.0% of students did not pass all parts



Achievement Trends: How has performance on standardized achievement tests changed over the past 20 years? During the 1980s, student performance on the BSAP tests improved dramatically. Between 1981 and 1990, the percentage of 8th grade students in Florence County who did not meet standards declined from 55.5% to 26.8% in math and from 51.9% to 22.9% in reading. During the 1990's the BSAP trend changed, with 37.5% not meeting 8th grade math standards in 1998 and 31.5% in reading. On standardized tests, the first year when South Carolina students take the exam is comparable to the challenge encountered by the national norm group which took the test only once. Looking at first year data, the percentage of 4th grade students at or below the 25th percentile of national norms was 34.8% in 1983 on the CTBS, 31.8% in 1990 on the Stanford, and 34.8% in 1995 on the Metropolitan; for 9th graders, the percentage in the bottom quarter was 32.0% in 1990 and 31.8% in 1995. Although not comparable, the percent below basic on the 4th grade PACT in 1999, the first year of administration, was 42.6%, but in 2002 26.7% of 4th graders were below basic in reading and math; the percentage of 8th graders below basic in reading and math averaged 46.8% in 1999 and 47.9% in 2002.

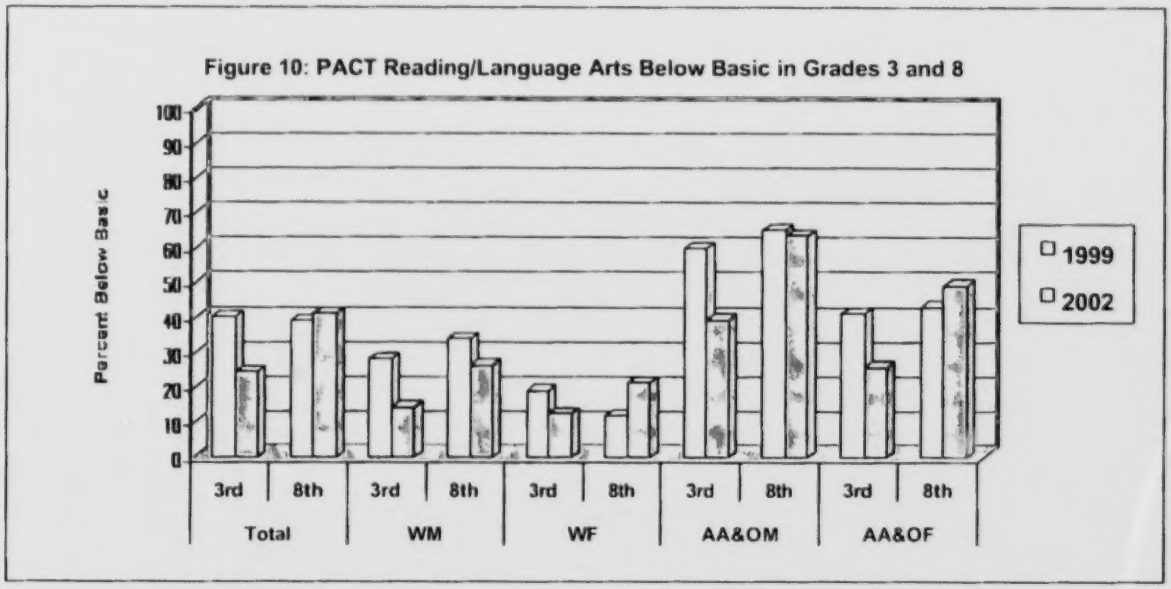
PACT: The Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) was first administered in 1999 for grades 3 - 8 in math and reading/language arts. Math assesses skills in numbers, numerical and algebraic concepts, patterns and functions, geometry, measurement, probability and statistics. The percentage of students scoring below basic in math has decreased by 21.7% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 2,549 students below basic in grades 3-8 but there would have been an additional 706 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
	Math (%)					
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	32.8	18.2	18.3	47.2	39.0
	4	28.4	16.8	14.9	40.4	37.0
	5	37.3	23.6	17.1	51.0	47.0
	6	35.0	19.1	18.1	50.4	46.0
	7	51.6	32.0	31.4	69.9	65.8
	8	54.5	36.5	36.3	74.0	66.4
Basic	3	43.7	46.4	46.6	40.1	43.3
	4	40.7	38.1	39.2	40.6	43.9
	5	39.4	40.2	38.7	39.8	38.9
	6	38.6	40.0	39.4	35.6	39.7
	7	30.9	36.6	39.9	23.8	26.1
	8	36.5	44.1	49.5	23.3	31.5
Proficient	3	17.0	23.1	25.2	9.9	14.0
	4	18.5	25.9	22.8	13.5	14.1
	5	15.2	20.5	28.2	6.7	11.3
	6	17.3	23.4	29.8	8.6	11.5
	7	11.0	17.5	19.4	4.0	5.8
	8	6.6	13.4	10.8	1.6	2.0
Advanced	3	6.5	12.3	10.0	2.8	3.6
	4	12.4	19.3	23.1	5.5	5.0
	5	8.1	15.7	16.0	2.6	2.8
	6	9.1	17.5	12.8	5.4	2.9
	7	6.5	13.9	9.3	2.2	2.3
	8	2.5	6.0	3.4	1.2	0.0

Reading/Language Arts assesses reading, listening, speaking, writing, research, and communication with technology. The first PACT assessment found a high percentage of elementary and middle grades students performing below standards and only a modest number above basic. The percentage of students scoring below basic in reading/language arts has decreased by 20.9% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 1,915 students below basic in grades 3 - 8 but there would have been an additional 506 at 1999 performance rates.

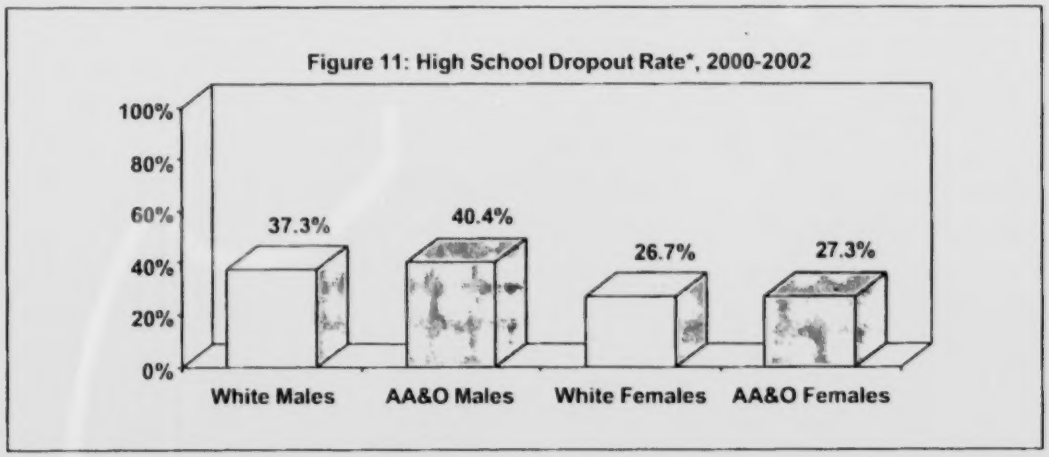
Figure 10: PACT Reading/Language Arts Below Basic in Grades 3 and 8



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
	Reading/Language Arts (%)					
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	24.6	14.4	12.4	39.3	25.8
	4	25.0	18.8	9.5	40.8	27.1
	5	34.1	20.3	11.5	53.8	39.1
	6	34.6	22.6	16.7	54.4	38.9
	7	32.8	21.4	11.0	58.0	35.1
	8	41.3	26.3	21.1	63.7	49.4
Basic	3	41.8	35.6	31.0	44.3	51.1
	4	48.7	49.0	43.3	47.3	53.8
	5	49.5	55.6	51.6	41.1	52.3
	6	37.2	39.6	33.3	32.1	42.8
	7	46.6	52.2	46.3	36.2	52.0
	8	38.8	44.0	42.5	31.6	38.2
Proficient	3	32.2	48.4	52.4	16.1	22.7
	4	24.9	31.1	43.0	11.2	19.1
	5	15.5	22.9	34.1	4.9	8.6
	6	24.8	34.8	42.6	12.1	15.4
	7	18.1	23.3	36.4	5.4	11.9
	8	16.2	24.4	27.8	4.2	11.0
Advanced	3	1.4	1.6	4.1	0.2	0.5
	4	1.4	1.1	4.3	0.7	0.0
	5	0.8	1.1	2.8	0.2	0.0
	6	3.4	3.0	7.4	1.3	2.9
	7	2.5	3.1	6.3	0.4	1.0
	8	3.7	5.3	8.5	0.5	1.3

Dropout Rate - 8th grade students no longer enrolled in grade 12
(average of students for the three years ending 2000-2002)

638 students drop out annually **33.1% students drop out?**



Dropouts: Distressing numbers of students drop out and fail to graduate. An average of 32.9% of 8th graders failed to graduate** from county schools five years later during the period 1980-84, 38.2% during 1985-89, and 36.7% during 1990-94, 31.2% during 1995-97 and 36.2% during 1998-2000***.

During 2001-02, 96.9% of all who did graduate received the State High School Diploma, while the remaining 3.1% received a State Certificate for meeting the required Carnegie units but not passing the Exit Exam.

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* 12th grade enrollment compared to 8th grade enrollment four years earlier

** This is calculated by using 8th grade enrollment to graduation data.

*** 2001 data will be available soon and will be posted on the website.

Fortunately, many dropouts enroll in adult education programs and either earn a high school diploma or obtain a GED. During 2001-02, 9 Adult Education high school diplomas were awarded to school completers and in 2001 220 GEDs were awarded in the county. Over time, adult education high school diplomas and GEDs increase the effective school completion rate substantially. In the 2000 Census, 16.9% of county resident 25 - 34 year-olds said they had not completed either high school or a GED.

Achievement Summary: The numbers of students testing below basic on the PACT and dropping out range from 24.6% to 54.5%. Thus, far too many students fail to acquire the knowledge, skills, learning habits, and motivation necessary to compete in the economy or contribute to society in the 21st Century.

ADOLESCENT RISK BEHAVIORS

Academic achievement is greatly influenced by the prevailing youth culture which often promotes popularity with peers and partying rather than studying and doing well in school. The prevalence of adolescent risk-taking and under-achievement is illustrated by the poor grades of substance-abusing teens.

Substance Abuser Rates at Levels of Academic Performance

	Usual School Grades in Past Year					
	A Range	B Range	C Range	D Range	F Range	Total
Smoked Cigarettes (in past 30 days)	14.1%	25.7%	29.9%	39.2%	58.0%	25.6%
Drank 5 or More Drinks on One Occasion (in past 30 days)	11.0%	15.3%	21.0%	19.5%	25.4%	16.5%
Used Any Illicit Drug (in past 30 days)	9.9%	13.3%	24.6%	27.7%	47.8%	17.0%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

As influence from parents and other adults declines during adolescence, significant numbers of students engage in violence, crime, school offenses, depressive emotions and attempted suicide:

Risk Behaviors Participated in During Past 12 Months	White Male		White Female		African American Male		African American Female		Total		Total (Grade 7-12)
	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	
Carried a handgun or knife for self-defense?	17.9%	24.0%	3.8%	7.3%	10.6%	18.4%	5.5%	7.8%	9.3%	14.0%	11.7%
Carried a handgun or knife as a weapon?	6.9%	8.5%	0.2%	1.9%	7.8%	12.7%	4.2%	4.4%	4.8%	7.0%	5.9%
Been in a fight with someone?	39.6%	27.7%	17.7%	16.2%	36.6%	25.0%	30.4%	21.2%	31.2%	22.5%	26.7%
Hit your boyfriend or girlfriend?	2.7%	2.2%	5.1%	10.4%	6.7%	4.8%	18.2%	30.4%	8.6%	13.1%	10.9%
Been hit by your boyfriend or girlfriend?	5.0%	7.5%	5.5%	7.6%	13.3%	7.8%	8.5%	12.7%	8.2%	9.2%	8.7%
Rec'd detention or in-school suspension?	34.1%	28.3%	14.2%	17.4%	38.6%	33.4%	36.9%	24.2%	31.3%	26.0%	28.6%
Been suspended from school?	18.0%	21.7%	6.5%	10.6%	26.5%	24.7%	21.9%	16.0%	18.5%	18.4%	18.4%
Stolen anything worth > $5?	11.0%	12.4%	4.5%	7.1%	11.0%	12.3%	7.0%	5.2%	8.4%	9.1%	8.7%
Had an accident while driving?	NA	17.0%	NA	13.4%	NA	6.9%	NA	4.8%	NA	10.2%	NA
Been arrested and booked?	3.5%	5.1%	0.7%	2.4%	3.2%	8.0%	3.4%	2.9%	2.8%	4.6%	3.7%
Felt hopeless for two weeks or more?	11.5%	17.7%	18.6%	29.8%	12.2%	14.7%	22.7%	24.4%	16.5%	21.6%	19.1%
Seriously considered attempting suicide?	5.9%	7.8%	6.2%	15.4%	3.2%	4.1%	7.0%	6.3%	5.6%	8.1%	6.9%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

Adolescence is often a time of taking risks and asserting independence from adults. When asked whether they would tell an adult about a problem, the following percentages of county students said they would be "not likely" or "very unlikely" to tell if they:

-heard a student threaten to harm someone: 30.8% middle school, 46.7% high school;
-saw a student with a handgun at school: 23.8% middle school, 26.8% high school;
-saw a student with a knife at school: 24.8% middle school, 36.1% high school;
-saw a student with drugs at school: 35.0% middle school, 60.1% high school;

Alcohol Use:* In the county during 2001-02, 17.9% of 7th and 8th graders and 33.3% of high schoolers said they had used alcohol in the past month. Of White males in grades 7 - 12, 32.2% had used it in the past month, compared with 26.1% of African-American males; likewise, 32.7% of White females said they had used alcohol, compared with 20.8% of African-American females. Many youth first used alcohol at an early age: 10.1% had used alcohol by age 11 or younger, 25.0% by age 13, and 52.4% by age 15.

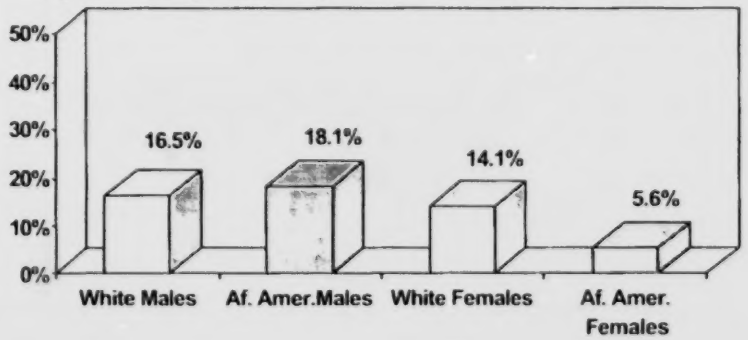
During the previous year, 22.4% of 7th and 8th graders and 30.9% of high schoolers said they had ridden with a drinking driver. Of seniors who drive, 15.5% said they had driven after drinking. Widespread use is encouraged by the ready availability and perceived low risk of alcohol use. Among students who expressed an opinion, 39.1% of eighth graders and 66.8% of seniors felt that beer was easy to get. Also, 69.3% of eighth graders and 66.9% of seniors felt there was not a great risk in drinking two drinks a day, and 46.3% of eighth graders and 50.9% of high schoolers felt there was not a great risk in drinking 5 drinks every weekend.

Heavy Drinking:* In 2001-02, 6.5% of 7th and 8th graders and 16.5% of high school students in the county repor drinking 5 or more drinks in a day during the past month. When asked how many drinks, if any, they usually consur 11.1% of all county students in grades 7 - 12 in 2001-02 responded 3 or more drinks at a time and 5.7% reported usually 5 more drinks. Among high school students, 15.5% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 8.2% 5 or mc Among seniors, 17.4% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 7.8% 5 or more; however 16.2% of seni said that they drank 5 or more drinks in a day once or more during the past month.

Drugs:* In 2001-02, 7.3% of 7th and 8th graders and 17.0% of high schoolers in the county reported using ille drugs during the previous month. Among students in grades 7 - 12, use was reported by 16.5% of White males, 14.1% Wl females, 18.1% of African-American males, and 5.6% of African-American females. Some young people initiated drug at an early age: 4.3% had experienced their first use by age 11 or sooner; 12.1% had used a drug by age 13, and 28.2% by 15.

In the past year, 7.4% of all high school students in the county who drive and 9.7% of seniors who drive said that they had driven after using drugs. Such use is encouraged by the ready availability of drugs: 18.7% of 8th graders who had an opinion said it is easy to get marijuana and 8.7% said it is easy to get cocaine or crack; 62.6% of seniors said it is easy to get marijuana and 34.1% said it was easy to get cocaine or crack.

Figure 12: Drug Use among Students Grades 7-12 during 2001-02*



* County participation in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking was not complete but county data is presented to provide the best available picture of teen risk-taking attitudes and behavior in Florence County. Five of 5 districts participated, but there was partial participation by the largest (District 1).

Sexual Activity and Pregnancy: Many teenagers now engage in sexual activity. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) administered to a representative sample of high school students throughout South Carolina in 2001 showed that sexual activity begins at an early age: 7% of female and 21% of male students have engaged in intercourse before age 13; by age 15, 38% the females and 49% of males have engaged in sexual intercourse. Statewide, 48% of females and 50% of males in the 11th and 12th grades reported engaging in intercourse during the past three months. Furthermore, 27% of female and 33% of male 12th graders have had intercourse with four or more partners during their lifetimes.

Premature sexual activity often results in pregnancy. In the county, 119 girls between the ages of 14 and 17 became pregnant in 1999, 126 in 2000 and 125 in 2001. This represented 3.3% of all girls ages 14 – 17 in 2001; several times this percentage become pregnant at least once by age 18. The 2001 pregnancy rate for ages 14 - 17 was 2.5% for Whites and 4.0% for African-Americans and Others. Of all pregnancies of 14-17 year olds, 93.6% resulted in live births, with almost all other pregnancies ending in abortions.

Teen pregnancy rates increased substantially across the state during the 1980s; as a result, greater emphasis v devoted to preventing teen pregnancy. Since 1989, the teen pregnancy rate in Florence County has decreased by 33.9 Overall, it has decreased by 13.8% for Whites, and decreased by 47.4% for African Americans and Others.

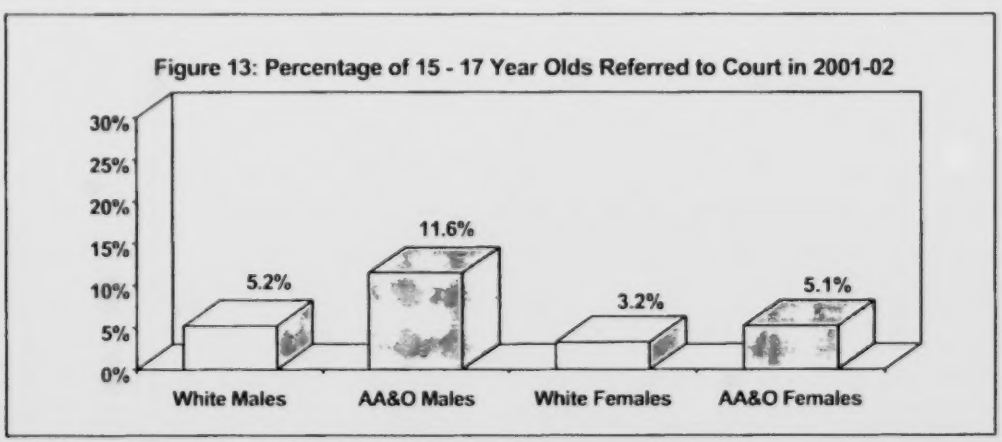
Juvenile Delinquency: In 2001-02, 708 individual juvenile offenders in the county were referred to the Solicitor for delinquency; of these, 16.2% were age 12 or younger, 32.6% were 13 or 14, and 51.1% were 15 or older.

Of the referrals to the family court, 9.6% of all referrals were for violent and serious crimes which include drug trafficking, acts against persons for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and serious property offenses for arson and burglary. Also, 134 juvenile cases constituting 14.1% of all referrals were for status offenses. Status offenses include truancy, running away, incorrigibility, and other offenses that would not be crimes for adults.

Delinquents are likely to live in families with low income: 26.9% lived in families with income under $10,000, 34.0% with $10,000-$19,999 and 39.2% with $20,000 or more. Furthermore, only 16.6% of delinquents lived with both natural parents, while 55.9% lived in a single parent household, 24.8% lived with other relatives, and 2.7% in other situations including parent plus step-parent. Delinquency or criminal activity occurs among many related family members: 38.4% had at least one family member who was delinquent or had some criminal record.

Youth referred to the family courts are likely to have been there before. In 2001-02, 51.6% had at least one prior referral and 21.5% had been referred to court 3 times or more. Many were referred at an early age. For delinquents 15 - 17 years old, 3.1% had been referred by the age of 10, 10.8% by the age of 12, and 26.5% by the age of 14.

During 2001-02, 360 youth ages 15 to 17 were referred to the family courts. In the county, 6.2% of all youth 15 to 17 were referred to court in one year and roughly double that percentage are referred at least once by age 18. Furthermore, the National Youth Survey indicates that typically across the United States the proportion of youth engaging in crime is two or three times the number ever apprehended. In 2001-02, there were 30 juveniles committed from the county to DJJ custody and placed in residential programs.



Not in School or Employed: During 2000, 802 teenagers ages 16-19 were idle, meaning they neither worked any hours nor were enrolled in school, even part-time. Idle teens comprised 10.3% of their age group: 7.4% for White and 13.4% African-American & Other teens. A much larger number, perhaps twice as many, were not engaged in either school full time or work full time. The data reflect a serious failure in both school completion and the critical transition from school to work, significantly affecting their development as future workers. For an in-depth description of the problems of young adults seeking to enter the labor force, visit our website at www.scyoungadults.org for our state and county reports on 18-29 year olds.

Deaths: During 1997-2001, 44 youth ages 15 to 19 died. Historically, automobile accidents have been the major cause, resulting in 16 deaths between 1996 and 2000; homicides killed 3 youth 15 to 19 years old during the five-year period, and 4 youth committed suicide. Alcohol use is often a significant factor in deaths among teenagers.

SUMMARY

Facing the Scope of Problems: The data on families, economic status, health, readiness, school achievement, and adolescent risk behaviors provide a troublesome picture of the condition of children in Florence County. The 34.2% of children in single-parent families, 22.7% in poverty, 36.2% not graduating from school, 33.3% of high school students using alcohol and 17.0% using drugs each month, and other data profiled in this report suggest that too many children are at risk of not growing up to become self-supporting adults, good family members, and responsible community citizens.

Emphasizing the Positive: South Carolina Kids Count reports have been developed to describe the problems of children in each of the counties. Fortunately, the majority of children and youth are doing well, and some very well. One simple description is the percentage of children who do not fall into the problem categories reported. For the county, 84.5% of children are born to non-teen mothers ages 20 or older, 54.8% are born to married parents, and 65.8% lived in two-parent families; 77.3% were not poor and 53.5% lived in families with incomes above twice the poverty level for a family of three, $30,040 in 2002; 88.6% of babies were born with normal birthweights; 85.8% were assessed as ready for the first grade, 45.5% scored basic or better on PACT for 8th grade math and 58.7% for 8th grade reading, 63.0% passed all parts of the Exit Exam in the 10th grade, and 63.8% graduated with their class. In a typical month, 66.7% of high school students do not drink alcohol, 83.0% do not use drugs, and 74.3% do not smoke. Unfortunately, the absence of a problem is not always an indicator of success. Some data is available for exemplary performance: for example, 33.6% of 3rd graders and 19.9% of 8th graders scored proficient or advanced on PACT in reading and 23.5% of 3rd graders and 9.1% of 8th graders in math. Unfortunately, data on success is not generally available.

Despite the limitations of success data, we must emphasize the positive in providing good support and appropriate influences for children and youth. Recent philosophy and publications such as those of the Search Institute (700 South Third Street, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN, 55415-1138, tel. 1-800-888-7828, www.search-institute.org), emphasize the critical importance of "developmental assets" to promote and support positive development. One short book from the Search Institute, (What Kids Need to Succeed, by Peter J. Benson, Judy Gailbraith, and Pamela Espeland, 1995) presents an excellent array of suggestions for promoting developmental assets through families, community, faith congregations, and schools. If each family, school, religious congregation and community organization assertively worked to build such assets, the problems described in this report would be reduced dramatically. Such positive family-school-community efforts could improve South Carolina's national Kids Count ranking from the bottom 10 to the average or even into the top 10 by prevention of unnecessary problems affecting children and youth, as shown on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

All data presented in this report is the most recent available at the date it goes to the printer. This version of the Kids Count report will be revised as more recent and additional data become available. Please send us your corrections and suggestions for improvement. We welcome your ideas for ways to make the state and county reports more useful and accurate. Please utilize local data sources whenever possible to supplement the profile provided through our report.

Data related inquiries should be directed to:

Anne Wilson, Data Manager (awilson@drss.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-4810

Calls for **copies of reports** for other counties and inquiries regarding more recent reports should be made to:

Kim Hazel-Lohr, Project Manager (khazel@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-1295

For **policy questions and general comments**, please contact:

Dr. A. Baron Holmes, Project Director (bholmes@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-2291

Comparable reports for all 46 counties and for the state can also be found on the World Wide Web at

www.sckidscount.org

Our website also provides: links to other websites for indicators in our report; high to low rankings for individual indicators; information on how to improve SC's national rank; and a glossary of definitions.

The national Kids Count Report can be found on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website at

www.aecf.org

Florence County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Indicators	Most Recent Year	Number					Percent					R	
		1980*	1990*	Most Recent Data	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980 Rank	199
Health													
Low Birth Weight	2001	165	218	218	+32.1%	+0.0%	8.3	11.2	11.4	37.5%	2.0%	18	
White babies	2001	56	58	84	+50.0%	+44.8%	5.5	6.0	8.2	49.1%	36.6%	18	
African American and Other babies	2001	109	160	134	+22.9%	-16.3%	11.1	16.2	15.2	36.2%	-6.6%	17	
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	2001	600	432	727	21.2%	+68.3%	30.1	22.1	38.1	26.6%	72.1%	6	
White babies	2001	170	110	289	+70.0%	+162.7%	16.8	11.4	28.3	68.5%	148.5%	2	
African American and Other babies	2001	430	322	438	+1.9%	+36.0%	44.0	32.7	49.6	12.7%	51.7%	8	
Infant Mortality	2001	105	92	73	-30.5%	-20.7%	1.8	1.6	1.3	-28.5%	-19.8%	28	
White babies	2001	37	20	21	-43.2%	+5.0%	1.3	0.7	0.7	-43.3%	-2.2%	29	
African American and Other babies	2001	68	72	52	-23.5%	-27.8%	2.4	2.4	1.9	-19.0%	-20.8%	27	
Family													
Births to mothers under 18	2001	177	164	118	-33.3%	-28.0%	8.9	8.4	6.2	-30.3%	-26.2%	21	
White babies	2001	52	58	44	-15.4%	-24.1%	5.1	6.0	4.3	-16.3%	-28.4%	18	
African American and Other babies	2001	125	106	74	-40.8%	-30.2%	12.8	10.8	8.4	-34.4%	-22.1%	24	
Births to mothers under 20	2001	395	396	296	-25.1%	-25.3%	19.8	20.3	15.5	-21.9%	-23.6%	15	
White babies	2001	146	136	119	-18.5%	+12.5%	14.4	14.1	11.6	-19.6%	-17.6%	14	
African American and Other babies	2001	249	260	177	-28.9%	+31.9%	25.5	26.4	20.0	-21.3%	-24.1%	19	
Births to mothers with less than a high school education	2001	641	477	333	-48.0%	-30.2%	32.2	24.4	17.5	-45.7%	-28.4%	17	
White babies	2001	267	192	146	-45.3%	-24.0%	26.4	19.9	14.3	-45.8%	-28.1%	16	
African American and Other babies	2001	374	285	187	-50.0%	-34.4%	38.2	28.9	21.2	-44.6%	-26.8%	42	
Births to single mothers****	2001	504	760	861	+70.8%	+13.3%	25.3	39.0	45.2	78.5%	16.0%	23	
White babies	2001	54	137	235	+335.2%	+71.5%	5.3	14.2	23.0	331.0%	62.2%	13	
African American and Other babies	2001	450	623	626	+39.1%	+0.5%	46.0	63.2	70.9	54.1%	12.1%	19	
Children in single parent families	2000	6,640	8,168	9,521	+43.4%	+16.6%	20.7	29.6	34.2	65.2%	15.5%	31	
White	2000	2,153	2,417	2,682	+24.6%	+11.0%	11.1	15.7	17.8	60.3%	13.3%	37	
African American and Other	2000	4,470	5,724	6,839	+53.0%	+19.5%	33.2	46.9	53.6	61.4%	14.2%	42	
Education													
Not Ready for Grade 1	2001	631	585	220	-65.1%	-62.4%	36.7	28.4	14.2	-61.3%	-50.0%	21	
White males	2001	117	110	30	-74.4%	-72.7%	28.3	23.0	8.9	-68.6%	-61.3%	16	
White females	2001	67	40	16	-76.1%	-60.0%	17.4	10.5	5.3	-69.5%	-49.5%	10	
African American and Other males	2001	258	255	116	-55.0%	-54.5%	55.5	41.0	24.6	-55.7%	-40.0%	27	
African American and Other females	2001	189	179	58	-69.3%	-67.6%	41.7	30.9	13.4	-67.9%	-56.6%	10	
Repeating Grades 1-3	2000	260	468	283	+8.8%	-39.5%	14.9	24.8	16.0	7.4%	-35.5%	15	
White males	2000	61	104	51	-16.4%	-51.0%	14.0	23.1	13.0	-7.1%	-43.7%	13	
White females	2000	34	51	27	-20.6%	-47.1%	8.4	12.8	8.0	-4.8%	-37.5%	17	
African American and Other males	2000	99	187	121	+22.2%	-35.3%	22.1	35.3	23.3	5.4%	-34.0%	17	
African American and Other females	2000	65	126	83	+27.7%	-34.1%	14.6	24.6	16.6	13.7%	-32.5%	18	
Grade 3 Math below standards****	2002	714	245	474	-33.6%	+93.5%	42.6	13.4	32.8	-23.0%	144.8%	24	
White males	2002	124	23	56	-54.8%	+143.5%	27.4	5.2	18.2	-33.6%	250.0%	17	
White females	2002	111	24	53	-52.3%	+120.8%	25.9	5.7	18.3	-29.3%	221.1%	17	
African American and Other males	2002	236	92	201	-14.8%	+118.5%	62.3	19.5	47.2	-24.2%	142.1%	31	
African American and Other females	2002	240	108	164	-31.7%	+54.7%	57.7	21.3	39.0	-32.4%	83.1%	39	
Grade 3 Reading below standards****	2002	605	217	354	-41.5%	+63.1%	36.0	11.9	24.6	-31.7%	106.7%	20	
White males	2002	116	36	44	-62.1%	+22.2%	25.6	8.2	14.4	-43.8%	75.6%	19	
White females	2002	72	16	36	-50.0%	+125.0%	16.7	3.8	12.4	-25.7%	226.3%	20	
African American and Other males	2002	222	99	166	-25.2%	+67.7%	58.6	21.0	39.3	-32.9%	87.1%	25	
African American and Other females	2002	193	66	108	-44.0%	+63.6%	46.4	13.3	25.8	-44.4%	94.0%	33	
Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT Grade 4	1998	570	600	474	-16.8%	-21.0%	34.8	31.8	29.1	-16.4%	-8.5%	27	
White males	1998	91	121	48	-47.3%	-60.3%	22.6	25.2	14.2	-37.2%	-43.7%	18	
White females	1998	56	49	47	-16.1%	-4.1%	14.7	11.9	12.7	-13.6%	6.7%	21	
African American and Other males	1998	228	228	209	-8.3%	-8.3%	54.4	46.9	48.1	-11.6%	2.6%	31	
African American and Other females	1998	193	202	169	-12.4%	-16.3%	47.5	39.8	35.4	-25.5%	-11.1%	41	

*Year of data is approximate in many cases.
**1 is best, 46 is worst.
*** Data include paternity acknowledgements.
**** BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Florence County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Education (continued)

Indicators		Number					Percent				
	Most Recent Year	1980*	1990*	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres
Grade 8 Math below state standards**	2002	970	459	890	-8.2%	+93.9%	55.5	26.8	54.5	-1.8%	103.4%
White males	*2002*	*157*	*70*	*134*	*-14.6%*	*+91.4%*	*34.1*	*16.4*	*36.5*	*7.0%*	*122.6%*
White females	*2002*	*134*	*67*	*141*	*+5.2%*	*+110.4%*	*32.1*	*13.9*	*36.3*	*13.1%*	*161.2%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*346*	*159*	*318*	*-8.1%*	*+100.0%*	*77.4*	*42.0*	*74.0*	*-4.4%*	*76.2%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*329*	*161*	*297*	*-9.7%*	*+84.5%*	*78.3*	*38.1*	*66.4*	*-15.2%*	*74.3%*
Grade 8 Reading below state standards**	2002	906	396	669	-26.2%	+68.9%	51.9	22.9	41.3	-20.4%	80.3%
White males	*2002*	*156*	*76*	*95*	*-39.1%*	*+25.0%*	*34.0*	*17.7*	*26.3*	*-22.6%*	*48.6%*
White females	*2002*	*117*	*51*	*82*	*-29.9%*	*+60.8%*	*28.1*	*10.5*	*21.1*	*-24.9%*	*101.0%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*338*	*144*	*272*	*-19.5%*	*+88.9%*	*75.6*	*37.6*	*63.7*	*-15.7%*	*69.4%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*293*	*124*	*220*	*-24.9%*	*+77.4%*	*69.9*	*29.0*	*49.4*	*-29.3%*	*70.3%*
Grade 9 Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT	1998	NA	576	394	NA	-31.6%	NA	32	28.7	NA	-10.3%
White males	*1998*	*NA*	*109*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*22*	*18.0*	*NA*	*-18.2%*
White females	*1998*	*NA*	*62*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*15.5*	*11.7*	*NA*	*-24.5%*
African American and Other males	*1998*	*NA*	*232*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*50.8*	*46.3*	*NA*	*-8.9%*
African American and Other females	*1998*	*NA*	*173*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*38.7*	*39.8*	*NA*	*2.8%*
Exit Exam (not passing all parts on 1st attempt)	2002	836	397	479	-42.7%	+20.7%	49.9	28.1	37.0	-25.9%	31.7%
White males	*2002*	*139*	*55*	*60*	*-56.8%*	*+9.1%*	*32.1*	*16.1*	*19.0*	*-40.8%*	*18.0%*
White females	*2002*	*136*	*42*	*65*	*-52.2%*	*+54.8%*	*29.9*	*11.2*	*18.6*	*-37.8%*	*66.1%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*267*	*165*	*162*	*-39.3%*	*-1.8%*	*76.3*	*48.7*	*59.6*	*-21.9%*	*22.4%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*288*	*132*	*191*	*-33.7%*	*+44.7%*	*67.3*	*37.5*	*53.4*	*-20.7%*	*42.4%*
Dropout Rate (8th graders no longer enrolled in 12th grade 4 years later)	2000-02	723	665	638	-11.7%	-4.0%	36.3	33.8	33.1	-8.9%	-2.2%
White males	*2000-02*	*184*	*175*	*182*	*-1.1%*	*+4.0%*	*36.0*	*33.7*	*37.3*	*3.6%*	*10.8%*
White females	*2000-02*	*166*	*116*	*116*	*-29.9%*	*+0.7%*	*32.2*	*24.0*	*26.7*	*-17.0%*	*11.2%*
African American and Other males	*2000-02*	*196*	*228*	*201*	*+2.7%*	*-11.7%*	*41.3*	*46.3*	*40.4*	*-2.3%*	*-12.9%*
African American and Other females	*2000-02*	*177*	*146*	*138*	*-21.8%*	*-5.5%*	*36.1*	*30.9*	*27.3*	*-24.5%*	*-11.7%*
Young Adults Not Completing High School (18-24)	2000	4,178	3,294	2,839	-32.0%	-13.8%	31.1	28.0	16.9	-45.6%	-39.5%
White males	*NA*	*1,192*	*908*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*30.4*	*25.9*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
White females	*NA*	*910*	*687*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*22.4*	*19.9*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other males	*NA*	*1,066*	*1,033*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*41.9*	*46.4*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other females	*NA*	*1,010*	*666*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*34.7*	*25.8*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*

Economics

Poverty Rate	2000	9,850	8,530	7,313	-25.8%	-14.3%	27.8	26.4	22.7	-18.3%	-14.0%
White children	*2000*	*2,429*	*1,488*	*1,468*	*-39.6%*	*-1.3%*	*12.5*	*9.1*	*9.1*	*-27.2%*	*0.0%*
African American and Other children	*2000*	*7,421*	*7,042*	*5,845*	*-21.2%*	*-17.0%*	*46.2*	*44.5*	*36.5*	*-21.1%*	*-18.1%*
Income of Families w/children (1999 $)	2000	$ 40,989	$ 45,044	$ 52,314	+27.6%	+16.1%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
White families	*2000*	*$ 48,185*	*$ 55,924*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other families	*2000*	*$ 27,263*	*$ 29,076*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*

Adolescent Risk Factors

Teenage Pregnancy (ages 14-17)	2001	209	183	125	-40.2%	-31.7%	5.0	4.8	3.3	-33.9%	-31.3%
White	*2001*	*75*	*71*	*49*	*-34.7%*	*-31.0%*	*3.2*	*3.6*	*2.5*	*-22.1%*	*-30.6%*
African American and Other	*2001*	*134*	*112*	*76*	*-43.3%*	*-32.1%*	*7.3*	*6.2*	*4.0*	*-45.1%*	*-35.5%*
Delinquency	2002	183	347	360	+96.7%	+3.7%	3.0	6.1	6.2	108.0%	2.3%
White males	*2002*	*46*	*85*	*77*	*+67.4%*	*-9.4%*	*2.7*	*5.4*	*5.2*	*92.7%*	*-3.7%*
White females	*2002*	*22*	*33*	*46*	*+109.1%*	*+39.4%*	*1.3*	*2.1*	*3.2*	*145.7%*	*52.1%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*91*	*170*	*163*	*+79.1%*	*-4.1%*	*7.0*	*13.2*	*11.6*	*65.1%*	*-12.4%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*24*	*59*	*74*	*+208.3%*	*+25.4%*	*1.8*	*4.7*	*5.1*	*183.5%*	*8.6%*

*Closest available data to this year was used in many cases.
**BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Kids Count 2003

Georgetown County

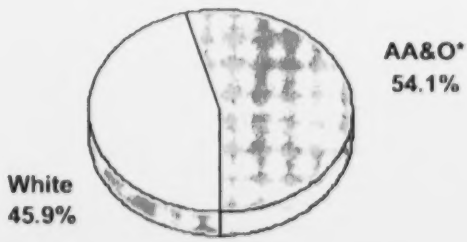
Demographics

In 2000 there were an estimated 14,044 children under age 18 in the county. Of these, 6,448 were White, 7,306 were African-American, and 290 were other races. There were 13,818 children under age 18 in 1990, 14,578 in 1980, 14,378 in 1970, and 17,238 in 1960.

Children represent a shrinking portion of the county's population. Those under 18 constituted 25.2% of the population in 2000, down from 49.5% in 1960, 42.9% in 1970, and 34.3% in 1980.

In 2000 the 4,223 pre-schoolers under age 6 were 7.6% of the overall population: 6.4% of Whites and 9.3% of African Americans.

Figure 1: Population Ages 0-17 in 2000



* In all charts African-American is combined with other races, and often abbreviated as AA&O. Other races comprise 2.1% of children in the county, with "some other race alone" at 0.9% and 'two or more races" at 0.8% as the largest Other groups.

Family

Families have always been the most important influence in a child's life. Children depend on their families for material needs, stimulation and guidance. Family life is different in numerous ways from previous generations, and many families now face exceptional challenges.

Families with children now make up a smaller share of all households. Only 30.2% of all households in 2000, as compared with 53.0% of households in 1960, had children below the age of 18.

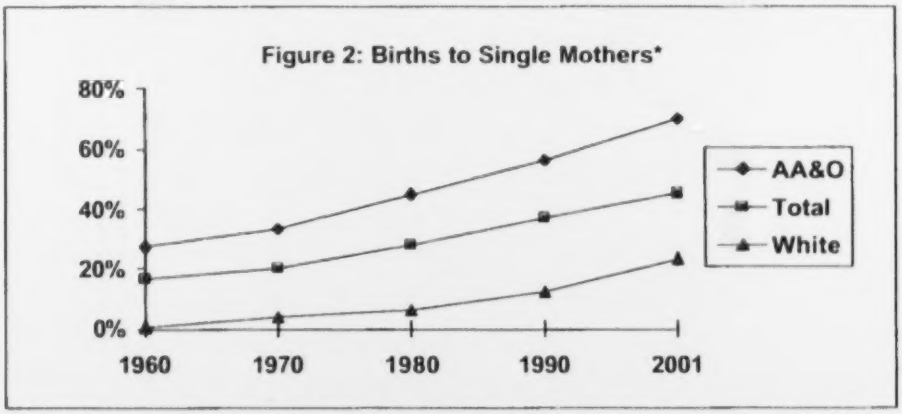
Births to Teen Mothers: In 2001, 45 babies were born to mothers younger than age 18. They were 5.6% of all babies born in the county; 3.2% of all White and 8.3% of all African-American and Other babies were born to teen mothers under the age of 18. Of the babies born to these teens in 2001, 93.3% were born to single mothers, including babies whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers.

In 2001, 130 babies were born to mothers younger than age 20. These babies were 16.1% of all born in the county; 10.9% of all White and 22.1% of all African-American and Other babies were born to mothers under the age of 20. Of the babies born to these mothers in 2001, 86.9% were born to single mothers, including paternity acknowledeged babies.

Education of Mothers Giving Birth: Children's success is strongly influenced by the education of their parents. In 2001, 153 babies, 19.0% of all babies, were born to mothers of all ages who had not completed the 12th grade. In 2001, 17.2% of White and 21.1% of African-American and Other babies were born to mothers who had completed less than the 12th grade. This is a substantial improvement from 51.7% in 1970. In addition, during 2001, 41.4% had completed 12 grades (35.0% of Whites and 48.7% of African Americans and Others) and 39.6% had more than a high school degree (47.8% of Whites and 30.2% of African American and Others).

Births to Single Mothers: Births to single mothers have increased steadily over four decades. In 2001, 209 babies, 25.9% of all babies, were recorded as born to single mothers. A decade earlier in 1990, the percentage was 34.6% and in 1960 it was 16.5%. In 2001, 8.1% of White children and 46.4% of African-American and Other children were born to single mothers. These numbers, however, do not include paternity acknowlegement births.

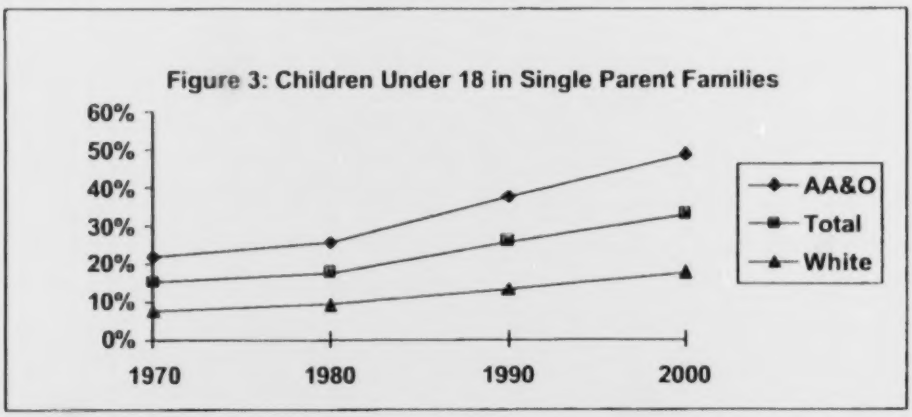
Thus, to these numbers should be added an additional group of 155 babies, 19.2% of all born in 2001, whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers. When the paternity-acknowledged babies are added, the total number born to single mothers in 2001 was 364, constituting 45.2% of all babies, 23.4% of White babies, and 70.1% of African-American and Others.



*Includes paternity acknowleged babies in 1980, 1990 and 2001. Prior to 1979, paternity acknowleged cases were not a statistical category, and thus were included in births to single mothers.

Divorce Rate: In 2001, 549 marriage licenses were issued, while 210 divorce decrees involving 173 children were filed. In 1970, only 69 children were in families involved in divorce.

Single-Parent Family: Increasing numbers of children live in single-parent families. In 2000, 3,879 children lived with only one parent. This was 33.1% of all children, up from 25.8% in 1990, 17.8% in 1980, and 15.1% in 1970. In 2000, 17.7% of White and 48.9% of African-American and Other children lived in single-parent families. Also in 2000, 937 or 30.6% of children under age 6 lived in single parent families: 14.0% of White and 52.8% of African American and Other pre-schoolers.



Parents Working and Child Care: Increasingly, parents must divide their time between children and employers. In order to meet family financial needs, most parents must work and thus have less time for family life. In 2000, 70.2% of mothers with children under 6 and 75.3% with children 6 - 17 were in the labor force. This has increased substantially from 1960 when 30.0% of mothers with children under 6 were in the labor force. Most fathers also work: 69.1% of children under 6 are in families where the single parent or both parents work. Caring for children is a problem for parents unable to obtain quality, affordable daycare while they are at work.

Overall, there are 1,607 spaces in state-regulated childcare facilities* in the county, 84.6% of these are in licensed programs and 15.4% are in registered programs. Of the spaces, 73.4% are in licensed childcare centers serving more than 12 children, 13.8% are in registered or licensed family childcare homes serving six or fewer children, 6.7% are in licensed group childcare homes serving 7-12 children, and 6.0% are in registered or licensed church programs.

The homes and centers are severely constrained by the limited ability of parents to pay. In the county, the average weekly charge is $ 64.22 for centers and $ 64.55 for homes. Consequently, center wages are low: 18.8% of centers with pre-school staff and 30% of centers with assistant pre-school staff report paying these staff under $6 per hour. Paying $6-$8 per hour are 75% of centers with pre-school staff and 50% of centers with assistants. Low wages attract workers with limited education. In 50% of centers, most pre-school staff and in 90% of centers most assistants have only a high school degree. In 37.5% of centers few to none of the pre-school staff have early childhood credentials. In childcare homes, 43.8% of lead providers have no more education than a high school degree or GED; 9.4% have less than a high school degree.

Family Violence: In 2000, 611 domestic assaults were recorded by law enforcement officials. These domestic assaults comprised 30.7% of all assaults, which include aggravated assaults, simple assaults, and intimidation. Overall, 49.8% of all domestic assaults involve spouse abuse which constitutes 15.3% of all assaults. Since most family violence is not reported, the true incidence of family disruption is much more widespread than even the large number of reported cases would indicate.

Separation from Parents: Some children do not live with their natural parents. In 2000, 8.6% of all children did not live with their natural parents. Approximately 957 or 6.8% of all children lived with relatives, 178 or 1.3% lived with non-relatives, 18 or 0.1% were householders or spouses, and 54 or 0.4% were in institutional facilities.

Abuse and Neglect: In 2000-01, there were 192 investigations into reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children. Through its investigations, the Department of Social Services (DSS) determined that 75 of the investigations were indicated for abuse or neglect: 10.3% for physical abuse, 4.6% for sexual abuse, 1.1% for mental injury, 34.5% for physical neglect, 2.3% for educational neglect, 1.1% for medical neglect, 43.7% for threat of harm for physical/sexual abuse, and 2.3% for other types of abuse.

In the indicated cases of abuse and neglect, DSS determined there were 132 children who were victims of abuse or neglect. Of these, 49.6% were male, 50.4% were female; 48.5% were White, 51.5% were African-American and Other. By age, 35.9% were ages 0 - 5, 50.0% were ages 6 - 12, and 14.1% were ages 13 - 17. In the indicated cases, 23.5% of the children lived in two-parent families, 50.0% in single parent families, 21.2% with unmarried couples, and 5.3% in other circumstances.

Out of Home Placements: As of June 2001, 60 children lived in foster care. The median age at first placement in the county is 6.2 years. The ages of children in foster care were 6.7% 0-2, 20.0% 3-5, 26.7% 6-10, 13.3% 11-13, and 33.3% 14 and above. The foster care population is 50.0% males and 50.0% females. Regarding their future, 46.7% were under a plan for placement in adoptive homes, 26.7% for return to a parent or guardian, 0.0% for placement with a relative, 20.0% for independent living, 3.3% for permanent foster care, and 3.3% for other circumstances.

Adult/Child Ratio: A measure of potential adult attention for children from family and community is the ratio of adults to children and youth. In 2000 there were 2.97 adults for every person below age 18. This was up substantially from 1960, when there were only 1.02 adults for every person under the age 18. This indicates that today there are more adults potentially available to provide attention and care for each child than in the past.

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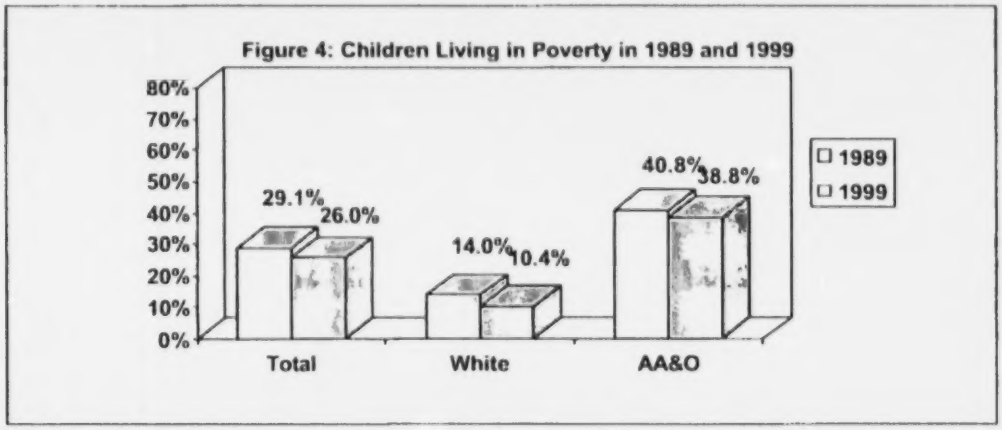
* This data is the best currently available; however, an effort is being made to check the coverage and improve the accuracy. As soon as more recent and complete data becomes available, it will be posted on the website.

ECONOMIC STATUS

Low income makes it difficult for many families to provide the material and environmental enrichment necessary for healthy child development.

Poverty: In 1999, 3,602 children and youth under the age of 18 lved in 1,643 families with incomes below poverty, comprising 26.0% of all children and youth: 10.4% of Whites and 38.8% of African-Americans and Others. A rough estimate of child poverty in 2001 calculated by the Census Bureau was 23.0%.



Poverty has always been a serious problem. While the rate among children under age 18 in 1989 was 29.1%, it was 26.7% in 1979 and 44.5% in 1969.

Children and the elderly are the age groups most seriously affected by poverty. In 1999, 24.2% of children 0 - 5 (10.1% White, 38.0% African-American and Other), and 26.6% of children 6 - 17 (10.3% White, 39.2% African-American and Other), lived in poverty; 14.0% of persons 65 years and older lived in poverty. Historically, the poverty rate among the elderly was much higher. During the last three decades, federal policy actions have substantially improved the economic status of older persons but have not done so for children.

Single-parent families are most likely to be poor. In 1999, 49.4% of children in single-parent families lived in poverty, but only 12.4% of children in married-couple families were poor. Children in single-parent families made up 73.6% of all the county's children living in poverty.

In 2002, the poverty level was $15,020 for a family of three and $18,100 for a family of four. The poverty threshold is often criticized as an arbitrary number. People can still be poor but may be just above the poverty level. Federal programs utilize varying thresholds. For example, in 1999 there were 7,368 children ages 0-17 who were less than 200 percent of poverty; thus an additional 3,766 children were above the poverty level but could still be considered poor or near-poor with incomes below $30,040 and $36,200 respectively for 3 and 4 person families.

Children Under 18 in Poverty in 1999

Percent of Poverty	Total		White		African American & Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 50%	1,424	10.3%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 100%	3,602	26.0%	654	10.4%	2,948	38.8%
Under 125%	4,383	31.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 150%	5,483	39.5%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 175%	6,582	47.4%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 185%	6,859	49.4%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 200%	7,368	53.1%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total Children	14,044		6,448		7,596	

Note: Missing data will be released by the Census Bureau later in 2003, and will be posted on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

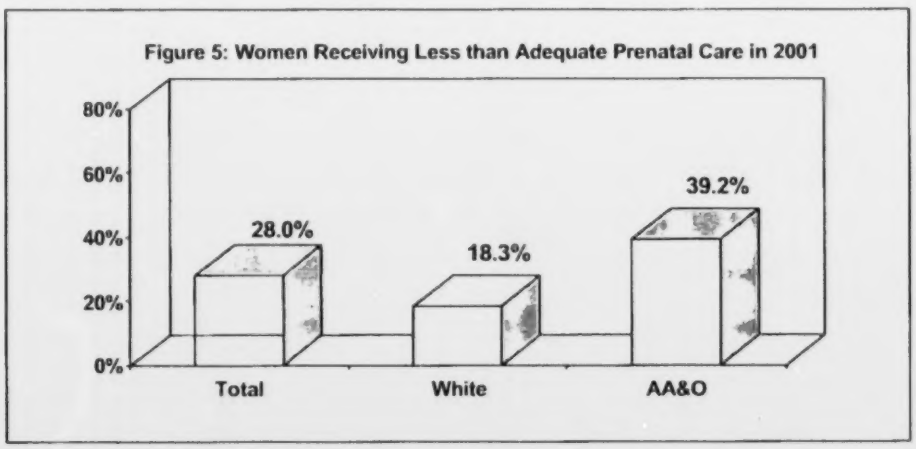
Income: The mean income of families with children in 1999 was $49,104. In 1989 it was $38,914, and 1979, it was $42,335, adjusted for inflation (i.e., in 1999 dollars). The mean income of single-parent families with children was $22,781 for single parents in 1999, as compared with $61,916 in married-couple families with children. From 1999 to 2000, Georgetown County real dollar per capita income (eliminating inflation) increased by 1.8%.

Child Support Payments: There were 646[7] families receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families in fiscal year 2002, but only 17.8 % had child support court orders. Their average monthly payment of child support was $ 261, including child support receipts and tax refund intercepts. In addition, during fiscal year 2002, an estimated 1,195 parents in non-TANF families were obligated to pay a monthly average of $ 220. Information is not available regarding the amount actually paid.

HEALTH

Good health during a child's formative years helps children to reach their maximum potential. Good health requires healthy lifestyles and effective primary care, starting during the prenatal period and continuing through adolescence into adulthood. Children's health reflects the well-being of the community, as well as how adequately they are protected.

Prenatal Care: Early and continuous prenatal care can make a significant difference in assuring births of healthy babies. Delayed or insufficient prenatal care is associated with low birthweight and other health risks for infants. In 2001, 174, or 21.6% of pregnant women received no prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy. In 2001, 226, or 28.0% of pregnant women received less than adequate prenatal care: 79 or 18.3% of Whites and 147 or 39.2% of African-Americans and Others. In that same year, 3 women received no prenatal care at all.



Low Birthweight: Low birthweight of less than 5.5 pounds and very low birthweight of less than 3.3 pounds are associated with health risks and growth and development problems. In 2001, 100 or 12.4% of all babies in the county were born with low birthweight: 18.7% of African-American and Other babies and 7.0% of White babies. During 1999-2001, approximately 72 or 3.0% of all babies were born with very low birthweight and had the most serious complications: 1.2% of White babies and 5.1% of African-American and Other babies. The cost of hospitalization for each newborn low birthweight baby in the county in 1999 - 2001 was $10,147 and $67,504 for each very low birthweight baby, compared with $1,803 for a baby of normal birthweight. The result was excess cost in the county of $1,653,346 for all low birthweight babies, of which $1,314,030 was for very low birthweight babies.

Infant Mortality: During the decade since 1989-91, the overall infant mortality rate decreased by 18.3% from 13.8 to 11.3 per 1000 live births. For Whites, the rate decreased 69.5% from 12.8 to 3.9 per 1000 live births, while for African-Americans and Others the rate increased 36.0% from 14.5 to 19.7 per 1000 live births. Over the three-year period 1999-2001, 5 White and 22 African-American and Other infants died before age one. By comparison, 13 White and 20 African-American and Other infants died during 1989-91.

[7] Number is an unduplicated count for the entire fiscal year.

Child Injuries and Deaths: Childhood deaths and injuries reflect whether communities are safe for children. In 2001, children in the Georgetown County went to the emergency room 2,082 times because of injuries. Boys are injured more often than girls. Children visit the emergency room at comparable rates for each age from 0 to 17.

In South Carolina, the major causes of death among young children are unintentional injuries, cancer, homicide, and congenital anomalies. Over the three year period 1999-2001, 6 White and 4 African-American and Other children ages 1-14 died in the county. During 1989-91, 2 White and 5 African-American and Other children died.

Immunization: Immunization rates are an important indication of whether young children are receiving adequate preventive health care. During FY 1989-90, 44.7% of children less than two years old seen in public health clinics were not fully immunized against such preventable diseases as Polio, Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Haemophilus Influenza B and Whooping Cough. After a concerted statewide campaign to increase immunizations, the percentage of children seen in public health clinics who were not fully immunized in January 2001 had declined in the county to 9.4%. The DHEC statewide birth registry survey of all two year old children found that 88.1% were fully immunized in 2001. This success demonstrates the potential to improve the status of children when the leadership of the state and its communities act decisively together.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Children and youth are infected with sexually transmitted diseases through sexual abuse or irresponsible sexual activity. National prevalence rates indicate: a 1 in 8 chance that sexually active 15 year-old girls will develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), the most rapidly increasing cause of infertility; 10% of sexually active adolescent girls and boys are infected with chlamydia, the most common cause of PID; and as many as 15% of teen girls are infected with human papilloma virus, often with strains linked to cervical cancer. Furthermore, research evidence indicates that susceptibility to HIV/AIDS increases by 3 to 8 times through prior infection with various STDs.

According to national studies, approximately 1 in 4 sexually experienced youth aged 13-19 acquires a STD ever year; since two-thirds of all high school students have had sexual intercourse and half engage in intercourse over a thr month period, this would suggest that 10-15% of teens are infected with STDs annually. For 2000, this would indicate th an estimated 549 to 823 youth ages 13-19 in the county were infected with a STD. Many infections are either not identifi for treatment or not reported. In the county, there were 2 reported cases of children under age 15 and 49 youth ages 1 19 infected with gonorrhea; 6 youth under 15 and 83 ages 15 - 19 were reported infected with chlamydia. Youth wi undiagnosed and untreated STDs often spread their infections.

Healthy Lifestyles: Although no county data is available, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2001 found that ma high school students are not following good health habits. The YRBS revealed that 26% felt that they were overweight; 42 were trying to lose weight: 27% of boys and 57% of girls. Although during a week 79% of high school students ate fru 59% ate salad, and over 83% ate vegetables, only 17% ate the recommended five or more servings of fruit and vegetabl per day. During a week, 49% did stretching or muscle strengthening exercises, and 59% exercised three or more times f 20 minutes in sports that made them sweat or breathe hard. However, 11% of students engaged in no vigorous or modera activity at all during a week: 8% of boys and 13% of girls.

Tobacco Use:* Cigarette smoking starts at a young age and often becomes habitual. In the county during 2002 among all students 15 and older, 17.7% first smoked by age 11, 39.0% by age 13, and 56.2% by age 15. In a typical month, 23.6% of 7th and 8th graders and 28.4% of high school students smoked cigarettes. White youths were much more likely than African-Americans to smoke: 32.9% of White male and 35.4% of White female 7th to 12th graders used cigarettes, as compared with 23.9% of African-American males and 15.1% of African American females. A smaller but significant group of high school students (4.7%) used smokeless tobacco monthly; it was used primarily by White males (17.6% compared with 0.7% of all other race and sex groups).

* County participation in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking was not complete but county data is presented to provide the best available picture of teen risk-taking attitudes and behavior in Georgetown County. There was lower participation in high schools than in middle schools; also disproportionately female (54.9%).

Disabilities: No data are collected on the true prevalence of disabilities within the county. According to national reported estimates, over 10% of children and youth have developmental disabilities at any point in time, and more than 17 are affected at some time before age 18 by deafness, blindness, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, speech defects, development delays, learning disabilities, and emotional or behavioral problems. For 2000 this suggests that at least 1,404 children ar youth under age 18 in the county are currently affected by disabilities.

Approximately 5% of children and youth nationally have serious disabilities which have lifelong implications fo work, social life and community living. Typically among children and youth, there are 1 - 2% who are mentally retarded, - 3% with serious emotional disturbances, over 1% with orthopedic or multiple disabilities, including cerebral palsy an many hereditary conditions, and under 1% with visual or hearing impairments.

Other chronic health problems also affect the lives of many children. Over 3% of children have one or more these limitations. Such serious chronic conditions affect 1 - 2% who have respiratory problems (asthma and chron bronchitis), 0.5 - 1.0% with neurological problems (epilepsy and seizures), and less than 1% with circulatory problen (congenital heart defects and acquired diseases).

Other disabilities are identified primarily in school performance. These would include 638 students in grades 1- with learning disabilities and 331 students in grades 1-12 with speech/language deficits.

Disabilities are caused by genetics, disease, poor prenatal conditions, injuries, and environmental factors. For example, lead exposure, primarily from paint dust, was detected in over 1% of all children screened, including 9 in Georgetown County.

Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: While over 20% of 9-17 year olds meet diagnostic criteria for some form of mental disorder, the number with serious emotional disturbance and impaired functioning in family, school, or community activities is: 9-13% for substantial functional impairment and 5-9% for extreme functional impairment. The rates among poor children are at the higher end of these ranges. Based on a federal formula for estimating prevalence, in the county there are 12% or 904 seriously emotionally disturbed 9-17 year olds with substantial functional impairment and 8% or 603 with extreme functional impairment during the course of a year. Conduct disorders, attention deficit, depression, and anxiety disorders are the most prevalent, each affecting 3% or more of school-aged children. These disorders may occur simultaneously in a child. The prevalence rates are highest among males, adolescents, and disadvantaged persons in communities under stress and lacking social cohesion; depression, however, is more prevalent among females. On the YRBS, 20% of boys and 33% of girls in high school reported that during the past year they felt so sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that they stopped doing some usual activities. Another indicator of emotional problems is the 8% of high school students in South Carolina who reported that they had "attempted suicide" in the past year: 5% of boys and 10% of girls. Suicide attempts resulted in 4% of high school students reporting that they required treatment by a doctor or nurse for injury, poisoning, or overdose.

Inadequate Healthcare: No county level data is routinely collected regarding the number of children and youth with inadequate healthcare. According to estimates for 2000-02 by the Bureau of the Census through the annual Current Population Survey, the statewide average rate of uninsured children and youth under age 18 in families with incomes under 200% of poverty in South Carolina was 16.6%, and 9.9% above 200% of poverty. If these rates are applied to the county, there are 1,225 children in the county below 200% of poverty with no health insurance, and 663 children above 200% of poverty with no health insurance, for a total of 1,887 uninsured children in Georgetown County. The number lacking basic accessible primary care is at least double the number lacking insurance. Those lacking primary care are often dependent on health services at school. The ratio of students to nurses recommended nationally is 750:1. In the county, this would suggest the need for 13 nurses, compared with 13 currently working in the schools.

Medicaid: For several years, the State of South Carolina has emphasized enrolling eligible children into Medicaid. In late 1997, South Carolina implemented its version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, Partners for Healthy Children (PHC), and aggressively pursued outreach enrollment for PHC and Medicaid. As a result, enrollment of children ages 0 through 18 in Georgetown County has increased by 72.8% from June 1997 to June 2001; thus Medicaid and PHC were serving 53.9% of all children in that age range. The total Medicaid expenditures in South Carolina for services provided to children ages 0 through 18 for state fiscal year 2002 were $991 million, at an average statewide expenditure of $2,343 per child enrolled, approximate Medicaid expenditure for children in the county would be $17.7 million.

In June 2001, the total number of Georgetown County children, birth through 18, enrolled in Medicaid was 7,565. The total can be broken down into the following age and race groupings:

	White	African American	Hispanic	Other	Total
Children under 1	170	324	4	20	518
Children 1 - 5	582	1,453	10	79	2,124
Children 6 - 14	815	2,755	5	85	3,660
Children 15 - 18	281	966	4	12	1,263
Total	1,848	5,498	23	196	7,565

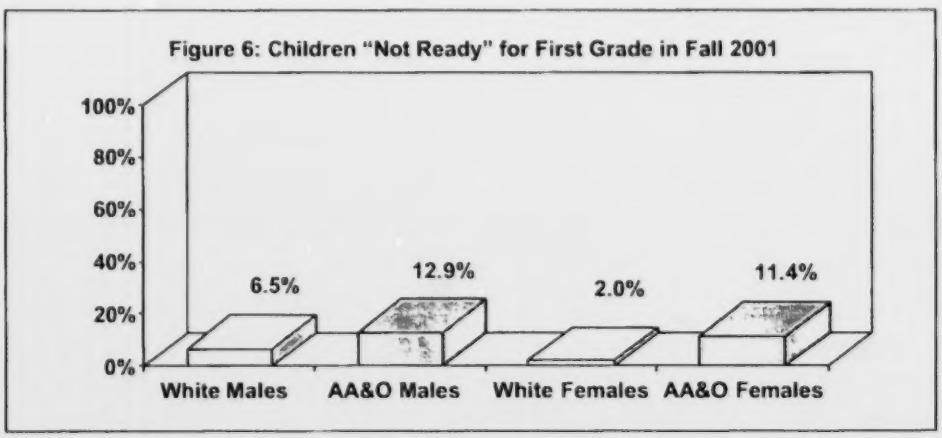
Ambulatory Care: When children lack adequate primary care, whether through lack of insurance, through limite access, or through failing to utilize available care, preventable and treatable conditions become serious and requi hospitalization. A useful indicator of inadequate primary care is the percentage of all hospitalizations that could typicall have been avoided through ambulatory care, especially for pneumonia, asthma, diarrhea and vomiting, dehydration, ar severe ear, nose, and throat infections. The share of hospitalizations for these types of conditions could normally be ke below 20%; for children in the county under the age of 18 during 2001, the share was 22.9% for Whites and 26.3% f African-Americans and Others.

READINESS AND EARLY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Too many children reach school without the readiness skills needed for success in learning, such as language, soci skills, visual and auditory discrimination, memory recall, and knowledge of colors, letters, numbers, names of objects, et Likewise, some schools are not ready to respond appropriately to the varying developmental levels of children in the ear grades. As a result, too many students do not experience the success needed to create the motivation and engagement th sustain learning.

1st Grade "Readiness" on 2001-02 Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB):

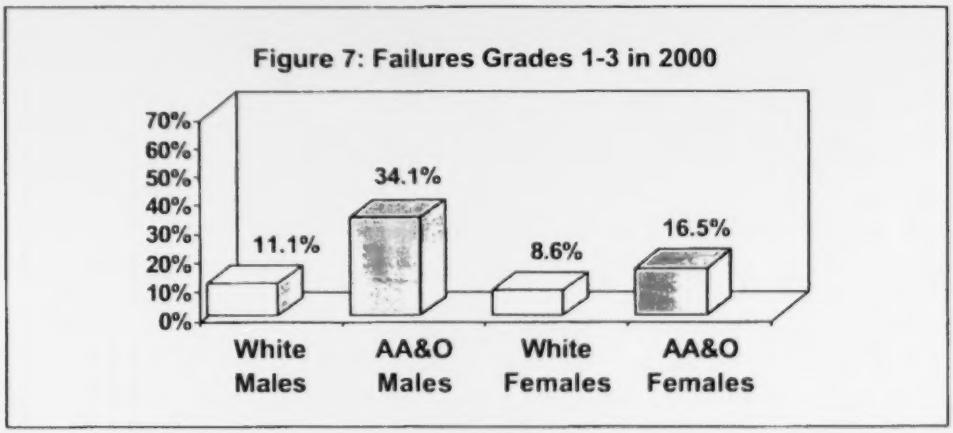
64 children not ready 8.7% children not ready



1st Grade Failures in 2002:

42 children failing 5.4% children failing

Failures Grades 1-3 in 2002 (approximate cumulative percentage of grades one, two and three):	
113 children failing	14.2% children failing



Over-age for Grade 3 in 2001	
154 children over-age	21.3% children over-age

Special Education: Large numbers of children are placed in special education classes. In elementary school, 239 six and seven year olds and 256 eight and nine year-olds were enrolled in special education classes during 2001-02, approximately 16.0% and 15.9% of their age groups respectively: 14.5% of White 8 – 9 year olds were in special education and 16.9% of African American and Others.

Readiness Summary: A serious problem exists in terms of student readiness and school success in the early grades. With 8.7% assessed not ready for the 1st grade, 21.3% over age in grade 3, and 15.9% of eight and nine year-olds placed in special education, unacceptably large numbers of students still begin school without good prospects of success in future school achievement and graduation; however, great improvement has occurred since the mid 1990s.

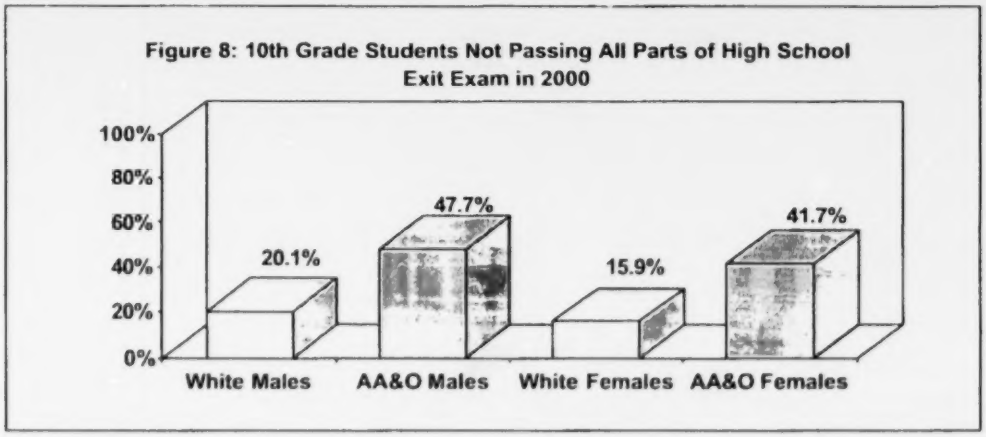
School Achievement

By the end of elementary school, significant numbers of students perform below minimum standards. The following standardized test measures, comparing student performance to state minimum standards, should be used in combination with routine classroom assessments more reflective of real-world performance skills.

Special Education: Special education placements reflect both the significant number of children with serious handicapping conditions and a large number of students with mild learning and behavioral problems that have not been accommodated successfully by the regular educational program. The result is a large system of self-contained, resource, and itinerant services to meet the needs of 331 speech and language impaired, 638 learning disabled, 178 emotionally disabled, 326 mentally impaired, and 78 physically handicapped, deaf, blind, and other handicapped students. Special education classes served approximately 15.7% of all students in grades 1 - 12 during 2001-2002.

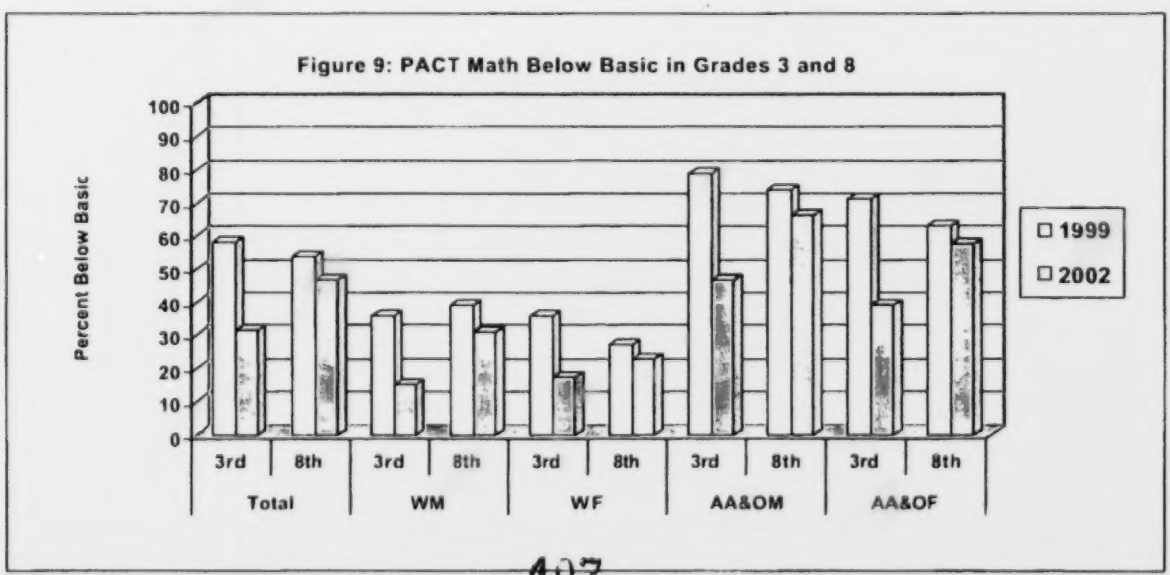
Exit Exam - not passing all parts of Exit Exam on first attempt in the 10th grade in 2002

215 students did not pass all parts — 33.1% of students did not pass all parts



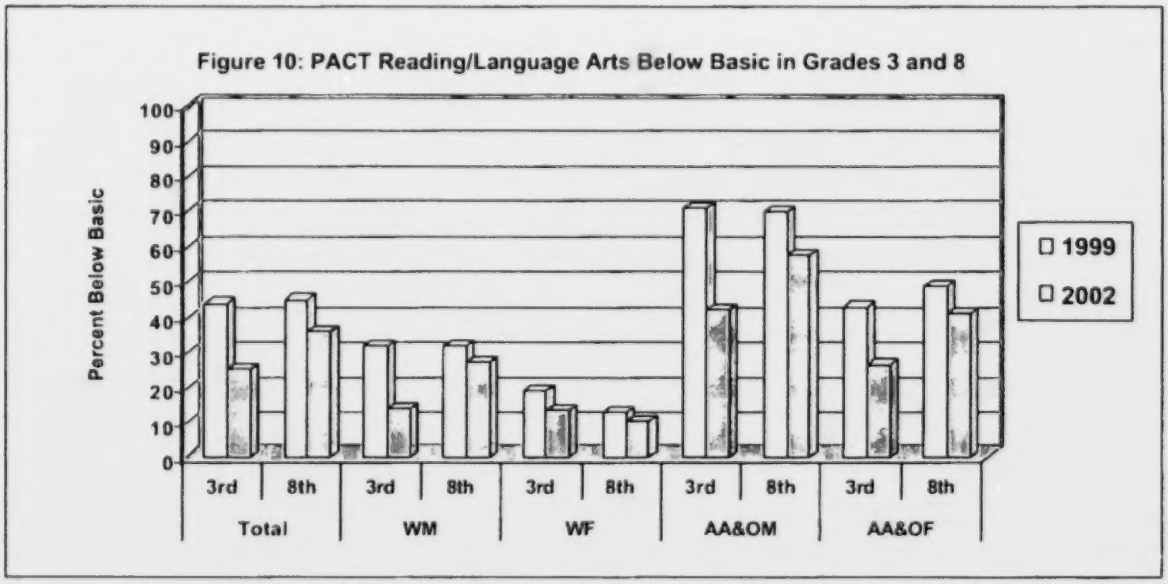
Achievement Trends: How has performance on standardized achievement tests changed over the past 20 years? During the 1980s, student performance on the BSAP tests improved dramatically. Between 1981 and 1990, the percentage of 8th grade students in Georgetown County who did not meet standards declined from 66.3% to 24.8% in math and from 60% to 18.3% in reading. During the 1990's the BSAP trend changed, with 34.3% not meeting 8th grade math standards in 1998 and 31% in reading. On standardized tests, the first year when South Carolina students take the exam is comparable to the challenge encountered by the national norm group which took the test only once. Looking at first year data, the percentage of 4th grade students at or below the 25th percentile of national norms was 37.7% in 1983 on the CTBS, 34.6% in 1990 on the Stanford, and 31.4% in 1995 on the Metropolitan; for 9th graders, the percentage in the bottom quarter was 35.3% in 1990 and 31.2% in 1995. Although not comparable, the percent below basic on the 4th grade PACT in 1999, the first year of administration, was 41.9%, but in 2002 27.9% of 4th graders were below basic in reading and math; the percentage of 8th graders below basic in reading and math averaged 49.3% in 1999 and 41.3% in 2002.

PACT: The Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) was first administered in 1999 for grades 3 - 8 in math and reading/language arts. Math assesses skills in numbers, numerical and algebraic concepts, patterns and functions, geometry, measurement, probability and statistics. The percentage of students scoring below basic in math has decreased by 28.1% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 1,144 students below basic in grades 3-8 but there would have been an additional 447 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
		Math (%)				
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	31.5	15.1	17.2	46.7	39.2
	4	29.6	16.4	12.3	43.6	38.9
	5	34.0	18.3	18.6	45.3	43.8
	6	37.0	25.6	12.1	53.2	45.4
	7	41.2	20.4	24.9	56.2	50.4
	8	46.7	31.1	23.0	66.2	57.5
Basic	3	41.4	35.2	34.4	45.2	47.5
	4	37.9	28.9	39.0	39.3	43.0
	5	40.1	37.8	36.0	44.1	40.5
	6	40.7	33.1	49.6	39.0	42.9
	7	36.4	29.9	40.2	35.7	39.0
	8	41.7	46.4	52.7	32.8	38.4
Proficient	3	17.1	27.0	33.1	4.8	10.3
	4	17.4	25.2	25.3	12.8	9.8
	5	16.7	23.2	26.7	9.7	12.4
	6	14.6	19.8	30.5	6.5	8.3
	7	14.2	26.9	21.3	7.4	7.9
	8	8.8	16.6	18.2	1.0	3.7
Advanced	3	9.9	22.6	15.2	3.3	2.9
	4	15.1	29.6	23.4	4.3	8.3
	5	9.2	20.7	18.6	0.8	3.3
	6	7.7	21.5	7.8	1.3	3.4
	7	8.3	22.8	13.6	0.8	2.8
	8	2.7	6.0	6.1	0.0	0.5

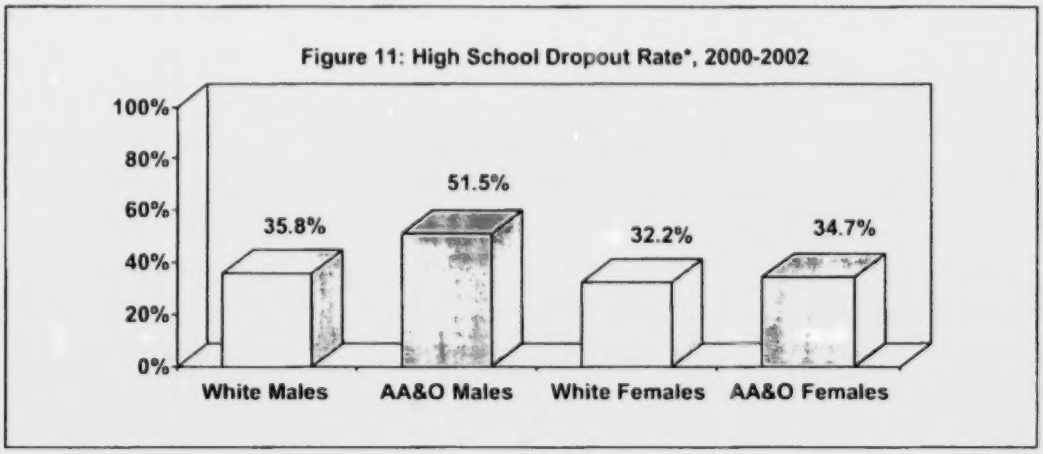
Reading/Language Arts assesses reading, listening, speaking, writing, research, and communication with technology. The first PACT assessment found a high percentage of elementary and middle grades students performing below standards and only a modest number above basic. The percentage of students scoring below basic in reading/language arts has decreased by 24.2% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 977 students below basic in grades 3 - 8 but there would have been an additional 312 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
	Reading/Language Arts (%)					
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	25.4	13.8	13.2	42.1	26.5
	4	26.3	20.6	11.0	41.5	26.4
	5	33.4	22.7	12.4	52.1	36.4
	6	38.5	32.0	13.6	58.9	38.0
	7	36.1	26.9	13.7	56.2	36.6
	8	35.9	27.3	10.3	57.7	41.1
Basic	3	37.3	34.0	27.2	37.8	47.1
	4	47.6	41.9	38.3	51.9	54.9
	5	46.4	44.2	49.7	40.7	51.2
	6	39.3	30.8	47.9	35.5	44.9
	7	46.2	44.3	45.2	38.8	55.5
	8	41.4	42.7	39.4	35.8	47.0
Proficient	3	35.0	48.4	53.6	20.1	26.0
	4	24.6	35.0	46.1	6.6	18.7
	5	19.7	32.5	36.0	7.2	12.4
	6	18.2	29.1	28.6	5.6	16.1
	7	16.5	26.3	38.7	5.0	7.1
	8	18.9	25.3	40.0	6.0	10.5
Advanced	3	2.2	3.8	6.0	0.0	0.5
	4	1.5	2.5	4.5	0.0	0.0
	5	0.5	0.6	1.9	0.0	0.0
	6	4.0	8.1	10.0	0.0	1.0
	7	1.2	2.4	2.4	0.0	0.8
	8	3.8	4.7	10.3	0.5	1.4

Dropout Rate - 8th grade students no longer enrolled in grade 12
(average of students for the three years ending 2000-2002)

323 students drop out annually **39.0% students drop out?**



Dropouts: Distressing numbers of students drop out and fail to graduate. An average of 37.9% of 8th graders failed to graduate** from county schools five years later during the period 1980-84, 24.6% during 1985-89, and 27.0% during 1990-94, 31.1% during 1995-97 and 33.0% during 1998-2000***.

During 2001-02, 95.6% of all who did graduate received the State High School Diploma, while the remaining 4.4% received a State Certificate for meeting the required Carnegie units but not passing the Exit Exam.

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* 12th grade enrollment compared to 8th grade enrollment four years earlier
** This is calculated by using 8th grade enrollment to graduation data.
*** 2001 data will be available soon and will be posted on the website.

Fortunately, many dropouts enroll in adult education programs and either earn a high school diploma or obtain a GED. During 2001-02, 15 Adult Education high school diplomas were awarded to school completers and in 2001 101 GEDs were awarded in the county. Over time, adult education high school diplomas and GEDs increase the effective school completion rate substantially. In the 2000 Census, 17.9% of county resident 25 - 34 year-olds said they had not completed either high school or a GED.

Achievement Summary: The numbers of students testing below basic on the PACT and dropping out range from 25.4% to 46.7%. Thus, far too many students fail to acquire the knowledge, skills, learning habits, and motivation necessary to compete in the economy or contribute to society in the 21st Century.

ADOLESCENT RISK BEHAVIORS

Academic achievement is greatly influenced by the prevailing youth culture which often promotes popularity with peers and partying rather than studying and doing well in school. The prevalence of adolescent risk-taking and under-achievement is illustrated by the poor grades of substance-abusing teens.

Substance Abuser Rates at Levels of Academic Performance

	Usual School Grades in Past Year					Total
	A Range	B Range	C Range	D Range	F Range	
Smoked Cigarettes (in past 30 days)	19.4%	27.0%	34.8%	54.1%	100.0%	28.3%
Drank 5 or More Drinks on One Occasion (in past 30 days)	18.2%	19.2%	30.2%	37.9%	100.0%	22.6%
Used Any Illicit Drug (in past 30 days)	13.9%	16.8%	27.1%	38.4%	50.0%	19.6%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

As influence from parents and other adults declines during adolescence, significant numbers of students engage in violence, crime, school offenses, depressive emotions and attempted suicide:

Risk Behaviors Participated in During Past 12 Months	White Male		White Female		African American Male		African American Female		Total		Total (Grade 7-12)
	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	
Carried a handgun or knife for self-defense?	26.5%	29.7%	5.7%	7.7%	17.6%	24.5%	6.0%	7.1%	13.3%	15.6%	14.3%
Carried a handgun or knife as a weapon?	9.9%	14.4%	1.9%	0.7%	10.8%	15.2%	4.0%	3.6%	6.5%	7.2%	6.8%
Been in a fight with someone?	38.5%	29.3%	23.9%	15.0%	42.3%	34.2%	29.5%	19.0%	33.4%	22.8%	28.9%
Hit your boyfriend or girlfriend?	4.0%	3.4%	10.0%	9.3%	4.9%	5.2%	18.7%	21.5%	10.1%	10.8%	10.4%
Been hit by your boyfriend or girlfriend?	8.4%	7.2%	8.4%	8.6%	7.9%	11.2%	13.5%	9.6%	9.8%	9.0%	9.5%
Rec'd detention or in-school suspension?	39.6%	42.8%	30.8%	29.4%	43.9%	41.8%	34.3%	29.7%	37.1%	34.7%	36.0%
Been suspended from school?	20.9%	21.9%	11.7%	14.6%	29.5%	36.3%	16.4%	22.6%	19.6%	22.2%	20.7%
Stolen anything worth > $5?	14.8%	22.1%	9.4%	12.1%	15.8%	18.3%	8.2%	9.6%	11.8%	14.8%	13.1%
Had an accident while driving?	NA	16.5%	NA	11.8%	NA	10.5%	NA	4.0%	NA	10.8%	NA
Been arrested and booked?	5.9%	8.7%	1.0%	2.1%	9.2%	6.3%	2.4%	1.3%	4.6%	4.1%	4.4%
Felt hopeless for two weeks or more?	15.1%	17.7%	24.5%	31.0%	15.6%	13.3%	21.2%	22.9%	19.2%	22.5%	20.7%
Seriously considered attempting suicide?	6.4%	9.8%	9.2%	15.8%	5.2%	5.5%	5.1%	7.9%	6.3%	10.3%	8.1%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

Adolescence is often a time of taking risks and asserting independence from adults. When asked whether they would tell an adult about a problem, the following percentages of county students said they would be "not likely" or "very unlikely" to tell if they:

-heard a student threaten to harm someone: 36.8% middle school, 50.1% high school;
-saw a student with a handgun at school: 29.6% middle school, 21.0% high school;
-saw a student with a knife at school: 31.5% middle school, 33.9% high school;
-saw a student with drugs at school: 41.5% middle school, 70.5% high school;

Alcohol Use:* In the county during 2001-02, 29.1% of 7th and 8th graders and 41.7% of high schoolers said they had used alcohol in the past month. Of White males in grades 7 - 12, 40.0% had used it in the past month, compared with 32.4% of African-American males; likewise, 45.1% of White females said they had used alcohol, compared with 25.4% of African-American females. Many youth first used alcohol at an early age: 15.0% had used alcohol by age 11 or younger, 34.6% by age 13, and 62.8% by age 15.

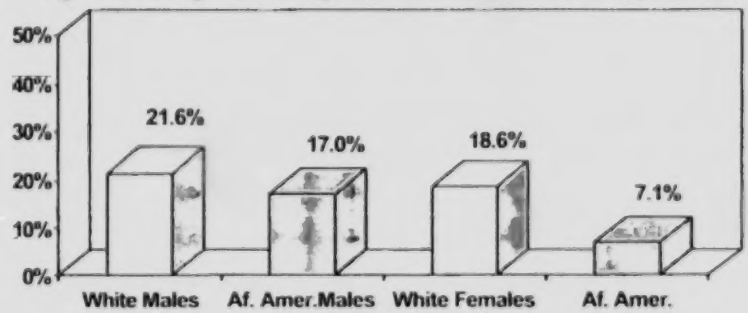
During the previous year, 26.4% of 7th and 8th graders and 36.2% of high schoolers said they had ridden with a drinking driver. Of seniors who drive, 28.7% said they had driven after drinking. Widespread use is encouraged by the ready availability and perceived low risk of alcohol use. Among students who expressed an opinion, 56.5% of eighth graders and 75.7% of seniors felt that beer was easy to get. Also, 77.0% of eighth graders and 76.1% of seniors felt there was not a great risk in drinking two drinks a day, and 51.1% of eighth graders and 58.9% of high schoolers felt there was not a great risk in drinking 5 drinks every weekend.

Heavy Drinking:* In 2001-02, 13.1% of 7th and 8th graders and 22.7% of high school students in the county repor drinking 5 or more drinks in a day during the past month. When asked how many drinks, if any, they usually consur 16.6% of all county students in grades 7 - 12 in 2001-02 responded 3 or more drinks at a time and 8.7% reported usually 5 more drinks. Among high school students, 22.4% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 13.0% 5 or mc Among seniors, 29.0% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 20.4% 5 or more; however 31.0% of seni said that they drank 5 or more drinks in a day once or more during the past month.

Drugs:* In 2001-02, 12.0% of 7th and 8th graders and 19.6% of high schoolers in the county reported using ille drugs during the previous month. Among students in grades 7 - 12, use was reported by 21.6% of White males, 18.6% Wl females, 17.0% of African-American males, and 7.1% of African-American females. Some young people initiated drug at an early age: 4.2% had experienced their first use by age 11 or sooner; 14.0% had used a drug by age 13, and 32.9% by 15.

In the past year, 10.0% of all high school students in the county who drive and 15.8% of seniors who drive said that they had driven after using drugs. Such use is encouraged by the ready availability of drugs: 34.2% of 8th graders who had an opinion said it is easy to get marijuana and 12.7% said it is easy to get cocaine or crack; 65.4% of seniors said it is easy to get marijuana and 28.2% said it was easy to get cocaine or crack.

Figure 12: Drug Use among Students Grades 7-12 during 2001-02*



* County participation in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking was not complete but county data is presented to provide the best available picture of teen risk-taking attitudes and behavior in Georgetown County. There was lower participation in high schools than in middle schools; also disproportionately female (54.9%).

Sexual Activity and Pregnancy: Many teenagers now engage in sexual activity. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) administered to a representative sample of high school students throughout South Carolina in 2001 showed that sexual activity begins at an early age: 7% of female and 21% of male students have engaged in intercourse before age 13; by age 15, 38% the females and 49% of males have engaged in sexual intercourse. Statewide, 48% of females and 50% of males in the 11th and 12th grades reported engaging in intercourse during the past three months. Furthermore, 27% of female and 33% of male 12th graders have had intercourse with four or more partners during their lifetimes.

Premature sexual activity often results in pregnancy. In the county, 57 girls between the ages of 14 and 17 became pregnant in 1999, 65 in 2000 and 50 in 2001. This represented 3.1% of all girls ages 14 – 17 in 2001; several times this percentage become pregnant at least once by age 18. The 2001 pregnancy rate for ages 14 - 17 was 2.3% for Whites and 3.8% for African-Americans and Others. Of all pregnancies of 14-17 year olds, 86.0% resulted in live births, with almost all other pregnancies ending in abortions.

Teen pregnancy rates increased substantially across the state during the 1980s; as a result, greater emphasis v devoted to preventing teen pregnancy. Since 1989, the teen pregnancy rate in Georgetown County has decreased by 36.1 Overall, it has decreased by 25.8% for Whites, and decreased by 39.7% for African Americans and Others.

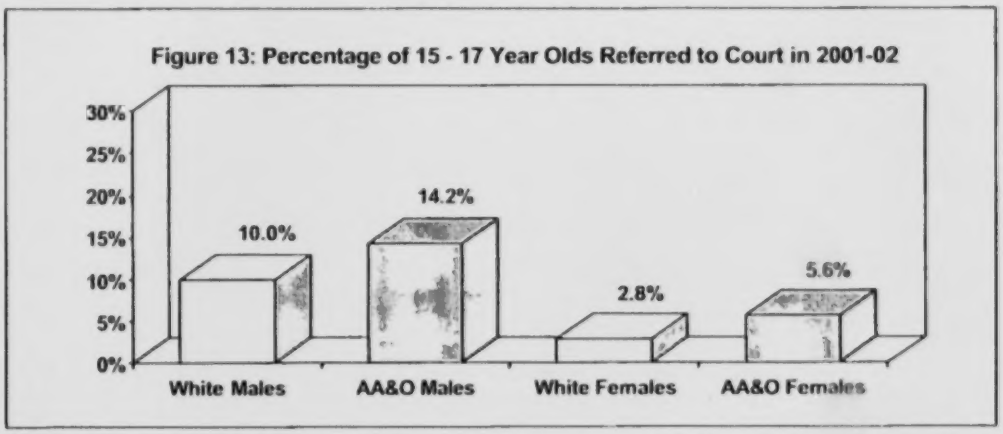
Juvenile Delinquency: In 2001-02, 401 individual juvenile offenders in the county were referred to the Solicitor for delinquency; of these, 20.4% were age 12 or younger, 31.9% were 13 or 14, and 47.6% were 15 or older.

Of the referrals to the family court, 11.4% of all referrals were for violent and serious crimes which include drug trafficking, acts against persons for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and serious property offenses for arson and burglary. Also, 3 juvenile cases constituting 0.5% of all referrals were for status offenses. Status offenses include truancy, running away, incorrigibility, and other offenses that would not be crimes for adults.

Delinquents are likely to live in families with low income: 34.8% lived in families with income under $10,000, 29.0% with $10,000-$19,999 and 36.2% with $20,000 or more. Furthermore, only 25.1% of delinquents lived with both natural parents, while 44.2% lived in a single parent household, 27.2% lived with other relatives, and 3.5% in other situations including parent plus step-parent. Delinquency or criminal activity occurs among many related family members: 30.7% had at least one family member who was delinquent or had some criminal record.

Youth referred to the family courts are likely to have been there before. In 2001-02, 52.4% had at least one prior referral and 15.0% had been referred to court 3 times or more. Many were referred at an early age. For delinquents 15 - 17 years old, 5.9% had been referred by the age of 10, 12.8% by the age of 12, and 24.9% by the age of 14.

During 2001-02, 190 youth ages 15 to 17 were referred to the family courts. In the county, 8.3% of all youth 15 to 17 were referred to court in one year and roughly double that percentage are referred at least once by age 18. Furthermore, the National Youth Survey indicates that typically across the United States the proportion of youth engaging in crime is two or three times the number ever apprehended. In 2001-02, there were 19 juveniles committed from the county to DJJ custody and placed in residential programs.



Not in School or Employed: During 2000, 316 teenagers ages 16-19 were idle, meaning they neither worked any hours nor were enrolled in school, even part-time. Idle teens comprised 10.5% of their age group: 10.8% for White and 10.4% African-American & Other teens. A much larger number, perhaps twice as many, were not engaged in either school full time or work full time. The data reflect a serious failure in both school completion and the critical transition from school to work, significantly affecting their development as future workers. For an in-depth description of the problems of young adults seeking to enter the labor force, visit our website at www.scyoungadults.org for our state and county reports on 18-29 year olds.

Deaths: During 1997-2001, 32 youth ages 15 to 19 died. Historically, automobile accidents have been the major cause, resulting in 17 deaths between 1996 and 2000; homicides killed 2 youth 15 to 19 years old during the five-year period, and 1 youth committed suicide. Alcohol use is often a significant factor in deaths among teenagers.

Summary

Facing the Scope of Problems: The data on families, economic status, health, readiness, school achievement, and adolescent risk behaviors provide a troublesome picture of the condition of children in Georgetown County. The 33.1% of children in single-parent families, 26.0% in poverty, 33.0% not graduating from school, 41.7% of high school students using alcohol and 19.6% using drugs each month, and other data profiled in this report suggest that too many children are at risk of not growing up to become self-supporting adults, good family members, and responsible community citizens.

Emphasizing the Positive: South Carolina Kids Count reports have been developed to describe the problems of children in each of the counties. Fortunately, the majority of children and youth are doing well, and some very well. One simple description is the percentage of children who do not fall into the problem categories reported. For the county, 83.9% of children are born to non-teen mothers ages 20 or older, 54.8% are born to married parents, and 66.9% lived in two-parent families; 74.0% were not poor and 46.9% lived in families with incomes above twice the poverty level for a family of three, $30,040 in 2002; 87.6% of babies were born with normal birthweights; 91.3% were assessed as ready for the first grade, 53.3% scored basic or better on PACT for 8th grade math and 64.1% for 8th grade reading, 66.9% passed all parts of the Exit Exam in the 10th grade, and 67.0% graduated with their class. In a typical month, 58.3% of high school students do not drink alcohol, 80.4% do not use drugs, and 71.6% do not smoke. Unfortunately, the absence of a problem is not always an indicator of success. Some data is available for exemplary performance: for example, 37.2% of 3rd graders and 22.7% of 8th graders scored proficient or advanced on PACT in reading and 27.0% of 3rd graders and 11.5% of 8th graders in math. Unfortunately, data on success is not generally available.

Despite the limitations of success data, we must emphasize the positive in providing good support and appropriate influences for children and youth. Recent philosophy and publications such as those of the Search Institute (700 South Third Street, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN, 55415-1138, tel. 1-800-888-7828, www.search-institute.org), emphasize the critical importance of "developmental assets" to promote and support positive development. One short book from the Search Institute, (What Kids Need to Succeed, by Peter J. Benson, Judy Gailbraith, and Pamela Espeland, 1995) presents an excellent array of suggestions for promoting developmental assets through families, community, faith congregations, and schools. If each family, school, religious congregation and community organization assertively worked to build such assets, the problems described in this report would be reduced dramatically. Such positive family-school-community efforts could improve South Carolina's national Kids Count ranking from the bottom 10 to the average or even into the top 10 by prevention of unnecessary problems affecting children and youth, as shown on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

All data presented in this report is the most recent available at the date it goes to the printer. This version of the Kids Count report will be revised as more recent and additional data become available. Please send us your corrections and suggestions for improvement. We welcome your ideas for ways to make the state and county reports more useful and accurate. Please utilize local data sources whenever possible to supplement the profile provided through our report.

Data related inquiries should be directed to:

Anne Wilson, Data Manager (awilson@drss.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-4810

Calls for **copies of reports** for other counties and inquiries regarding more recent reports should be made to:

Kim Hazel-Lohr, Project Manager (khazel@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-1295

For **policy questions and general comments**, please contact:

Dr. A. Baron Holmes, Project Director (bholmes@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-2291

Comparable reports for all 46 counties and for the state can also be found on the World Wide Web at

www.sckidscount.org

Our website also provides: links to other websites for indicators in our report; high to low rankings for individual indicators; information on how to improve SC's national rank; and a glossary of definitions.

The national Kids Count Report can be found on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website at

www.aecf.org

Georgetown County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Indicators	Most Recent Year	Number					Percent					R	
		1980*	1990*	Most Recent Data	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980 Rank	199
Health													
Low Birth Weight	2001	68	72	100	+47.1%	+38.9%	8.5	8.8	12.4	46.1%	40.4%	22	
White babies	2001	19	21	30	+57.9%	+42.9%	5.8	5.9	7.0	20.7%	18.3%	24	
African American and Other babies	2001	49	51	70	+42.9%	+37.3%	10.4	11.1	18.7	79.4%	68.4%	12	
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	2001	304	330	226	-25.7%	-31.5%	38.0	40.5	28.0	-26.3%	-30.8%	18	
White babies	2001	71	85	79	+11.3%	-8.1%	21.5	24.2	18.3	-14.9%	-24.5%	12	
African American and Other babies	2001	233	244	147	-36.9%	-39.8%	49.5	53.0	39.2	-20.8%	-26.1%	13	
Infant Mortality	2001	60	33	27	-55.0%	-18.2%	2.5	1.4	1.1	-55.8%	-18.3%	42	
White babies	2001	12	13	5	-58.3%	-61.5%	1.2	1.3	0.4	-68.6%	-69.5%	28	
African American and Other babies	2001	48	20	22	-54.2%	+10.0%	3.5	1.5	2.0	-42.9%	-36.0%	45	
Family													
Births to mothers under 18	2001	53	56	45	-15.1%	-19.6%	6.6	6.9	5.6	-15.4%	-18.5%	6	
White babies	2001	17	21	14	-17.6%	-33.3%	5.2	5.9	3.2	-37.9%	-45.9%	19	
African American and Other babies	2001	36	35	31	-13.9%	-11.4%	7.6	7.6	8.3	8.2%	8.6%	2	
Births to mothers under 20	2001	143	136	130	-9.1%	-4.4%	17.9	16.7	16.1	-9.8%	-3.5%	8	
White babies	2001	49	48	47	-4.1%	+2.1%	14.8	13.5	10.9	-26.6%	-19.4%	16	
African American and Other babies	2001	94	88	83	-11.7%	+5.7%	20.0	19.1	22.1	10.9%	15.7%	4	
Births to mothers with less than a high school education	2001	296	199	153	-48.3%	-23.1%	37.0	24.4	19.0	-48.6%	-22.2%	31	
White babies	2001	116	81	74	-36.2%	-8.6%	35.2	22.8	17.2	-51.1%	-24.6%	34	
African American and Other babies	2001	180	118	79	-56.1%	-33.1%	38.2	25.7	21.1	-44.9%	-17.9%	35	
Births to single mothers****	2001	233	303	364	+56.2%	+20.1%	29.1	37.2	45.2	55.4%	21.6%	30	
White babies	2001	21	44	101	+381.0%	+129.5%	6.4	12.4	23.4	267.7%	88.8%	22	
African American and Other babies	2001	212	259	263	+24.1%	+1.5%	45.0	56.3	70.1	55.8%	24.6%	15	
Children in single parent families	2000	2,346	3,009	3,879	+65.3%	+28.9%	17.8	25.8	33.1	86.0%	28.3%	18	
White	2000	618	741	1,046	+69.3%	+41.2%	9.2	13.2	17.7	92.2%	34.0%	14	
African American and Other	2000	1,720	2,256	2,833	+64.7%	+25.6%	25.7	37.6	48.9	90.1%	29.9%	30	
Education													
Not Ready for Grade 1	2001	420	309	64	-84.8%	-79.3%	50.8	33.1	8.7	-82.9%	-73.7%	42	
White males	2001	66	43	11	-83.3%	-74.4%	41.2	22.1	6.5	-84.2%	-70.6%	44	
White females	2001	35	27	3	-91.4%	-88.9%	24.0	16.0	2.0	-91.7%	-87.5%	33	
African American and Other males	2001	173	131	29	-83.2%	-77.9%	62.7	47.5	12.9	-79.4%	-72.8%	36	
African American and Other females	2001	146	108	21	-85.6%	-80.6%	59.6	36.7	11.4	-80.9%	-68.9%	43	
Repeating Grades 1-3	2000	286	428	154	-46.2%	-64.0%	36.0	48.4	18.7	-48.1%	-61.4%	45	
White males	2000	50	74	20	-60.0%	-73.0%	29.8	40.3	11.1	-62.8%	-72.5%	40	
White females	2000	35	51	15	-57.1%	-70.6%	24.0	27.4	8.6	-64.2%	-68.6%	45	
African American and Other males	2000	116	169	81	-30.2%	-52.1%	46.5	66.6	34.1	-26.7%	-48.8%	43	
African American and Other females	2000	84	133	38	-54.8%	-71.4%	36.6	50.8	16.5	-54.9%	-67.5%	45	
Grade 3 Math below standards****	2002	378	104	228	-39.7%	+119.2%	51.3	12.9	31.5	-38.6%	144.2%	40	
White males	2002	61	4	24	-60.7%	+500.0%	37.4	2.6	15.1	-59.6%	480.8%	34	
White females	2002	66	12	26	-60.6%	+116.7%	41.5	6.2	17.2	-58.6%	177.4%	45	
African American and Other males	2002	140	51	98	-30.0%	+92.2%	60.6	22.4	46.7	-22.9%	108.5%	27	
African American and Other females	2002	109	37	80	-26.6%	+116.2%	59.9	16.1	39.2	-34.6%	143.5%	41	
Grade 3 Reading below standards****	2002	322	51	184	-42.9%	+260.8%	43.5	6.3	25.4	-41.6%	303.2%	36	
White males	2002	57	3	22	-61.4%	+633.3%	35.0	1.9	13.8	-60.6%	626.3%	34	
White females	2002	37	7	20	-45.9%	+185.7%	23.3	3.8	13.2	-43.3%	266.7%	34	
African American and Other males	2002	141	28	88	-37.6%	+214.3%	60.8	12.3	42.1	-30.8%	242.3%	33	
African American and Other females	2002	87	13	54	-37.9%	+315.4%	47.5	5.7	26.5	-44.2%	364.9%	37	
Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT Grade 4	1998	265	294	152	-42.6%	-48.3%	37.7	34.6	21.8	-42.2%	-37.0%	32	
White males	1998	46	41	17	-63.0%	-58.5%	29.5	22.4	12.3	-58.3%	-45.1%	37	
White females	1998	25	23	14	-44.0%	-39.1%	16.6	13.5	8.9	-46.4%	-34.1%	28	
African American and Other males	1998	95	126	64	-32.6%	-49.2%	52.2	53.6	35.6	-31.8%	-33.6%	23	
African American and Other females	1998	96	104	56	-41.7%	-46.2%	47.1	39.7	26.4	-43.9%	-33.5%	40	

*Year of data is approximate in many cases.
**1 is best, 46 is worst.
*** Data include paternity acknowledgements.
**** BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Georgetown County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Education (continued)

Indicators		Number					Percent				
	Most Recent Year	1980*	1990*	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres
Grade 8 Math below state standards**	2002	507	173	344	-32.1%	+98.8%	66.3	24.8	46.7	-29.6%	88.3%
White males	*2002*	*65*	*23*	*47*	*-27.7%*	*+104.3%*	*39.6*	*14.7*	*31.1*	*-21.5%*	*111.6%*
White females	*2002*	*64*	*23*	*38*	*-40.6%*	*+65.2%*	*53.3*	*14.0*	*23.0*	*-56.8%*	*64.3%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*172*	*62*	*133*	*-22.7%*	*+114.5%*	*74.8*	*36.1*	*66.2*	*-11.5%*	*83.4%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*184*	*64*	*126*	*-31.5%*	*+96.9%*	*80.7*	*31.2*	*57.5*	*-28.7%*	*84.3%*
Grade 8 Reading below state standards**	2002	459	128	264	-42.5%	+106.3%	60.0	18.3	35.9	-40.2%	96.2%
White males	*2002*	*54*	*19*	*41*	*-24.1%*	*+115.8%*	*32.9*	*12.1*	*27.3*	*-17.0%*	*125.6%*
White females	*2002*	*47*	*16*	*17*	*-63.8%*	*+6.3%*	*39.2*	*9.8*	*10.3*	*-73.7%*	*5.1%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*173*	*48*	*116*	*-32.9%*	*+141.7%*	*75.2*	*27.8*	*57.7*	*-23.3%*	*107.6%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*169*	*45*	*90*	*-46.7%*	*+100.0%*	*74.1*	*21.8*	*41.1*	*-44.5%*	*88.5%*
Grade 9 Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT	1998	NA	276	210	NA	-23.9%	NA	35.3	26.6	NA	-24.6%
White males	*1998*	*NA*	*50*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*28.1*	*16.9*	*NA*	*-39.9%*
White females	*1998*	*NA*	*26*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*16*	*9.8*	*NA*	*-38.8%*
African American and Other males	*1998*	*NA*	*110*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*52.4*	*43.1*	*NA*	*-17.7%*
African American and Other females	*1998*	*NA*	*87*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*38.3*	*34.2*	*NA*	*-10.7%*
Exit Exam (not passing all parts on 1st attempt)	2002	374	206	215	-42.5%	+4.4%	56.2	36.4	33.1	-41.1%	-9.1%
White males	*2002*	*48*	*22*	*28*	*-41.7%*	*+27.3%*	*40.0*	*19.6*	*20.1*	*-49.8%*	*2.6%*
White females	*2002*	*49*	*21*	*22*	*-55.1%*	*+4.8%*	*28.8*	*15.7*	*15.9*	*-44.8%*	*1.3%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*126*	*81*	*71*	*-43.7%*	*-12.3%*	*78.7*	*56.2*	*47.7*	*-39.4%*	*-15.1%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*150*	*80*	*91*	*-39.3%*	*+13.8%*	*70.1*	*46.0*	*41.7*	*-40.5%*	*-9.3%*
Dropout Rate (8th graders no longer enrolled in 12th grade 4 years later)	2000-02	229	234	323	+41.5%	+38.2%	29.5	30.1	39.0	32.2%	29.4%
White males	*2000-02*	*59*	*60*	*66*	*+12.3%*	*+9.4%*	*33.5*	*32.7*	*35.8*	*6.8%*	*9.5%*
White females	*2000-02*	*43*	*53*	*59*	*+37.2%*	*+11.3%*	*25.5*	*31.0*	*32.2*	*26.3%*	*4.0%*
African American and Other males	*2000-02*	*83*	*79*	*117*	*+41.8%*	*+48.1%*	*35.6*	*34.4*	*51.5*	*44.7%*	*49.5%*
African American and Other females	*2000-02*	*45*	*42*	*82*	*+83.5%*	*+94.4%*	*22.4*	*21.8*	*34.7*	*54.6%*	*58.8%*
Young Adults Not Completing High School (18-24)	2000	1,679	1,449	1,113	-33.7%	-23.2%	33.9	36.6	17.9	-47.2%	-51.1%
White males	*NA*	*440*	*463*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*36.3*	*45.4*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
White females	*NA*	*431*	*327*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*34.8*	*33.7*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other males	*NA*	*452*	*445*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*38.3*	*42.5*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other females	*NA*	*356*	*214*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*26.9*	*23.2*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
Economics											
Poverty Rate	2000	3,904	4,004	3,602	-7.7%	-10.0%	26.7	29.1	26.0	-2.6%	-10.7%
White children	*2000*	*652*	*841*	*654*	*+0.3%*	*-22.2%*	*9.6*	*14.0*	*10.4*	*8.3%*	*-25.7%*
African American and Other children	*2000*	*3,252*	*3,163*	*2,948*	*-9.3%*	*-6.8%*	*41.5*	*40.8*	*38.8*	*-6.4%*	*-4.8%*
Income of Families w/children (1999 $)	2000	$ 42,335	$ 38,914	$ 49,104	+16.0%	+26.2%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
White families	*2000*	*$ 50,831*	*$ 49,192*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other families	*2000*	*$ 30,830*	*$ 27,410*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
Adolescent Risk Factors											
Teenage Pregnancy (ages 14-17)	2001	81	87	50	-38.3%	-42.5%	5.1	5.8	3.1	-38.7%	-46.6%
White	*2001*	*31*	*36*	*16*	*-48.4%*	*-55.6%*	*4.3*	*5.5*	*2.3*	*-45.9%*	*-58.2%*
African American and Other	*2001*	*50*	*51*	*34*	*-32.0%*	*-33.3%*	*5.8*	*6.1*	*3.8*	*-33.9%*	*-37.7%*
Delinquency	2002	61	138	190	+211.5%	+37.7%	2.5	5.6	8.3	233.3%	48.8%
White males	*2002*	*19*	*49*	*49*	*+157.9%*	*+0.0%*	*3.4*	*9.1*	*10.0*	*194.1%*	*9.9%*
White females	*2002*	*10*	*18*	*14*	*+40.0%*	*-22.2%*	*1.9*	*3.1*	*2.8*	*47.4%*	*-9.7%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*24*	*52*	*91*	*+279.2%*	*+75.0%*	*3.5*	*7.6*	*14.2*	*306.3%*	*87.1%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*8*	*19*	*36*	*+350.0%*	*+89.5%*	*1.2*	*2.8*	*5.6*	*368.8%*	*100.9%*

*Closest available data to this year was used in many cases.
**BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Kids Count 2003

Greenville County

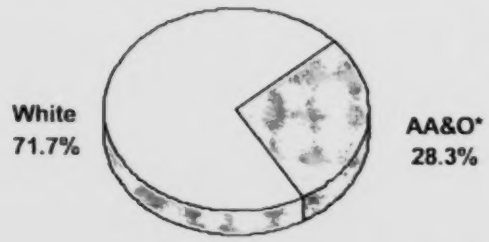
DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2000 there were an estimated 93,384 children under age 18 in the county. Of these, 66,994 were White, 21,601 were African-American, and 4,789 were other races. There were 78,829 children under age 18 in 1990, 80,923 in 1980, 83,270 in 1970, and 78,784 in 1960.

Children represent a shrinking portion of the county's population. Those under 18 constituted 24.6% of the population in 2000, down from 37.6% in 1960, 34.6% in 1970, and 28.1% in 1980.

In 2000 the 30,787 pre-schoolers under age 6 were 8.1% of the overall population: 7.5% of Whites and 9.7% of African Americans.

Figure 1: Population Ages 0-17 in 2000



* In all charts African-American is combined with other races, and often abbreviated as AA&O. Other races comprise 5.1% of children in the county, with "two or more races" at 2.0% and "some other race alone" at 1.6% as the largest Other groups.

FAMILY

Families have always been the most important influence in a child's life. Children depend on their families for material needs, stimulation and guidance. Family life is different in numerous ways from previous generations, and many families now face exceptional challenges.

Families with children now make up a smaller share of all households. Only 31.9% of all households in 2000, as compared with 48.0% of households in 1960, had children below the age of 18.

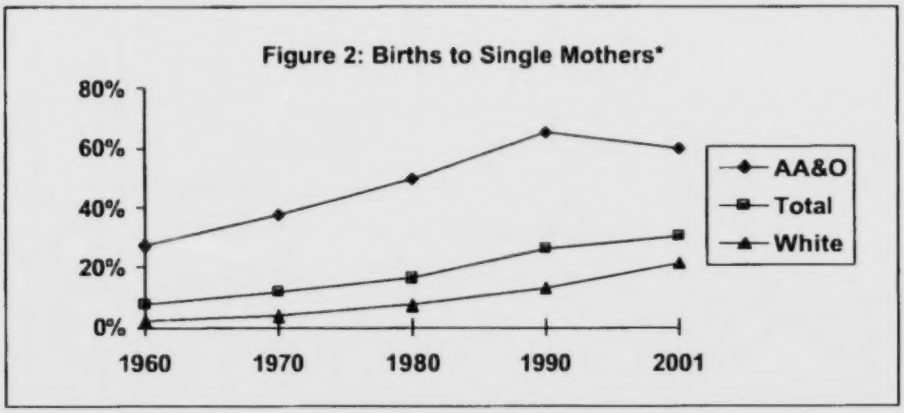
Births to Teen Mothers: In 2001, 192 babies were born to mothers younger than age 18. They were 3.5% of all babies born in the county; 2.5% of all White and 6.6% of all African-American and Other babies were born to teen mothers under the age of 18. Of the babies born to these teens in 2001, 90.6% were born to single mothers, including babies whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers.

In 2001, 578 babies were born to mothers younger than age 20. These babies were 10.5% of all born in the county; 8.9% of all White and 15.6% of all African-American and Other babies were born to mothers under the age of 20. Of the babies born to these mothers in 2001, 81.7% were born to single mothers, including paternity acknowledeged babies.

Education of Mothers Giving Birth: Children's success is strongly influenced by the education of their parents. In 2001, 1,097 babies, 19.9% of all babies, were born to mothers of all ages who had not completed the 12th grade. In 2001, 18.3% of White and 25.4% of African-American and Other babies were born to mothers who had completed less than the 12th grade. This is a substantial improvement from 43.0% in 1970. In addition, during 2001, 28.6% had completed 12 grades (25.7% of Whites and 38.5% of African Americans and Others) and 51.5% had more than a high school degree (56.1% of Whites and 36.2% of African American and Others).

Births to Single Mothers: Births to single mothers have increased steadily over four decades. In 2001, 843 babies, 15.3% of all babies, were recorded as born to single mothers. A decade earlier in 1990, the percentage was 22.7% and in 1960 it was 7.6%. In 2001, 8.8% of White children and 36.9% of African-American and Other children were born to single mothers. These numbers, however, do not include paternity acknowlegement births.

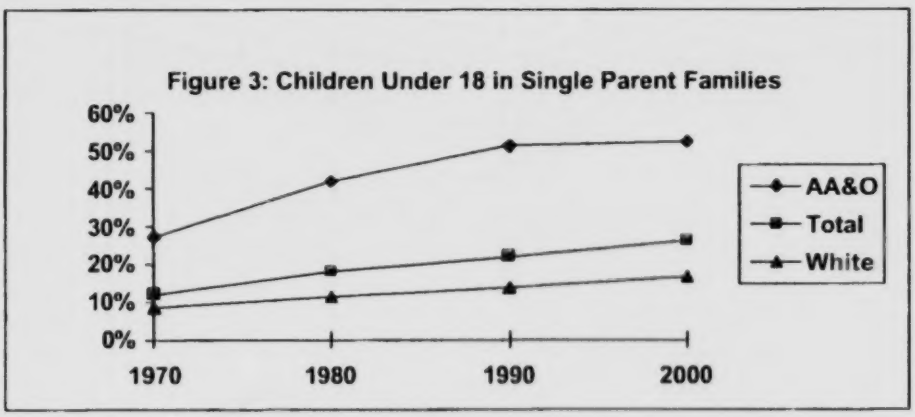
Thus, to these numbers should be added an additional group of 832 babies, 15.1% of all born in 2001, whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers. When the paternity-acknowledged babies are added, the total number born to single mothers in 2001 was 1,675, constituting 30.3% of all babies, 21.5% of White babies, and 59.9% of African-American and Others.



*Includes paternity acknowleged babies in 1980, 1990 and 2001. Prior to 1979, paternity acknowleged cases were not a statistical category, and thus were included in births to single mothers.

Divorce Rate: In 2001, 3,518 marriage licenses were issued, while 1,166 divorce decrees involving 861 children were filed. In 1970, only 942 children were in families involved in divorce.

Single-Parent Family: Increasing numbers of children live in single-parent families. In 2000, 21,838 children lived with only one parent. This was 26.0% of all children, up from 22.1% in 1990, 18.1% in 1980, and 11.9% in 1970. In 2000, 16.7% of White and 52.4% of African-American and Other children lived in single-parent families. Also in 2000, 5,989 or 22.8% of children under age 6 lived in single parent families: 13.0% of White and 51.2% of African American and Other pre-schoolers.



Parents Working and Child Care: Increasingly, parents must divide their time between children and employers. In order to meet family financial needs, most parents must work and thus have less time for family life. In 2000, 61.7% of mothers with children under 6 and 70.7% with children 6 - 17 were in the labor force. This has increased substantially from 1960 when 36.6% of mothers with children under 6 were in the labor force. Most fathers also work: 57.8% of children under 6 are in families where the single parent or both parents work. Caring for children is a problem for parents unable to obtain quality, affordable daycare while they are at work.

Overall, there are 15,034 spaces in state-regulated childcare facilities* in the county, 94.7% of these are in licensed programs and 5.3% are in registered programs. Of the spaces, 84.3% are in licensed childcare centers serving more than 12 children, 3.6% are in registered or licensed family childcare homes serving six or fewer children, 0.4% are in licensed group childcare homes serving 7-12 children, and 11.7% are in registered or licensed church programs.

The homes and centers are severely constrained by the limited ability of parents to pay. In the county, the average weekly charge is $ 88.88 for centers and $ 76.26 for homes. Consequently, center wages are low: 11.4% of centers with pre-school staff and 34.9% of centers with assistant pre-school staff report paying these staff under $6 per hour. Paying $6-$8 per hour are 65.8% of centers with pre-school staff and 51.2% of centers with assistants. Low wages attract workers with limited education. In 38% of centers, most pre-school staff and in 97.7% of centers most assistants have only a high school degree. In 58.2% of centers few to none of the pre-school staff have early childhood credentials. In childcare homes, 56% of lead providers have no more education than a high school degree or GED; 16% have less than a high school degree.

Family Violence: In 2000, 2,382 domestic assaults were recorded by law enforcement officials. These domestic assaults comprised 32.4% of all assaults, which include aggravated assaults, simple assaults, and intimidation. Overall, 59.2% of all domestic assaults involve spouse abuse which constitutes 19.2% of all assaults. Since most family violence is not reported, the true incidence of family disruption is much more widespread than even the large number of reported cases would indicate.

Separation from Parents: Some children do not live with their natural parents. In 2000, 5.4% of all children did not live with their natural parents. Approximately 3,142 or 3.4% of all children lived with relatives, 1,333 or 1.4% lived with non-relatives, 108 or 0.1% were householders or spouses, and 483 or 0.5% were in institutional facilities.

Abuse and Neglect: In 2000-01, there were 1,568 investigations into reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children. Through its investigations, the Department of Social Services (DSS) determined that 516 of the investigations were indicated for abuse or neglect: 22.0% for physical abuse, 7.5% for sexual abuse, 0.8% for mental injury, 23.2% for physical neglect, 5.3% for educational neglect, 3.3% for medical neglect, 37.2% for threat of harm for physical/sexual abuse, and 0.6% for other types of abuse.

In the indicated cases of abuse and neglect, DSS determined there were 794 children who were victims of abuse or neglect. Of these, 51.5% were male, 48.5% were female; 63.4% were White, 36.7% were African-American and Other. By age, 38.6% were ages 0 - 5, 39.8% were ages 6 - 12, and 21.6% were ages 13 - 17. In the indicated cases, 36.0% of the children lived in two-parent families, 44.0% in single parent families, 14.5% with unmarried couples, and 5.5% in other circumstances.

Out of Home Placements: As of June 2001, 437 children lived in foster care. The median age at first placement in the county is 7.2 years. The ages of children in foster care were 14.2% 0-2, 10.5% 3-5, 22.7% 6-10, 17.6% 11-13, and 35.0% 14 and above. The foster care population is 47.6% males and 52.4% females. Regarding their future, 32.5% were under a plan for placement in adoptive homes, 41.9% for return to a parent or guardian, 3.7% for placement with a relative, 10.1% for independent living, 11.9% for permanent foster care, and 0.0% for other circumstances.

Adult/Child Ratio: A measure of potential adult attention for children from family and community is the ratio of adults to children and youth. In 2000 there were 3.07 adults for every person below age 18. This was up substantially from 1960, when there were only 1.66 adults for every person under the age 18. This indicates that today there are more adults potentially available to provide attention and care for each child than in the past.

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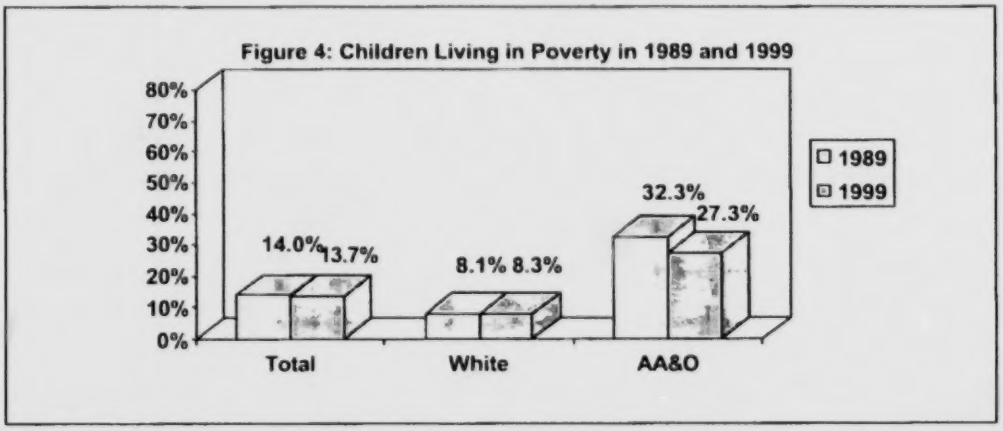
* This data is the best currently available; however, an effort is being made to check the coverage and improve the accuracy. As soon as more recent and complete data becomes available, it will be posted on the website.

ECONOMIC STATUS

Low income makes it difficult for many families to provide the material and environmental enrichment necessary for healthy child development.

Poverty: In 1999, 12,600 children and youth under the age of 18 lived in 6,139 families with incomes below poverty, comprising 13.7% of all children and youth: 8.3% of Whites and 27.3% of African-Americans and Others. A rough estimate of child poverty in 2001 calculated by the Census Bureau was 23.0%.



Poverty has always been a serious problem. While the rate among children under age 18 in 1989 was 14.0%, it was 14.9% in 1979 and 16.5% in 1969.

Children and the elderly are the age groups most seriously affected by poverty. In 1999, 14.9% of children 0 - (8.9% White, 31.1% African-American and Other), and 12.5% of children 6 - 17 (7.5% White, 25.0% African-America and Other), lived in poverty; 10.6% of persons 65 years and older lived in poverty. Historically, the poverty rate among the elderly was much higher. During the last three decades, federal policy actions have substantially improved the economic status of older persons but have not done so for children.

Single-parent families are most likely to be poor. In 1999, 34.0% of children in single-parent families lived in poverty, but only 5.3% of children in married-couple families were poor. Children in single-parent families made up 56.9% of all the county's children living in poverty.

In 2002, the poverty level was $15,020 for a family of three and $18,100 for a family of four. The poverty threshold is often criticized as an arbitrary number. People can still be poor but may be just above the poverty level. Federal programs utilize varying thresholds. For example, in 1999 there were 31,764 children ages 0-17 who were less than 200 percent of poverty; thus an additional 19,164 children were above the poverty level but could still be considered poor or near-poor with incomes below $30,040 and $36,200 respectively for 3 and 4 person families.

Children Under 18 in Poverty in 1999

Percent of Poverty	Total		White		African American & Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 50%	6,334	6.9%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 100%	12,600	13.7%	5,537	8.3%	7,063	27.3%
Under 125%	16,633	18.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 150%	21,548	23.4%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 175%	26,978	29.3%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 185%	29,036	31.5%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 200%	31,764	34.5%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total Children	93,384		66,994		26,390	

Note: Missing data will be released by the Census Bureau later in 2003, and will be posted on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

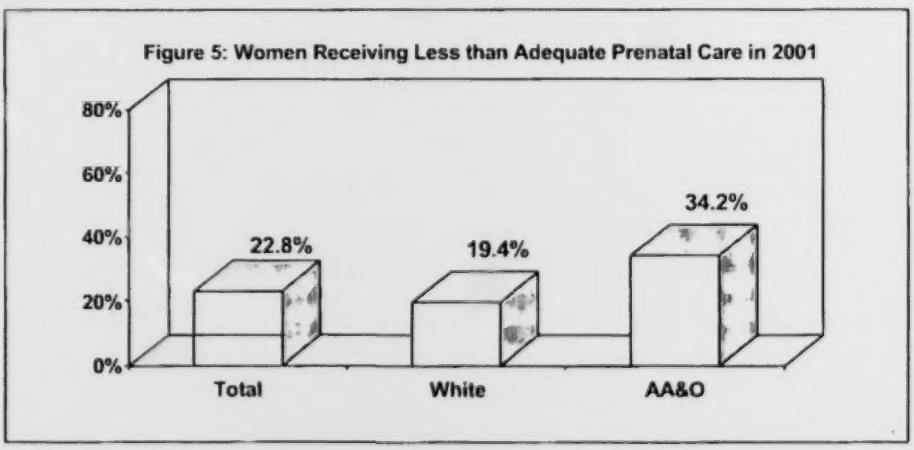
Income: The mean income of families with children in 1999 was $62,644. In 1989 it was $53,221, and 1979, it was $46,068, adjusted for inflation (i.e., in 1999 dollars). The mean income of single-parent families with children was $27,013 for single parents in 1999, as compared with $75,720 in married-couple families with children. From 1999 to 2000, Greenville County real dollar per capita income (eliminating inflation) increased by 1.3%.

Child Support Payments: There were 1,657[7] families receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families in fiscal year 2002, but only 17.1 % had child support court orders. Their average monthly payment of child support was $ 218, including child support receipts and tax refund intercepts. In addition, during fiscal year 2002, an estimated 4,849 parents in non-TANF families were obligated to pay a monthly average of $ 265. Information is not available regarding the amount actually paid.

HEALTH

Good health during a child's formative years helps children to reach their maximum potential. Good health requires healthy lifestyles and effective primary care, starting during the prenatal period and continuing through adolescence into adulthood. Children's health reflects the well-being of the community, as well as how adequately they are protected.

Prenatal Care: Early and continuous prenatal care can make a significant difference in assuring births of healthy babies. Delayed or insufficient prenatal care is associated with low birthweight and other health risks for infants. In 2001, 1,017, or 18.4% of pregnant women received no prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy. In 2001, 1,260, or 22.8% of pregnant women received less than adequate prenatal care: 826 or 19.4% of Whites and 434 or 34.2% of African-Americans and Others. In that same year, 25 women received no prenatal care at all.



Low Birthweight: Low birthweight of less than 5.5 pounds and very low birthweight of less than 3.3 pounds are associated with health risks and growth and development problems. In 2001, 460 or 8.3% of all babies in the county were born with low birthweight: 13.2% of African-American and Other babies and 6.9% of White babies. During 1999-2001, approximately 238 or 1.5% of all babies were born with very low birthweight and had the most serious complications: 1.1% of White babies and 2.8% of African-American and Other babies. The cost of hospitalization for each newborn low birthweight baby in the county in 1999 - 2001 was $15,735 and $126,113 for each very low birthweight baby, compared with $1,855 for a baby of normal birthweight. The result was excess cost in the county of $12,971,154 for all low birthweight babies, of which $9,070,820 was for very low birthweight babies.

Infant Mortality: During the decade since 1989-91, the overall infant mortality rate decreased by 49.1% from 11.7 to 6.0 per 1000 live births. For Whites, the rate decreased 45.2% from 9.3 to 5.1 per 1000 live births, while for African-Americans and Others the rate decreased 52.3% from 18.5 to 8.8 per 1000 live births. Over the three-year period 1999-2001, 64 White and 33 African-American and Other infants died before age one. By comparison, 103 White and 72 African-American and Other infants died during 1989-91.

[7] Number is an unduplicated count for the entire fiscal year.

Child Injuries and Deaths: Childhood deaths and injuries reflect whether communities are safe for children. In 2001, children in the Greenville County went to the emergency room 11,523 times because of injuries. Boys are injured more often than girls. Children visit the emergency room at comparable rates for each age from 0 to 17.

In South Carolina, the major causes of death among young children are unintentional injuries, cancer, homicide, and congenital anomalies. Over the three year period 1999-2001, 28 White and 13 African-American and Other children ages 1-14 died in the county. During 1989-91, 34 White and 16 African-American and Other children died.

Immunization: Immunization rates are an important indication of whether young children are receiving adequate preventive health care. During FY 1989-90, 46.1% of children less than two years old seen in public health clinics were not fully immunized against such preventable diseases as Polio, Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Haemophilus Influenza B and Whooping Cough. After a concerted statewide campaign to increase immunizations, the percentage of children seen in public health clinics who were not fully immunized in January 2001 had declined in the county to 11.9%. The DHEC statewide birth registry survey of all two year old children found that 88.1% were fully immunized in 2001. This success demonstrates the potential to improve the status of children when the leadership of the state and its communities act decisively together.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Children and youth are infected with sexually transmitted diseases through sexual abuse or irresponsible sexual activity. National prevalence rates indicate: a 1 in 8 chance that sexually active 15 year-old girls will develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), the most rapidly increasing cause of infertility; 10% of sexually active adolescent girls and boys are infected with chlamydia, the most common cause of PID; and as many as 15% of teen girls are infected with human papilloma virus, often with strains linked to cervical cancer. Furthermore, research evidence indicates that susceptibility to HIV/AIDS increases by 3 to 8 times through prior infection with various STDs.

According to national studies, approximately 1 in 4 sexually experienced youth aged 13-19 acquires a STD ever year; since two-thirds of all high school students have had sexual intercourse and half engage in intercourse over a thr month period, this would suggest that 10-15% of teens are infected with STDs annually. For 2000, this would indicate th an estimated 3,607 to 5,411 youth ages 13-19 in the county were infected with a STD. Many infections are either n identified for treatment or not reported. In the county, there were 6 reported cases of children under age 15 and 83 you ages 15 - 19 infected with gonorrhea; 18 youth under 15 and 198 ages 15 - 19 were reported infected with chlamydi Youth with undiagnosed and untreated STDs often spread their infections.

Healthy Lifestyles: Although no county data is available, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2001 found that mar high school students are not following good health habits. The YRBS revealed that 26% felt that they were overweight; 42 were trying to lose weight: 27% of boys and 57% of girls. Although during a week 79% of high school students ate fru 59% ate salad, and over 83% ate vegetables, only 17% ate the recommended five or more servings of fruit and vegetabl per day. During a week, 49% did stretching or muscle strengthening exercises, and 59% exercised three or more times f 20 minutes in sports that made them sweat or breathe hard. However, 11% of students engaged in no vigorous or modera activity at all during a week: 8% of boys and 13% of girls.

Tobacco Use:* Cigarette smoking starts at a young age and often becomes habitual. In the county during 2002 among all students 15 and older, 13.7% first smoked by age 11, 31.9% by age 13, and 47.7% by age 15. In a typical month, NA% of 7th and 8th graders and 25.1% of high school students smoked cigarettes. White youths were much more likely than African-Americans to smoke: 25.5% of White male and 28.7% of White female 7th to 12th graders used cigarettes, as compared with 15.3% of African-American males and 12.8% of African American females. A smaller but significant group of high school students (8.1%) used smokeless tobacco monthly; it was used primarily by White males (18.3% compared with 1.1% of all other race and sex groups).

* County participation in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking was not complete but county data is presented to provide the best available picture of teen risk-taking attitudes and behavior in Greenville County. Participation was limited to only 4 high schools.

Disabilities: No data are collected on the true prevalence of disabilities within the county. According to national reported estimates, over 10% of children and youth have developmental disabilities at any point in time, and more than 17 are affected at some time before age 18 by deafness, blindness, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, speech defects, development delays, learning disabilities, and emotional or behavioral problems. For 2000 this suggests that at least 9,338 children ar youth under age 18 in the county are currently affected by disabilities.

Approximately 5% of children and youth nationally have serious disabilities which have lifelong implications fo work, social life and community living. Typically among children and youth, there are 1 - 2% who are mentally retarded, - 3% with serious emotional disturbances, over 1% with orthopedic or multiple disabilities, including cerebral palsy an many hereditary conditions, and under 1% with visual or hearing impairments.

Other chronic health problems also affect the lives of many children. Over 3% of children have one or more these limitations. Such serious chronic conditions affect 1 - 2% who have respiratory problems (asthma and chron bronchitis), 0.5 - 1.0% with neurological problems (epilepsy and seizures), and less than 1% with circulatory problem (congenital heart defects and acquired diseases).

Other disabilities are identified primarily in school performance. These would include 4,628 students in grades 12 with learning disabilities and 2,066 students in grades 1-12 with speech/language deficits.

Disabilities are caused by genetics, disease, poor prenatal conditions, injuries, and environmental factors. For example, lead exposure, primarily from paint dust, was detected in over 1% of all children screened, including 18 in Greenville County.

Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: While over 20% of 9-17 year olds meet diagnostic criteria for some form of mental disorder, the number with serious emotional disturbance and impaired functioning in family, school, or community activities is: 9-13% for substantial functional impairment and 5-9% for extreme functional impairment. The rates among poor children are at the higher end of these ranges. Based on a federal formula for estimating prevalence, in the county there are 12% or 5,612 seriously emotionally disturbed 9-17 year olds with substantial functional impairment and 8% or 3,741 with extreme functional impairment during the course of a year. Conduct disorders, attention deficit, depression, and anxiety disorders are the most prevalent, each affecting 3% or more of school-aged children. These disorders may occur simultaneously in a child. The prevalence rates are highest among males, adolescents, and disadvantaged persons in communities under stress and lacking social cohesion; depression, however, is more prevalent among females. On the YRBS, 20% of boys and 33% of girls in high school reported that during the past year they felt so sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that they stopped doing some usual activities. Another indicator of emotional problems is the 8% of high school students in South Carolina who reported that they had "attempted suicide" in the past year: 5% of boys and 10% of girls. Suicide attempts resulted in 4% of high school students reporting that they required treatment by a doctor or nurse for injury, poisoning, or overdose.

Inadequate Healthcare: No county level data is routinely collected regarding the number of children and youth with inadequate healthcare. According to estimates for 2000-02 by the Bureau of the Census through the annual Current Population Survey, the statewide average rate of uninsured children and youth under age 18 in families with incomes under 200% of poverty in South Carolina was 16.6%, and 9.9% above 200% of poverty. If these rates are applied to the county, there are 5,280 children in the county below 200% of poverty with no health insurance, and 6,115 children above 200% of poverty with no health insurance, for a total of 11,395 uninsured children in Greenville County. The number lacking basic accessible primary care is at least double the number lacking insurance. Those lacking primary care are often dependent on health services at school. The ratio of students to nurses recommended nationally is 750:1. In the county, this would suggest the need for 80 nurses, compared with 11 currently working in the schools.

Medicaid: For several years, the State of South Carolina has emphasized enrolling eligible children into Medicaid. In late 1997, South Carolina implemented its version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, Partners for Healthy Children (PHC), and aggressively pursued outreach enrollment for PHC and Medicaid. As a result, enrollment of children ages 0 through 18 in Greenville County has increased by 104.0% from June 1997 to June 2001; thus Medicaid and PHC were serving 31.8% of all children in that age range. The total Medicaid expenditures in South Carolina for services provided to children ages 0 through 18 for state fiscal year 2002 were $991 million, at an average statewide expenditure of $2,343 per child enrolled, approximate Medicaid expenditure for children in the county would be $69.5 million.

In June 2001, the total number of Greenville County children, birth through 18, enrolled in Medicaid was 29,681 The total can be broken down into the following age and race groupings:

	White	African American	Hispanic	Other	Total
Children under 1	1,408	857	63	458	2,786
Children 1 - 5	4,433	3,619	313	933	9,298
Children 6 - 14	5,800	6,334	248	867	13,249
Children 15 - 18	2,111	2,021	51	165	4,348
Total	13,752	12,831	675	2,423	29,681

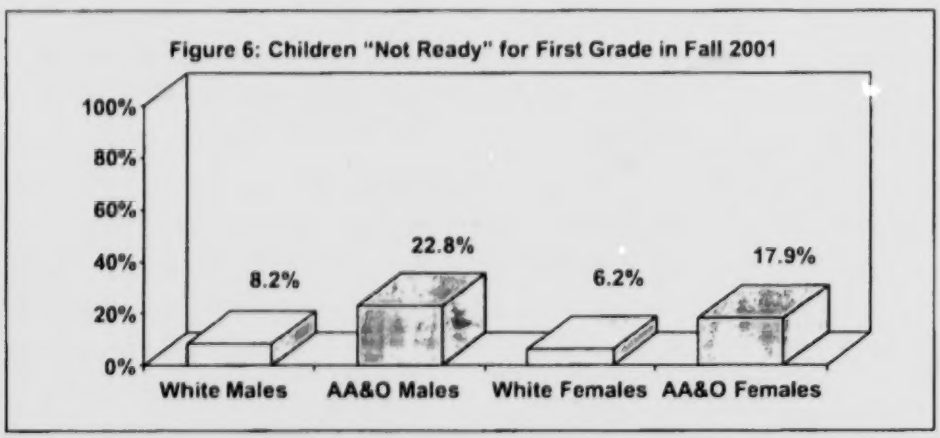
Ambulatory Care: When children lack adequate primary care, whether through lack of insurance, through limit access, or through failing to utilize available care, preventable and treatable conditions become serious and requ hospitalization. A useful indicator of inadequate primary care is the percentage of all hospitalizations that could typica have been avoided through ambulatory care, especially for pneumonia, asthma, diarrhea and vomiting, dehydration, a severe ear, nose, and throat infections. The share of hospitalizations for these types of conditions could normally be k below 20%; for children in the county under the age of 18 during 2001, the share was 21.9% for Whites and 27.4% African-Americans and Others.

READINESS AND EARLY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Too many children reach school without the readiness skills needed for success in learning, such as language, soc skills, visual and auditory discrimination, memory recall, and knowledge of colors, letters, numbers, names of objects, e Likewise, some schools are not ready to respond appropriately to the varying developmental levels of children in the ea grades. As a result, too many students do not experience the success needed to create the motivation and engagement t sustain learning.

1st Grade "Readiness" on 2001-02 Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB):

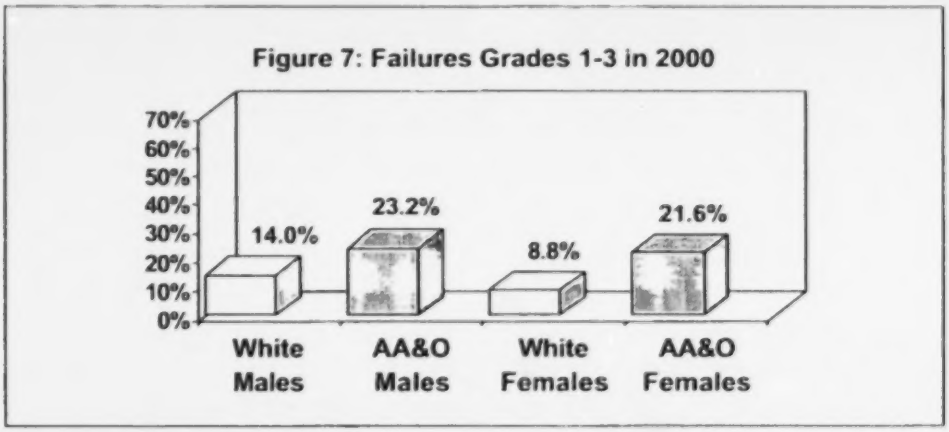
563 children not ready 12.0% children not ready



1st Grade Failures in 2002:

377 children failing 7.6% children failing

Failures Grades 1-3 in 2002 (approximate cumulative percentage of grades one, two and three):	
675 children failing	13.7% children failing



Over-age for Grade 3 in 2001	
838 children over-age	19.2% children over-age

Special Education: Large numbers of children are placed in special education classes. In elementary school, 1,550 six and seven year olds and 1,823 eight and nine year-olds were enrolled in special education classes during 2001-02, approximately 16.6% and 18.5% of their age groups respectively: 18.3% of White 8 – 9 year olds were in special education and 18.8% of African American and Others.

Readiness Summary: A serious problem exists in terms of student readiness and school success in the early grades. With 12.0% assessed not ready for the 1st grade, 19.2% over age in grade 3, and 18.5% of eight and nine year-olds placed in special education, unacceptably large numbers of students still begin school without good prospects of success in future school achievement and graduation; however, great improvement has occurred since the mid 1990s.

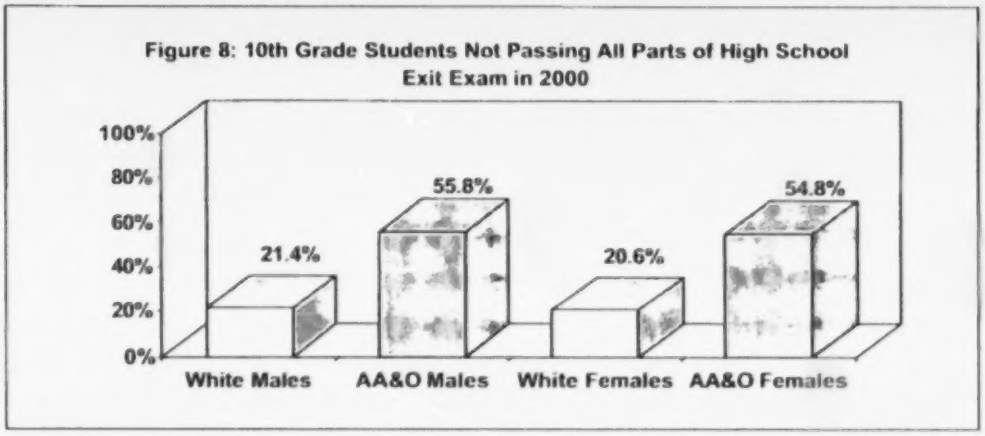
SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

By the end of elementary school, significant numbers of students perform below minimum standards. The following standardized test measures, comparing student performance to state minimum standards, should be used in combination with routine classroom assessments more reflective of real-world performance skills.

Special Education: Special education placements reflect both the significant number of children with serious handicapping conditions and a large number of students with mild learning and behavioral problems that have not been accommodated successfully by the regular educational program. The result is a large system of self-contained, resource, and itinerant services to meet the needs of 2,066 speech and language impaired, 4,628 learning disabled, 830 emotionally disabled, 1,044 mentally impaired, and 889 physically handicapped, deaf, blind, and other handicapped students. Special education classes served approximately 15.8% of all students in grades 1 - 12 during 2001-2002.

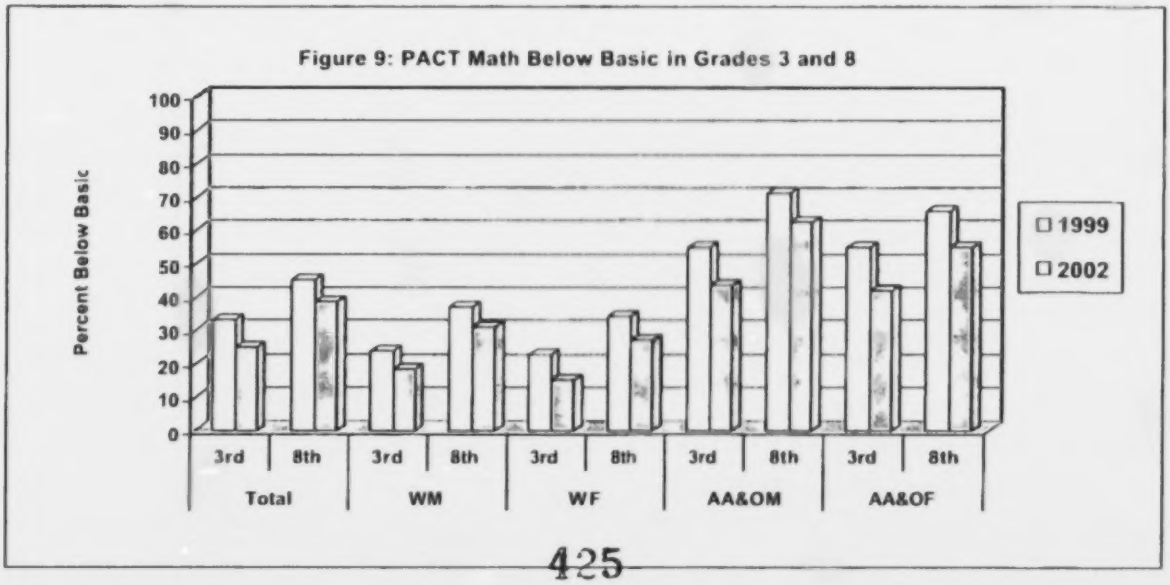
Exit Exam - not passing all parts of Exit Exam on first attempt in the 10th grade in 2002

1,167 students did not pass all parts — 30.8% of students did not pass all parts



Achievement Trends: How has performance on standardized achievement tests changed over the past 20 years? During the 1980s, student performance on the BSAP tests improved dramatically. Between 1981 and 1990, the percentage of 8th grade students in Greenville County who did not meet standards declined from 49.7% to 23.4% in math and from 39.1% to 21.9% in reading. During the 1990's the BSAP trend changed, with 36.7% not meeting 8th grade math standards in 1998 and 31.7% in reading. On standardized tests, the first year when South Carolina students take the exam is comparable to the challenge encountered by the national norm group which took the test only once. Looking at first year data, the percentage of 4th grade students at or below the 25th percentile of national norms was 23% in 1983 on the CTBS, 24.6% in 1990 on the Stanford, and 23.8% in 1995 on the Metropolitan; for 9th graders, the percentage in the bottom quarter was 23.8% in 1990 and 23.3% in 1995. Although not comparable, the percent below basic on the 4th grade PACT in 1999, the first year of administration, was 29.8%, but in 2002 21.7% of 4th graders were below basic in reading and math; the percentage of 8th graders below basic in reading and math averaged 39.4% in 1999 and 33.2% in 2002.

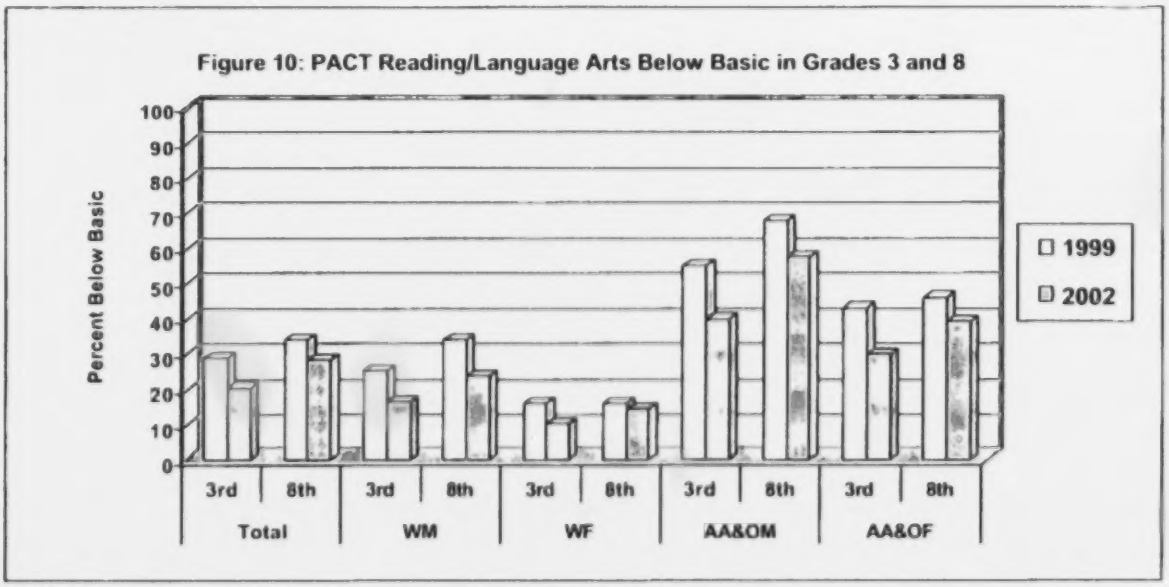
PACT: The Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) was first administered in 1999 for grades 3 - 8 in math and reading/language arts. Math assesses skills in numbers, numerical and algebraic concepts, patterns and functions, geometry, measurement, probability and statistics. The percentage of students scoring below basic in math has decreased by 13.9% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 5,095 students below basic in grades 3-8 but there would have been an additional 824 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
		Math (%)				
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	25.1	18.2	14.9	43.5	41.6
	4	23.6	14.6	13.6	43.4	41.8
	5	28.0	18.2	18.3	50.9	45.3
	6	31.9	21.2	22.7	54.5	51.5
	7	39.2	28.3	27.8	67.5	57.2
	8	38.3	30.9	27.4	62.5	55.0
Basic	3	42.0	41.3	42.8	40.8	42.9
	4	38.0	36.6	36.8	39.5	41.4
	5	39.6	39.0	41.6	35.3	41.3
	6	40.0	39.6	42.9	37.0	37.6
	7	32.9	34.5	37.8	21.7	30.9
	8	42.8	44.1	48.0	32.5	39.1
Proficient	3	19.8	22.4	25.7	11.4	10.2
	4	22.3	27.6	28.0	11.2	11.4
	5	19.3	22.9	23.9	10.5	11.1
	6	17.8	23.9	21.6	6.5	8.3
	7	15.2	19.6	18.2	7.3	7.6
	8	12.5	16.5	16.0	4.0	4.0
Advanced	3	13.2	18.0	16.6	4.2	5.3
	4	16.1	21.1	21.5	5.9	5.3
	5	13.1	19.8	16.2	3.4	2.2
	6	10.3	15.3	12.8	2.0	2.6
	7	12.7	17.6	16.2	3.4	4.2
	8	6.4	8.5	8.6	1.1	1.9

Reading/Language Arts assesses reading, listening, speaking, writing, research, and communication with technology. The first PACT assessment found a high percentage of elementary and middle grades students performing below standards and only a modest number above basic. The percentage of students scoring below basic in reading/language arts has decreased by 25.5% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 3,637 students below basic in grades 3 - 8 but there would have been an additional 1,247 at 1999 performance rates.

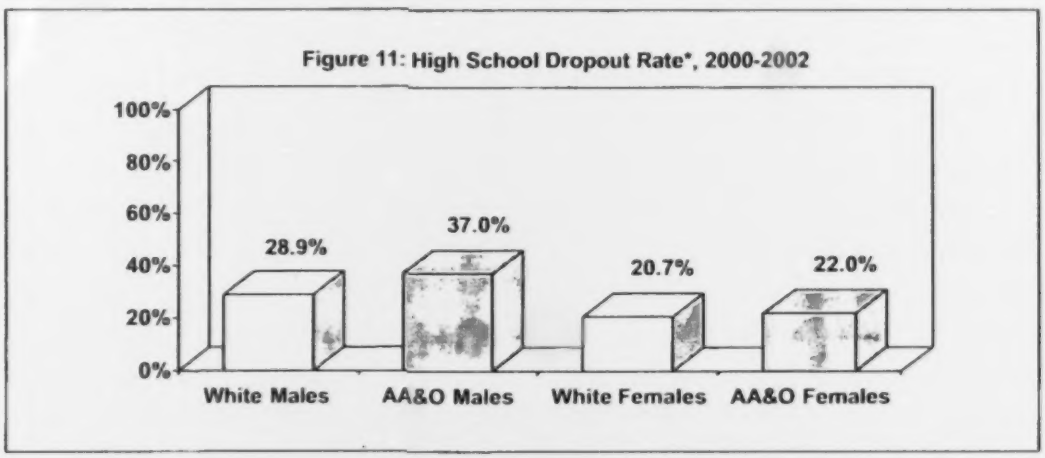
Figure 10: PACT Reading/Language Arts Below Basic in Grades 3 and 8



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
	Reading/Language Arts (%)					
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	20.4	16.4	10.4	39.9	30.0
	4	19.8	16.8	8.6	40.9	26.8
	5	22.0	16.1	10.8	47.2	31.3
	6	26.5	19.7	13.6	55.8	38.1
	7	23.9	18.0	11.1	50.9	35.4
	8	28.2	23.8	14.3	57.7	39.1
Basic	3	32.3	31.3	25.3	37.8	43.0
	4	42.3	41.9	36.6	45.4	51.2
	5	45.1	45.6	41.5	42.3	53.8
	6	34.8	37.3	31.1	32.2	40.2
	7	44.2	47.1	42.0	38.9	48.1
	8	39.3	40.6	38.4	34.4	43.8
Proficient	3	42.1	48.0	54.3	21.5	25.4
	4	35.2	39.7	48.8	13.7	20.5
	5	31.2	36.4	44.5	10.5	14.9
	6	29.4	33.4	39.6	10.8	18.6
	7	26.9	31.0	37.2	9.2	14.7
	8	26.9	30.6	37.6	6.8	15.5
Advanced	3	5.3	4.3	10.1	0.8	1.7
	4	2.7	1.5	5.9	0.0	1.5
	5	1.7	1.9	3.2	0.0	0.0
	6	9.2	9.6	15.7	1.1	3.1
	7	5.0	3.9	9.7	0.9	1.8
	8	5.5	5.0	9.7	1.1	1.7

Dropout Rate - 8th grade students no longer enrolled in grade 12
(average of students for the three years ending 2000-2002)

1,178 students drop out annually **26.4% students drop out?**



Dropouts: Distressing numbers of students drop out and fail to graduate. An average of 23.7% of 8th graders failed to graduate** from county schools five years later during the period 1980-84, 28.7% during 1985-89, and 24.0% during 1990-94, 26.9% during 1995-97 and 26.9% during 1998-2000***.

During 2001-02, 97.4% of all who did graduate received the State High School Diploma, while the remaining 2.6% received a State Certificate for meeting the required Carnegie units but not passing the Exit Exam.

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*12th grade enrollment compared to 8th grade enrollment four years earlier

** This is calculated by using 8th grade enrollment to graduation data.

*** 2001 data will be available soon and will be posted on the website.

Fortunately, many dropouts enroll in adult education programs and either earn a high school diploma or obtain a GED. During 2001-02, 75 Adult Education high school diplomas were awarded to school completers and in 2001 732 GEDs were awarded in the county. Over time, adult education high school diplomas and GEDs increase the effective school completion rate substantially. In the 2000 Census, 15.3% of county resident 25 - 34 year-olds said they had not completed either high school or a GED.

Achievement Summary: The numbers of students testing below basic on the PACT and dropping out range from 19.8% to 51.5%. Thus, far too many students fail to acquire the knowledge, skills, learning habits, and motivation necessary to compete in the economy or contribute to society in the 21st Century.

ADOLESCENT RISK BEHAVIORS

Academic achievement is greatly influenced by the prevailing youth culture which often promotes popularity with peers and partying rather than studying and doing well in school. The prevalence of adolescent risk-taking and under-achievement is illustrated by the poor grades of substance-abusing teens.

Substance Abuser Rates at Levels of Academic Performance

	Usual School Grades in Past Year					Total
	A Range	B Range	C Range	D Range	F Range	
Smoked Cigarettes (in past 30 days)	13.8%	23.6%	36.0%	46.8%	57.8%	25.2%
Drank 5 or More Drinks on One Occasion (in past 30 days)	15.5%	22.9%	28.4%	24.4%	27.4%	22.4%
Used Any Illicit Drug (in past 30 days)	12.9%	20.4%	30.5%	39.4%	55.6%	21.9%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

As influence from parents and other adults declines during adolescence, significant numbers of students engage in violence, crime, school offenses, depressive emotions and attempted suicide:

Risk Behaviors Participated in During Past 12 Months	White Male		White Female		African American Male		African American Female		Total		Total (Grade 7-12)
	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	
Carried a handgun or knife for self-defense?	NA%	19.8%	NA%	3.8%	NA%	27.0%	NA%	8.7%	NA%	12.4%	12.4%
Carried a handgun or knife as a weapon?	NA%	5.6%	NA%	0.4%	NA%	14.6%	NA%	5.3%	NA%	3.9%	3.9%
Been in a fight with someone?	NA%	25.4%	NA%	9.9%	NA%	32.8%	NA%	27.6%	NA%	19.2%	19.2%
Hit your boyfriend or girlfriend?	NA%	1.0%	NA%	5.6%	NA%	3.4%	NA%	23.8%	NA%	4.9%	4.9%
Been hit by your boyfriend or girlfriend?	NA%	4.4%	NA%	5.8%	NA%	9.6%	NA%	13.1%	NA%	6.1%	6.1%
Rec'd detention or in-school suspension?	NA%	38.3%	NA%	26.2%	NA%	45.7%	NA%	42.5%	NA%	33.8%	33.8%
Been suspended from school?	NA%	9.6%	NA%	3.8%	NA%	23.5%	NA%	19.2%	NA%	8.7%	8.7%
Stolen anything worth > $5?	NA%	15.4%	NA%	9.9%	NA%	14.1%	NA%	6.6%	NA%	12.2%	12.2%
Had an accident while driving?	NA	15.4%	NA	14.3%	NA	9.0%	NA	6.4%	NA	13.9%	NA
Been arrested and booked?	NA%	5.3%	NA%	2.5%	NA%	5.4%	NA%	3.8%	NA%	3.9%	3.9%
Felt hopeless for two weeks or more?	NA%	12.3%	NA%	20.8%	NA%	14.5%	NA%	23.7%	NA%	17.1%	17.1%
Seriously considered attempting suicide?	NA%	7.1%	NA%	10.2%	NA%	4.6%	NA%	6.4%	NA%	8.2%	8.2%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

Adolescence is often a time of taking risks and asserting independence from adults. When asked whether they would tell an adult about a problem, the following percentages of county students said they would be "not likely" or "very unlikely" to tell if they:

-heard a student threaten to harm someone: NA% middle school, 47.0% high school;
-saw a student with a handgun at school: NA% middle school, 13.2% high school;
-saw a student with a knife at school: NA% middle school, 27.6% high school;
-saw a student with drugs at school: NA% middle school, 65.2% high school;

Alcohol Use:* In the county during 2001-02, NA% of 7th and 8th graders and 40.1% of high schoolers said they had used alcohol in the past month. Of White males in grades 7 - 12, 41.4% had used it in the past month, compared with 29.4% of African-American males; likewise, 42.5% of White females said they had used alcohol, compared with 33.8% of African-American females. Many youth first used alcohol at an early age: 10.5% had used alcohol by age 11 or younger, 30.1% by age 13, and 61.6% by age 15.

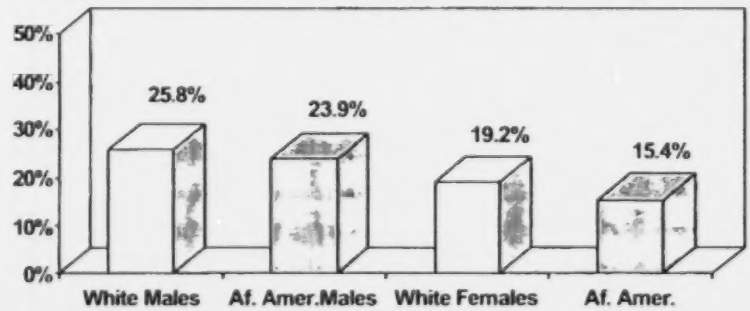
During the previous year, NA% of 7th and 8th graders and 31.0% of high schoolers said they had ridden with a drinking driver. Of seniors who drive, 23.9% said they had driven after drinking. Widespread use is encouraged by the ready availability and perceived low risk of alcohol use. Among students who expressed an opinion, NA% of eighth graders and 81.4% of seniors felt that beer was easy to get. Also, NA% of eighth graders and 76.5% of seniors felt there was not a great risk in drinking two drinks a day, and NA% of eighth graders and 63.4% of high schoolers felt there was not a great risk in drinking 5 drinks every weekend.

Heavy Drinking:* In 2001-02, NA% of 7th and 8th graders and 22.4% of high school students in the county repor drinking 5 or more drinks in a day during the past month. When asked how many drinks, if any, they usually consur 24.1% of all county students in grades 7 - 12 in 2001-02 responded 3 or more drinks at a time and 15.1% reported usuall or more drinks. Among high school students, 24.1% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 15.1% 5 more. Among seniors, 33.9% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 24.0% 5 or more; however 30.2% seniors said that they drank 5 or more drinks in a day once or more during the past month.

Drugs:* In 2001-02, NA% of 7th and 8th graders and 21.9% of high schoolers in the county reported using ille drugs during the previous month. Among students in grades 7 - 12, use was reported by 25.8% of White males, 19.2% Wl females, 23.9% of African-American males, and 15.4% of African-American females. Some young people initiated drug at an early age: 4.1% had experienced their first use by age 11 or sooner; 14.9% had used a drug by age 13, and 35.7% by a 15.

In the past year, 12.3% of all high school students in the county who drive and 18.9% of seniors who drive said that they had driven after using drugs. Such use is encouraged by the ready availability of drugs: NA% of 8th graders who had an opinion said it is easy to get marijuana and NA% said it is easy to get cocaine or crack; 66.3% of seniors said it is easy to get marijuana and 22.2% said it was easy to get cocaine or crack.

Figure 12: Drug Use among Students Grades 7-12 during 2001-02*



* County participation in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking was not complete but county data is presented to provide the best available picture of teen risk-taking attitudes and behavior in Greenville County. Participation was limited to only 4 high schools.

Sexual Activity and Pregnancy: Many teenagers now engage in sexual activity. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) administered to a representative sample of high school students throughout South Carolina in 2001 showed that sexual activity begins at an early age: 7% of female and 21% of male students have engaged in intercourse before age 13; by age 15, 38% the females and 49% of males have engaged in sexual intercourse. Statewide, 48% of females and 50% of males in the 11th and 12th grades reported engaging in intercourse during the past three months. Furthermore, 27% of female and 33% of male 12th graders have had intercourse with four or more partners during their lifetimes.

Premature sexual activity often results in pregnancy. In the county, 306 girls between the ages of 14 and 17 became pregnant in 1999, 333 in 2000 and 253 in 2001. This represented 2.4% of all girls ages 14 – 17 in 2001; several times this percentage become pregnant at least once by age 18. The 2001 pregnancy rate for ages 14 - 17 was 1.9% for Whites and 4.3% for African-Americans and Others. Of all pregnancies of 14-17 year olds, 74.3% resulted in live births, with almost all other pregnancies ending in abortions.

Teen pregnancy rates increased substantially across the state during the 1980s; as a result, greater emphasis v devoted to preventing teen pregnancy. Since 1989, the teen pregnancy rate in Greenville County has decreased by 52.2 Overall, it has decreased by 50.0% for Whites, and decreased by 53.3% for African Americans and Others.

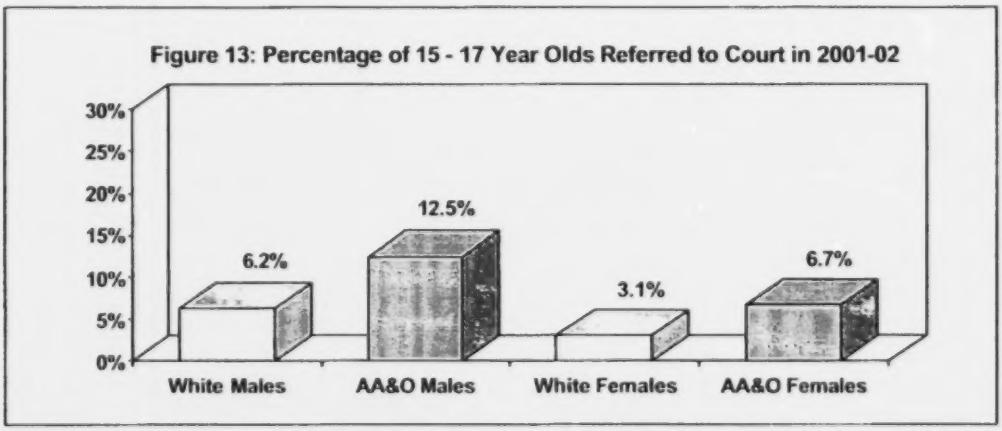
Juvenile Delinquency: In 2001-02, 1,707 individual juvenile offenders in the county were referred to the Solicitor for delinquency; of these, 14.2% were age 12 or younger, 29.9% were 13 or 14, and 55.9% were 15 or older.

Of the referrals to the family court, 9.5% of all referrals were for violent and serious crimes which include drug trafficking, acts against persons for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and serious property offenses for arson and burglary. Also, 333 juvenile cases constituting 14.1% of all referrals were for status offenses. Status offenses include truancy, running away, incorrigibility, and other offenses that would not be crimes for adults.

Delinquents are likely to live in families with low income: 27.3% lived in families with income under $10,000, 33.6% with $10,000-$19,999 and 39.1% with $20,000 or more. Furthermore, only 18.8% of delinquents lived with both natural parents, while 50.9% lived in a single parent household, 27.0% lived with other relatives, and 3.2% in other situations including parent plus step-parent. Delinquency or criminal activity occurs among many related family members: 31.4% had at least one family member who was delinquent or had some criminal record.

Youth referred to the family courts are likely to have been there before. In 2001-02, 50.6% had at least one prior referral and 16.9% had been referred to court 3 times or more. Many were referred at an early age. For delinquents 15 - 17 years old, 2.6% had been referred by the age of 10, 8.7% by the age of 12, and 23.8% by the age of 14.

During 2001-02, 949 youth ages 15 to 17 were referred to the family courts. In the county, 6.0% of all youth 15 to 17 were referred to court in one year and roughly double that percentage are referred at least once by age 18. Furthermore, the National Youth Survey indicates that typically across the United States the proportion of youth engaging in crime is two or three times the number ever apprehended. In 2001-02, there were 203 juveniles committed from the county to DJJ custody and placed in residential programs.



Not in School or Employed: During 2000, 1,625 teenagers ages 16-19 were idle, meaning they neither worked any hours nor were enrolled in school, even part-time. Idle teens comprised 7.9% of their age group: 6.2% for White and 12.8% African-American & Other teens. A much larger number, perhaps twice as many, were not engaged in either school full time or work full time. The data reflect a serious failure in both school completion and the critical transition from school to work, significantly affecting their development as future workers. For an in-depth description of the problems of young adults seeking to enter the labor force, visit our website at www.scyoungadults.org for our state and county reports on 18-29 year olds.

Deaths: During 1997-2001, 107 youth ages 15 to 19 died. Historically, automobile accidents have been the major cause, resulting in 51 deaths between 1996 and 2000; homicides killed 7 youth 15 to 19 years old during the five-year period, and 11 youth committed suicide. Alcohol use is often a significant factor in deaths among teenagers.

Summary

Facing the Scope of Problems: The data on families, economic status, health, readiness, school achievement, and adolescent risk behaviors provide a troublesome picture of the condition of children in Greenville County. The 26.0% of children in single-parent families, 13.7% in poverty, 26.9% not graduating from school, 40.1% of high school students using alcohol and 21.9% using drugs each month, and other data profiled in this report suggest that too many children are at risk of not growing up to become self-supporting adults, good family members, and responsible community citizens.

Emphasizing the Positive: South Carolina Kids Count reports have been developed to describe the problems of children in each of the counties. Fortunately, the majority of children and youth are doing well, and some very well. One simple description is the percentage of children who do not fall into the problem categories reported. For the county, 89.5% of children are born to non-teen mothers ages 20 or older, 69.7% are born to married parents, and 74.0% lived in two-parent families; 86.3% were not poor and 65.5% lived in families with incomes above twice the poverty level for a family of three, $30,040 in 2002; 91.7% of babies were born with normal birthweights; 88.0% were assessed as ready for the first grade, 61.7% scored basic or better on PACT for 8th grade math and 71.8% for 8th grade reading, 69.2% passed all parts of the Exit Exam in the 10th grade, and 73.1% graduated with their class. In a typical month, 59.9% of high school students do not drink alcohol, 78.1% do not use drugs, and 74.9% do not smoke. Unfortunately, the absence of a problem is not always an indicator of success. Some data is available for exemplary performance: for example, 47.4% of 3rd graders and 32.4% of 8th graders scored proficient or advanced on PACT in reading and 33.0% of 3rd graders and 18.9% of 8th graders in math. Unfortunately, data on success is not generally available.

Despite the limitations of success data, we must emphasize the positive in providing good support and appropriate influences for children and youth. Recent philosophy and publications such as those of the Search Institute (700 South Third Street, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN, 55415-1138, tel. 1-800-888-7828, www.search-institute.org), emphasize the critical importance of "developmental assets" to promote and support positive development. One short book from the Search Institute, (What Kids Need to Succeed, by Peter J. Benson, Judy Gailbraith, and Pamela Espeland, 1995) presents an excellent array of suggestions for promoting developmental assets through families, community, faith congregations, and schools. If each family, school, religious congregation and community organization assertively worked to build such assets, the problems described in this report would be reduced dramatically. Such positive family-school-community efforts could improve South Carolina's national Kids Count ranking from the bottom 10 to the average or even into the top 10 by prevention of unnecessary problems affecting children and youth, as shown on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

All data presented in this report is the most recent available at the date it goes to the printer. This version of the Kids Count report will be revised as more recent and additional data become available. Please send us your corrections and suggestions for improvement. We welcome your ideas for ways to make the state and county reports more useful and accurate. Please utilize local data sources whenever possible to supplement the profile provided through our report.

Data related inquiries should be directed to:

Anne Wilson, Data Manager (awilson@drss.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-4810

Calls for **copies of reports** for other counties and inquiries regarding more recent reports should be made to:

Kim Hazel-Lohr, Project Manager (khazel@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-1295

For **policy questions and general comments**, please contact:

Dr. A. Baron Holmes, Project Director (bholmes@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-2291

Comparable reports for all 46 counties and for the state can also be found on the World Wide Web at

www.sckidscount.org

Our website also provides: links to other websites for indicators in our report; high to low rankings for individual indicators; information on how to improve SC's national rank; and a glossary of definitions.

The national Kids Count Report can be found on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website at

www.aecf.org

Greenville County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Indicators	Most Recent Year	Number					Percent						
		1980*	1990*	Most Recent Data	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980 Rank	19
Health													
Low Birth Weight	2001	371	423	460	+24.0%	+8.7%	8.4	8.4	8.3	-1.6%	-0.9%	21	
White babies	2001	208	252	292	+40.4%	+15.9%	6.3	6.7	6.9	9.5%	2.7%	28	
African American and Other babies	2001	163	171	168	+3.1%	-1.8%	14.9	13.2	13.2	-10.9%	0.4%	41	
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	2001	1,488	1,705	1,260	+15.3%	-26.1%	33.8	33.8	22.8	-32.5%	-32.5%	11	
White babies	2001	919	954	826	-10.1%	-13.4%	27.8	25.4	19.4	-30.2%	-23.7%	28	
African American and Other babies	2001	569	751	434	-23.7%	-42.2%	51.9	57.9	34.2	-34.1%	-40.9%	19	
Infant Mortality	2001	194	175	97	-50.0%	-44.6%	1.5	1.2	0.6	-60.3%	-49.1%	15	
White babies	2001	128	103	64	-50.0%	-37.9%	1.3	0.9	0.5	-60.6%	-45.2%	30	
African American and Other babies	2001	66	72	33	-50.0%	-54.2%	2.2	1.9	0.9	-59.1%	-52.3%	20	
Family													
Births to mothers under 18	2001	339	301	192	-43.4%	-36.2%	7.7	6.0	3.5	-54.6%	-41.3%	14	
White babies	2001	173	145	108	-37.6%	-25.5%	5.2	3.9	2.5	-52.3%	-35.3%	20	
African American and Other babies	2001	166	156	84	-49.4%	-46.2%	15.1	12.0	6.6	-56.3%	-45.0%	38	
Births to mothers under 20	2001	784	791	578	-26.3%	-26.9%	17.8	15.7	10.5	-41.1%	-33.0%	7	
White babies	2001	468	442	360	-18.8%	+14.0%	14.2	11.8	8.9	-37.2%	-24.5%	12	
African American and Other babies	2001	316	349	198	-37.3%	+43.3%	28.8	26.9	15.6	-45.8%	-42.0%	32	
Births to mothers with less than a high school education	2001	1,300	1,233	1,097	-15.6%	-11.0%	29.5	24.4	19.9	-32.6%	-18.5%	8	
White babies	2001	880	808	776	-11.8%	-4.0%	26.6	21.5	18.2	-31.7%	-15.5%	18	
African American and Other babies	2001	420	425	321	-23.6%	-24.5%	38.3	32.8	25.3	-33.9%	-22.8%	44	
Births to single mothers****	2001	782	1,329	1,675	+114.2%	+26.0%	17.8	26.3	30.3	70.5%	15.1%	7	
White babies	2001	241	483	916	+280.1%	+89.6%	7.3	12.9	21.5	194.8%	67.0%	34	
African American and Other babies	2001	541	846	759	+40.3%	-10.3%	49.4	65.3	59.9	21.3%	-8.3%	33	
Children in single parent families	2000	13,533	15,689	21,838	+61.4%	+39.2%	18.1	22.1	26.0	43.4%	17.5%	20	
White	2000	6,880	7,587	10,374	+50.8%	+36.7%	11.2	13.7	16.7	48.8%	21.7%	40	
African American and Other	2000	6,586	7,979	11,464	+74.1%	+43.7%	41.8	51.3	52.4	25.4%	2.2%	44	
Education													
Not Ready for Grade 1	2001	1,252	1,120	563	-55.0%	-49.7%	29.6	23.1	12.0	-59.5%	-48.1%	4	
White males	2001	390	331	129	-66.9%	-61.0%	25.2	18.7	8.2	-67.5%	-56.1%	9	
White females	2001	283	229	89	-68.6%	-61.1%	19.7	14.9	6.2	-68.5%	-58.4%	20	
African American and Other males	2001	325	321	196	-39.7%	-38.9%	49.9	40.8	22.8	-54.3%	-44.1%	10	
African American and Other females	2001	254	239	149	-41.3%	-37.7%	42.3	31.4	17.9	-57.7%	-43.0%	13	
Repeating Grades 1-3	2000	963	1,263	731	-24.1%	-42.1%	23.6	27.8	15.0	-36.4%	-46.0%	34	
White males	2000	339	428	235	-30.7%	-45.1%	22.8	25.7	14.0	-38.6%	-45.5%	32	
White females	2000	220	287	137	-37.7%	-52.3%	15.5	19.3	8.8	-43.2%	-54.4%	38	
African American and Other males	2000	212	302	186	-12.3%	-38.4%	35.7	44.6	23.2	-35.0%	-48.0%	34	
African American and Other females	2000	190	242	167	-12.1%	-31.0%	33.8	35.0	21.6	-36.1%	-38.3%	43	
Grade 3 Math below standards****	2002	1,336	532	1,094	-18.1%	+105.6%	33.3	13.1	25.1	-24.6%	91.6%	9	
White males	2002	371	131	268	-27.8%	+104.6%	24.6	8.7	18.2	-26.0%	109.2%	7	
White females	2002	372	134	219	-41.1%	+63.4%	25.9	9.3	14.9	-42.5%	60.2%	17	
African American and Other males	2002	307	134	308	+0.3%	+129.9%	58.6	23.9	43.5	-25.8%	82.0%	21	
African American and Other females	2002	279	133	298	+6.8%	+124.1%	53.1	23.7	41.6	-21.7%	75.5%	27	
Grade 3 Reading below standards****	2002	965	443	888	-8.0%	+100.5%	24.0	10.9	20.4	-15.0%	87.2%	5	
White males	2002	321	163	240	-25.2%	+47.2%	21.2	10.9	16.4	-22.6%	50.5%	5	
White females	2002	203	87	152	-25.1%	+74.7%	14.2	6.0	10.4	-26.8%	73.3%	11	
African American and Other males	2002	242	123	282	+16.5%	+129.3%	46.2	22.0	39.9	-13.6%	81.4%	7	
African American and Other females	2002	192	70	214	+11.5%	+205.7%	36.5	12.5	30.0	-17.8%	140.0%	13	
Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT Grade 4	1998	858	928	785	-8.5%	-15.4%	23.0	24.6	18.9	-17.8%	-23.0%	8	
White males	1998	262	316	174	-33.6%	-44.9%	19.4	22.0	11.9	-38.7%	-45.9%	11	
White females	1998	179	216	164	-8.4%	-24.1%	14.0	16.0	11.0	-21.4%	-31.3%	18	
African American and Other males	1998	229	222	257	+12.2%	+15.8%	46.6	46.9	45.7	-1.9%	-2.6%	14	
African American and Other females	1998	154	170	188	+22.1%	+10.6%	32.2	33.1	33.1	2.8%	0.0%	13	

*Year of data is approximate in many cases.
**1 is best, 46 is worst.
*** Data include paternity acknowledgements.
**** BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Greenville County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Education (continued)

Indicators		Number					Percent				
	Most Recent Year	1980*	1990*	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres
Grade 8 Math below state standards**	2002	1,936	793	1,606	-17.0%	+102.5%	49.7	23.4	38.3	-22.9%	63.7%
White males	*2002*	*576*	*234*	*449*	*-22.0%*	*+91.9%*	*39.5*	*17.9*	*30.9*	*-21.8%*	*72.6%*
White females	*2002*	*564*	*210*	*393*	*-30.3%*	*+87.1%*	*39.5*	*17.4*	*27.4*	*-30.6%*	*57.5%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*382*	*166*	*410*	*+7.3%*	*+147.0%*	*78.3*	*40.3*	*62.5*	*-20.2%*	*55.1%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*405*	*182*	*353*	*-12.8%*	*+94.0%*	*79.9*	*39.8*	*55.0*	*-31.2%*	*38.2%*
Grade 8 Reading below state standards**	2002	1,528	742	1,183	-22.6%	+59.4%	39.1	21.9	28.2	-27.9%	28.8%
White males	*2002*	*493*	*273*	*345*	*-30.0%*	*+26.4%*	*33.7*	*20.9*	*23.8*	*-29.4%*	*13.9%*
White females	*2002*	*336*	*160*	*206*	*-38.7%*	*+28.8%*	*23.5*	*13.2*	*14.3*	*-39.1%*	*8.3%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*352*	*174*	*381*	*+8.2%*	*+119.0%*	*72.3*	*42.3*	*57.7*	*-20.2%*	*36.4%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*339*	*134*	*250*	*-26.3%*	*+86.6%*	*66.2*	*29.1*	*39.1*	*-40.9%*	*34.4%*
Grade 9 Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT	1998	NA	869	1,067	NA	+22.8%	NA	23.8	25.3	NA	6.3%
White males	*1998*	*NA*	*294*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*21.5*	*20.2*	*NA*	*-6.0%*
White females	*1998*	*NA*	*184*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*13.9*	*13.2*	*NA*	*-5.0%*
African American and Other males	*1998*	*NA*	*214*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*46.4*	*52.5*	*NA*	*13.1%*
African American and Other females	*1998*	*NA*	*173*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*35*	*40.4*	*NA*	*15.4%*
Exit Exam (not passing all parts on 1st attempt)	2002	1,233	724	1,167	-5.4%	+61.2%	33.5	22.5	30.8	-8.1%	36.9%
White males	*2002*	*372*	*218*	*285*	*-23.4%*	*+30.7%*	*26.7*	*18.4*	*21.4*	*-19.9%*	*16.3%*
White females	*2002*	*283*	*168*	*280*	*-1.1%*	*+66.7%*	*21.0*	*13.5*	*20.6*	*-1.9%*	*52.6%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*286*	*182*	*278*	*-2.8%*	*+52.7%*	*65.2*	*48.7*	*55.8*	*-14.4%*	*14.6%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*286*	*153*	*315*	*+10.1%*	*+105.9%*	*58.6*	*38.1*	*54.8*	*-6.5%*	*43.8%*
Dropout Rate (8th graders no longer enrolled in 12th grade 4 years later)	2000-02	1,195	1,202	1,178	-1.4%	-2.0%	27.6	28.3	26.4	-4.5%	-6.7%
White males	*2000-02*	*439*	*471*	*483*	*+10.0%*	*+2.7%*	*27.2*	*29.0*	*28.9*	*6.5%*	*-0.2%*
White females	*2000-02*	*354*	*363*	*311*	*-12.1%*	*-14.4%*	*23.0*	*24.2*	*20.7*	*-10.0%*	*-14.7%*
African American and Other males	*2000-02*	*219*	*195*	*245*	*+12.1%*	*+26.0%*	*37.6*	*34.1*	*37.0*	*-1.7%*	*8.3%*
African American and Other females	*2000-02*	*184*	*174*	*140*	*-24.1%*	*-19.7%*	*31.4*	*31.0*	*22.0*	*-30.1%*	*-29.0%*
Young Adults Not Completing High School (18-24)	2000	10,673	8,119	8,749	-18.0%	+7.8%	27.1	23.9	15.3	-43.4%	-35.8%
White males	*NA*	*4,454*	*3,262*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*28.1*	*24.6*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
White females	*NA*	*3,294*	*2,543*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*20.5*	*18.5*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other males	*NA*	*1,582*	*1,270*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*43.8*	*39.1*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other females	*NA*	*1,343*	*1,044*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*34.3*	*28.6*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
Economics											
Poverty Rate	2000	11,918	10,977	12,600	+5.7%	+14.8%	14.9	14.0	13.7	-8.1%	-2.1%
White children	*2000*	*5,703*	*4,771*	*5,537*	*-2.9%*	*+16.1%*	*9.3*	*8.1*	*8.3*	*-10.8%*	*2.5%*
African American and Other children	*2000*	*6,126*	*6,206*	*7,063*	*+15.3%*	*+13.8%*	*33.5*	*32.3*	*27.3*	*-18.4%*	*-15.4%*
Income of Families w/children (1999 $)	2000	$ 46,068	$ 53,221	$ 62,644	+36.0%	+17.7%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
White families	*2000*	*$ 49,480*	*$ 58,518*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other families	*2000*	*$ 31,817*	*$ 33,027*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
Adolescent Risk Factors											
Teenage Pregnancy (ages 14-17)	2001	568	424	253	-55.5%	-40.3%	5.4	4.6	2.4	-55.7%	-47.8%
White	*2001*	*344*	*241*	*145*	*-57.8%*	*-39.8%*	*4.2*	*3.4*	*1.9*	*-54.4%*	*-44.1%*
African American and Other	*2001*	*224*	*183*	*108*	*-51.8%*	*-41.0%*	*10.0*	*8.6*	*4.3*	*-57.0%*	*-50.0%*
Delinquency	2002	360	645	949	+163.6%	+47.1%	2.3	4.8	6.0	161.1%	25.1%
White males	*2002*	*161*	*287*	*368*	*+128.6%*	*+28.2%*	*2.6*	*5.4*	*6.2*	*139.9%*	*15.5%*
White females	*2002*	*63*	*92*	*176*	*+179.4%*	*+91.3%*	*1.0*	*1.8*	*3.1*	*207.7%*	*70.9%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*102*	*205*	*267*	*+161.8%*	*+30.2%*	*6.3*	*13.6*	*12.5*	*98.0%*	*-8.3%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*34*	*61*	*138*	*+305.9%*	*+126.2%*	*2.1*	*4.3*	*6.7*	*220.6%*	*56.6%*

*Closest available data to this year was used in many cases.
**BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Kids Count 2003

Greenwood County

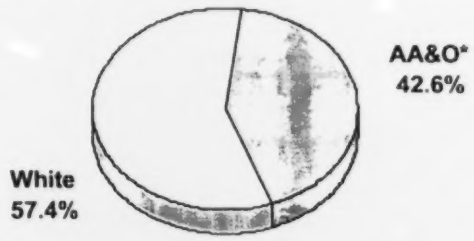
DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2000 there were an estimated 16,879 children under age 18 in the county. Of these, 9,685 were White, 6,601 were African-American, and 593 were other races. There were 15,204 children under age 18 in 1990, 16,676 in 1980, 17,270 in 1970, and 16,468 in 1960.

Children represent a shrinking portion of the county's population. Those under 18 constituted 25.5% of the population in 2000, down from 37.1% in 1960, 34.8% in 1970, and 28.8% in 1980.

In 2000 the 5,551 pre-schoolers under age 6 were 8.4% of the overall population: 7.3% of Whites and 10.1% of African Americans.

Figure 1: Population Ages 0-17 in 2000



* In all charts African-American is combined with other races, and often abbreviated as AA&O. Other races comprise 3.5% of children in the county, with "some other race alone" at 1.4% and 'two or more races" at 1.2% as the largest Other groups.

FAMILY

Families have always been the most important influence in a child's life. Children depend on their families for material needs, stimulation and guidance. Family life is different in numerous ways from previous generations, and many families now face exceptional challenges.

Families with children now make up a smaller share of all households. Only 31.7% of all households in 2000, as compared with 44.0% of households in 1960, had children below the age of 18.

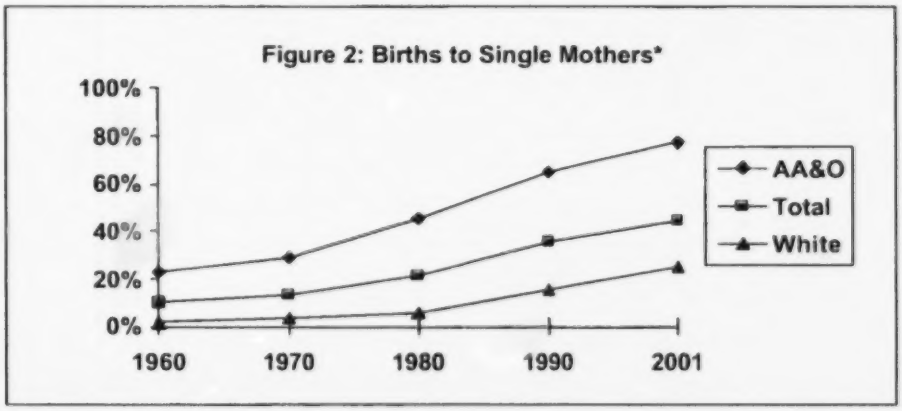
Births to Teen Mothers: In 2001, 63 babies were born to mothers younger than age 18. They were 6.9% of all babies born in the county; 4.7% of all White and 10.5% of all African-American and Other babies were born to teen mothers under the age of 18. Of the babies born to these teens in 2001, 92.1% were born to single mothers, including babies whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers.

In 2001, 154 babies were born to mothers younger than age 20. These babies were 16.8% of all born in the county; 12.8% of all White and 23.5% of all African-American and Other babies were born to mothers under the age of 20. Of the babies born to these mothers in 2001, 83.8% were born to single mothers, including paternity acknowledeged babies.

Education of Mothers Giving Birth: Children's success is strongly influenced by the education of their parents. In 2001, 229 babies, 25.2% of all babies, were born to mothers of all ages who had not completed the 12th grade. In 2001, 21.9% of White and 30.6% of African-American and Other babies were born to mothers who had completed less than the 12th grade. This is a substantial improvement from 42.5% in 1970. In addition, during 2001, 34.7% had completed 12 grades (30.1% of Whites and 42.3% of African Americans and Others) and 40.1% had more than a high school degree (48.0% of Whites and 27.1% of African American and Others).

Births to Single Mothers: Births to single mothers have increased steadily over four decades. In 2001, 281 babies, 30.7% of all babies, were recorded as born to single mothers. A decade earlier in 1990, the percentage was 34.4% and in 1960 it was 9.8%. In 2001, 13.3% of White children and 59.6% of African-American and Other children were born to single mothers. These numbers, however, do not include paternity acknowlegement births.

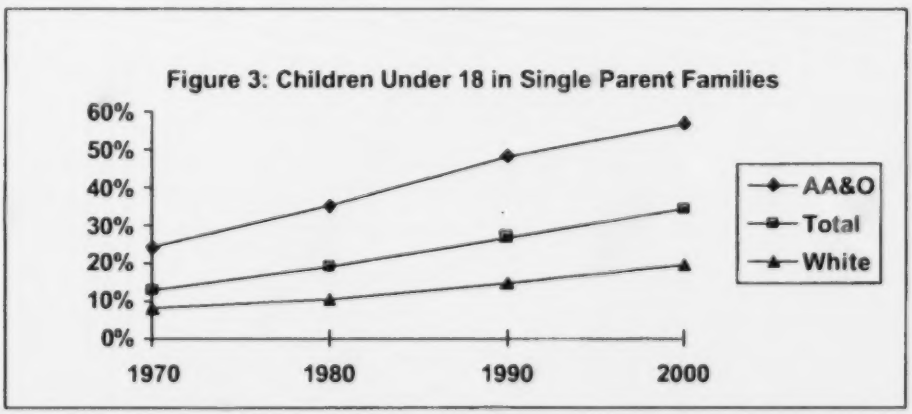
Thus, to these numbers should be added an additional group of 128 babies, 14.0% of all born in 2001, whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers. When the paternity-acknowledged babies are added, the total number born to single mothers in 2001 was 409, constituting 44.7% of all babies, 25.0% of White babies, and 77.3% of African-American and Others.



*Includes paternity acknowleged babies in 1980, 1990 and 2001. Prior to 1979, paternity acknowleged cases were not a statistical category, and thus were included in births to single mothers.

Divorce Rate: In 2001, 497 marriage licenses were issued, while 270 divorce decrees involving 201 children were filed. In 1970, only 122 children were in families involved in divorce.

Single-Parent Family: Increasing numbers of children live in single-parent families. In 2000, 4,934 children lived with only one parent. This was 34.2% of all children, up from 26.8% in 1990, 18.9% in 1980, and 12.9% in 1970. In 2000, 19.4% of White and 57.0% of African-American and Other children lived in single-parent families. Also in 2000, 1,615 or 33.9% of children under age 6 lived in single parent families: 16.9% of White and 60.9% of African American and Other pre-schoolers.



Parents Working and Child Care: Increasingly, parents must divide their time between children and employers. In order to meet family financial needs, most parents must work and thus have less time for family life. In 2000, 73.0% of mothers with children under 6 and 78.0% with children 6 - 17 were in the labor force. This has increased substantially from 1960 when 48.1% of mothers with children under 6 were in the labor force. Most fathers also work: 71.6% of children under 6 are in families where the single parent or both parents work. Caring for children is a problem for parents unable to obtain quality, affordable daycare while they are at work.

Overall, there are 3,092 spaces in state-regulated childcare facilities* in the county, 96.4% of these are in licensed programs and 3.6% are in registered programs. Of the spaces, 87.0% are in licensed childcare centers serving more than 12 children, 3.3% are in registered or licensed family childcare homes serving six or fewer children, 0.8% are in licensed group childcare homes serving 7-12 children, and 8.9% are in registered or licensed church programs.

The homes and centers are severely constrained by the limited ability of parents to pay. In the county, the average weekly charge is $ 74.30 for centers and $ 66.25 for homes. Consequently, center wages are low: 17.6% of centers with pre-school staff and 85.7% of centers with assistant pre-school staff report paying these staff under $6 per hour. Paying $6-$8 per hour are 70.6% of centers with pre-school staff and 14.3% of centers with assistants. Low wages attract workers with limited education. In 47.1% of centers, most pre-school staff and in 85.7% of centers most assistants have only a high school degree. In 70.6% of centers few to none of the pre-school staff have early childhood credentials. In childcare homes, 57.1% of lead providers have no more education than a high school degree or GED; 7.1% have less than a high school degree.

Family Violence: In 2000, 1,226 domestic assaults were recorded by law enforcement officials. These domestic assaults comprised 36.8% of all assaults, which include aggravated assaults, simple assaults, and intimidation. Overall, 60.8% of all domestic assaults involve spouse abuse which constitutes 22.4% of all assaults. Since most family violence is not reported, the true incidence of family disruption is much more widespread than even the large number of reported cases would indicate.

Separation from Parents: Some children do not live with their natural parents. In 2000, 7.6% of all children did not live with their natural parents. Approximately 842 or 5.0% of all children lived with relatives, 241 or 1.4% lived with non-relatives, 33 or 0.2% were householders or spouses, and 161 or 1.0% were in institutional facilities.

Abuse and Neglect: In 2000-01, there were 180 investigations into reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children. Through its investigations, the Department of Social Services (DSS) determined that 74 of the investigations were indicated for abuse or neglect: 16.7% for physical abuse, 6.9% for sexual abuse, 0.0% for mental injury, 20.8% for physical neglect, 2.8% for educational neglect, 8.3% for medical neglect, 43.1% for threat of harm for physical/sexual abuse, and 1.4% for other types of abuse.

In the indicated cases of abuse and neglect, DSS determined there were 103 children who were victims of abuse or neglect. Of these, 50.5% were male, 49.5% were female; 43.7% were White, 56.3% were African-American and Other. By age, 42.7% were ages 0 - 5, 42.7% were ages 6 - 12, and 14.6% were ages 13 - 17. In the indicated cases, 14.6% of the children lived in two-parent families, 48.5% in single parent families, 17.5% with unmarried couples, and 19.4% in other circumstances.

Out of Home Placements: As of June 2001, 53 children lived in foster care. The median age at first placement in the county is 7.6 years. The ages of children in foster care were 11.3% 0-2, 3.8% 3-5, 30.2% 6-10, 20.8% 11-13, and 34.0% 14 and above. The foster care population is 58.5% males and 41.5% females. Regarding their future, 47.2% were under a plan for placement in adoptive homes, 22.6% for return to a parent or guardian, 1.9% for placement with a relative, 11.3% for independent living, 15.1% for permanent foster care, and 1.9% for other circumstances.

Adult/Child Ratio: A measure of potential adult attention for children from family and community is the ratio of adults to children and youth. In 2000 there were 2.93 adults for every person below age 18. This was up substantially from 1960, when there were only 1.69 adults for every person under the age 18. This indicates that today there are more adults potentially available to provide attention and care for each child than in the past.

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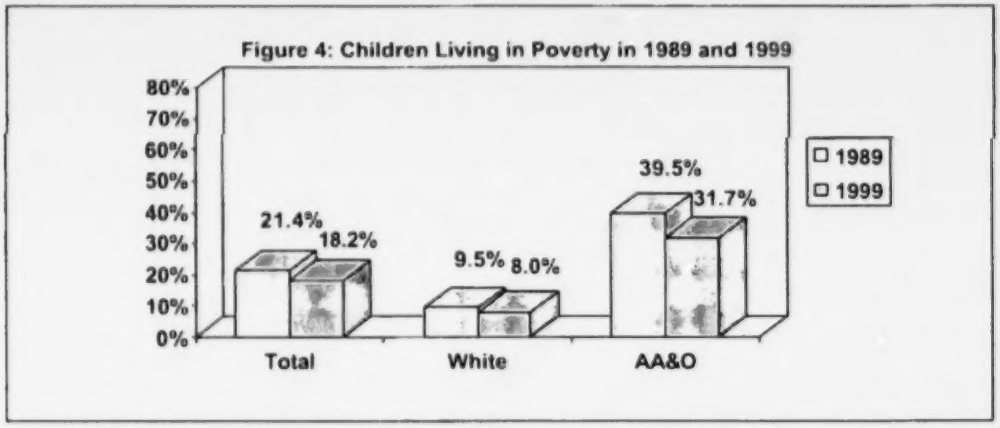
* This data is the best currently available; however, an effort is being made to check the coverage and improve the accuracy. As soon as more recent and complete data becomes available, it will be posted on the website.

ECONOMIC STATUS

Low income makes it difficult for many families to provide the material and environmental enrichment necessary for healthy child development.

Poverty: In 1999, 3,010 children and youth under the age of 18 lived in 1,313 families with incomes below poverty, comprising 18.2% of all children and youth: 8.0% of Whites and 31.7% of African-Americans and Others. A rough estimate of child poverty in 2001 calculated by the Census Bureau was 23.0%.



Poverty has always been a serious problem. While the rate among children under age 18 in 1989 was 21.4%, it was 17.4% in 1979 and 16.2% in 1969.

Children and the elderly are the age groups most seriously affected by poverty. In 1999, 23.1% of children 0 - 5 (12.0% White, 37.5% African-American and Other), and 15.4% of children 6 - 17 (5.3% White, 29.0% African-American and Other), lived in poverty; 14.1% of persons 65 years and older lived in poverty. Historically, the poverty rate among the elderly was much higher. During the last three decades, federal policy actions have substantially improved the economic status of older persons but have not done so for children.

Single-parent families are most likely to be poor. In 1999, 39.3% of children in single-parent families lived in poverty, but only 4.8% of children in married-couple families were poor. Children in single-parent families made up 67.4% of all the county's children living in poverty.

In 2002, the poverty level was $15,020 for a family of three and $18,100 for a family of four. The poverty threshold is often criticized as an arbitrary number. People can still be poor but may be just above the poverty level. Federal programs utilize varying thresholds. For example, in 1999 there were 7,551 children ages 0-17 who were less than 200 percent of poverty; thus an additional 4,541 children were above the poverty level but could still be considered poor or near-poor with incomes below $30,040 and $36,200 respectively for 3 and 4 person families.

Children Under 18 in Poverty in 1999

Percent of Poverty	Total		White		African American & Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 50%	1,396	8.4%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 100%	3,010	18.2%	751	8.0%	2,259	31.7%
Under 125%	4,147	25.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 150%	5,139	31.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 175%	6,514	39.3%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 185%	6,880	41.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 200%	7,551	45.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total Children	16,879		9,685		7,194	

Note: Missing data will be released by the Census Bureau later in 2003, and will be posted on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

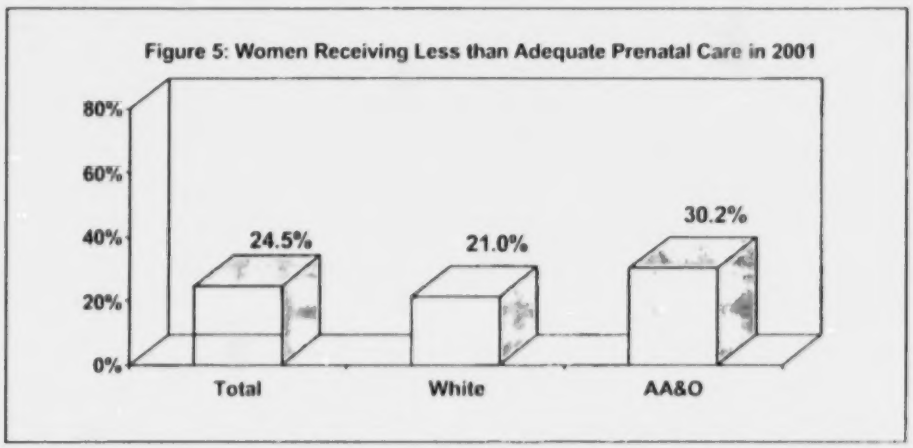
Income: The mean income of families with children in 1999 was $47,359. In 1989 it was $45,509, and 1979, it was $43,005, adjusted for inflation (i.e., in 1999 dollars). The mean income of single-parent families with children was $24,596 for single parents in 1999, as compared with $59,694 in married-couple families with children. From 1999 to 2000, Greenwood County real dollar per capita income (eliminating inflation) increased by 1.9%.

Child Support Payments: There were 581[7] families receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families in fiscal year 2002, but only 22.0 % had child support court orders. Their average monthly payment of child support was $ 235, including child support receipts and tax refund intercepts. In addition, during fiscal year 2002, an estimated 1,154 parents in non-TANF families were obligated to pay a monthly average of $ 215. Information is not available regarding the amount actually paid.

HEALTH

Good health during a child's formative years helps children to reach their maximum potential. Good health requires healthy lifestyles and effective primary care, starting during the prenatal period and continuing through adolescence into adulthood. Children's health reflects the well-being of the community, as well as how adequately they are protected.

Prenatal Care: Early and continuous prenatal care can make a significant difference in assuring births of healthy babies. Delayed or insufficient prenatal care is associated with low birthweight and other health risks for infants. In 2001, 167, or 18.3% of pregnant women received no prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy. In 2001, 224, or 24.5% of pregnant women received less than adequate prenatal care: 120 or 21.0% of Whites and 104 or 30.2% of African-Americans and Others. In that same year, 7 women received no prenatal care at all.



Low Birthweight: Low birthweight of less than 5.5 pounds and very low birthweight of less than 3.3 pounds are associated with health risks and growth and development problems. In 2001, 81 or 8.9% of all babies in the county were born with low birthweight: 14.2% of African-American and Other babies and 5.6% of White babies. During 1999-2001, approximately 59 or 2.1% of all babies were born with very low birthweight and had the most serious complications: 1.0% of White babies and 3.9% of African-American and Other babies. The cost of hospitalization for each newborn low birthweight baby in the county in 1999 - 2001 was $14,705 and $59,160 for each very low birthweight baby, compared with $1,866 for a baby of normal birthweight. The result was excess cost in the county of $1,730,831 for all low birthweight babies, of which $1,050,380 was for very low birthweight babies.

Infant Mortality: During the decade since 1989-91, the overall infant mortality rate decreased by 33.8% from 16.2 to 10.7 per 1000 live births. For Whites, the rate decreased 40.3% from 10.5 to 6.3 per 1000 live births, while for African-Americans and Others the rate decreased 24.7% from 24.1 to 18.1 per 1000 live births. Over the three-year period 1999-2001, 11 White and 19 African-American and Other infants died before age one. By comparison, 17 White and 28 African-American and Other infants died during 1989-91.

[7] Number is an unduplicated count for the entire fiscal year.

Child Injuries and Deaths: Childhood deaths and injuries reflect whether communities are safe for children. In 2001, children in the Greenwood County went to the emergency room 2,148 times because of injuries. Boys are injured more often than girls. Children visit the emergency room at comparable rates for each age from 0 to 17.

In South Carolina, the major causes of death among young children are unintentional injuries, cancer, homicide, and congenital anomalies. Over the three year period 1999-2001, 7 White and 4 African-American and Other children ages 1-14 died in the county. During 1989-91, 3 White and 6 African-American and Other children died.

Immunization: Immunization rates are an important indication of whether young children are receiving adequate preventive health care. During FY 1989-90, 64.4% of children less than two years old seen in public health clinics were not fully immunized against such preventable diseases as Polio, Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Haemophilus Influenza B and Whooping Cough. After a concerted statewide campaign to increase immunizations, the percentage of children seen in public health clinics who were not fully immunized in January 2001 had declined in the county to 6.5%. The DHEC statewide birth registry survey of all two year old children found that 88.1% were fully immunized in 2001. This success demonstrates the potential to improve the status of children when the leadership of the state and its communities act decisively together.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Children and youth are infected with sexually transmitted diseases through sexual abuse or irresponsible sexual activity. National prevalence rates indicate: a 1 in 8 chance that sexually active 15 year-old girls will develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), the most rapidly increasing cause of infertility; 10% of sexually active adolescent girls and boys are infected with chlamydia, the most common cause of PID; and as many as 15% of teen girls are infected with human papilloma virus, often with strains linked to cervical cancer. Furthermore, research evidence indicates that susceptibility to HIV/AIDS increases by 3 to 8 times through prior infection with various STDs.

According to national studies, approximately 1 in 4 sexually experienced youth aged 13-19 acquires a STD ever year; since two-thirds of all high school students have had sexual intercourse and half engage in intercourse over a thr month period, this would suggest that 10-15% of teens are infected with STDs annually. For 2000, this would indicate th an estimated 671 to 1,007 youth ages 13-19 in the county were infected with a STD. Many infections are either n identified for treatment or not reported. In the county, there were 10 reported cases of children under age 15 and 93 you ages 15 - 19 infected with gonorrhea; 12 youth under 15 and 140 ages 15 - 19 were reported infected with chlamydi Youth with undiagnosed and untreated STDs often spread their infections.

Healthy Lifestyles: Although no county data is available, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2001 found that mar high school students are not following good health habits. The YRBS revealed that 26% felt that they were overweight; 42 were trying to lose weight: 27% of boys and 57% of girls. Although during a week 79% of high school students ate fru 59% ate salad, and over 83% ate vegetables, only 17% ate the recommended five or more servings of fruit and vegetabl per day. During a week, 49% did stretching or muscle strengthening exercises, and 59% exercised three or more times f 20 minutes in sports that made them sweat or breathe hard. However, 11% of students engaged in no vigorous or modera activity at all during a week: 8% of boys and 13% of girls.

Tobacco Use:* Cigarette smoking starts at a young age and often becomes habitual. In the county during 2002 among all students 15 and older, 21.9% first smoked by age 11, 45.0% by age 13, and 60.2% by age 15. In a typical month, 16.2% of 7th and 8th graders and 29.4% of high school students smoked cigarettes. White youths were much more likely than African-Americans to smoke: 24.3% of White male and 28.4% of White female 7th to 12th graders used cigarettes, as compared with 18.4% of African-American males and 19.6% of African American females. A smaller but significant group of high school students (11.9%) used smokeless tobacco monthly; it was used primarily by White males (25.5% compared with 3.6% of all other race and sex groups).

* County participation in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking was not complete but county data is presented to provide the best available picture of teen risk-taking attitudes and behavior in Greenwood County. Two of 3 districts participated, but not the largest district (District 50).

Disabilities: No data are collected on the true prevalence of disabilities within the county. According to national reported estimates, over 10% of children and youth have developmental disabilities at any point in time, and more than 17 are affected at some time before age 18 by deafness, blindness, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, speech defects, development delays, learning disabilities, and emotional or behavioral problems. For 2000 this suggests that at least 1,688 children ar youth under age 18 in the county are currently affected by disabilities.

Approximately 5% of children and youth nationally have serious disabilities which have lifelong implications fi work, social life and community living. Typically among children and youth, there are 1 - 2% who are mentally retarded, - 3% with serious emotional disturbances, over 1% with orthopedic or multiple disabilities, including cerebral palsy an many hereditary conditions, and under 1% with visual or hearing impairments.

Other chronic health problems also affect the lives of many children. Over 3% of children have one or more these limitations. Such serious chronic conditions affect 1 - 2% who have respiratory problems (asthma and chron bronchitis), 0.5 - 1.0% with neurological problems (epilepsy and seizures), and less than 1% with circulatory problen (congenital heart defects and acquired diseases).

Other disabilities are identified primarily in school performance. These would include 1,043 students in grades 12 with learning disabilities and 376 students in grades 1-12 with speech/language deficits.

Disabilities are caused by genetics, disease, poor prenatal conditions, injuries, and environmental factors. For example, lead exposure, primarily from paint dust, was detected in over 1% of all children screened, including 1 in Greenwood County.

Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: While over 20% of 9-17 year olds meet diagnostic criteria for some form of mental disorder, the number with serious emotional disturbance and impaired functioning in family, school, or community activities is: 9-13% for substantial functional impairment and 5-9% for extreme functional impairment. The rates among poor children are at the higher end of these ranges. Based on a federal formula for estimating prevalence, in the county there are 12% or 1,017 seriously emotionally disturbed 9-17 year olds with substantial functional impairment and 8% or 678 with extreme functional impairment during the course of a year. Conduct disorders, attention deficit, depression, and anxiety disorders are the most prevalent, each affecting 3% or more of school-aged children. These disorders may occur simultaneously in a child. The prevalence rates are highest among males, adolescents, and disadvantaged persons in communities under stress and lacking social cohesion; depression, however, is more prevalent among females. On the YRBS, 20% of boys and 33% of girls in high school reported that during the past year they felt so sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that they stopped doing some usual activities. Another indicator of emotional problems is the 8% of high school students in South Carolina who reported that they had "attempted suicide" in the past year: 5% of boys and 10% of girls. Suicide attempts resulted in 4% of high school students reporting that they required treatment by a doctor or nurse for injury, poisoning, or overdose.

Inadequate Healthcare: No county level data is routinely collected regarding the number of children and youth with inadequate healthcare. According to estimates for 2000-02 by the Bureau of the Census through the annual Current Population Survey, the statewide average rate of uninsured children and youth under age 18 in families with incomes under 200% of poverty in South Carolina was 16.6%, and 9.9% above 200% of poverty. If these rates are applied to the county, there are 1,255 children in the county below 200% of poverty with no health insurance, and 926 children above 200% of poverty with no health insurance, for a total of 2,181 uninsured children in Greenwood County. The number lacking basic accessible primary care is at least double the number lacking insurance. Those lacking primary care are often dependent on health services at school. The ratio of students to nurses recommended nationally is 750:1. In the county, this would suggest the need for 16 nurses, compared with 10 currently working in the schools.

Medicaid: For several years, the State of South Carolina has emphasized enrolling eligible children into Medicaid. In late 1997, South Carolina implemented its version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, Partners for Healthy Children (PHC), and aggressively pursued outreach enrollment for PHC and Medicaid. As a result, enrollment of children ages 0 through 18 in Greenwood County has increased by 113.6% from June 1997 to June 2001; thus Medicaid and PHC were serving 40.9% of all children in that age range. The total Medicaid expenditures in South Carolina for services provided to children ages 0 through 18 for state fiscal year 2002 were $991 million, at an average statewide expenditure of $2,343 per child enrolled, approximate Medicaid expenditure for children in the county would be $16.2 million.

In June 2001, the total number of Greenwood County children, birth through 18, enrolled in Medicaid was 6,896. The total can be broken down into the following age and race groupings:

	White	African American	Hispanic	Other	Total
Children under 1	214	268	32	48	562
Children 1 - 5	775	1,170	115	113	2,173
Children 6 - 14	1,036	1,933	59	122	3,150
Children 15 - 18	334	650	10	17	1,011
Total	2,359	4,021	216	300	6,896

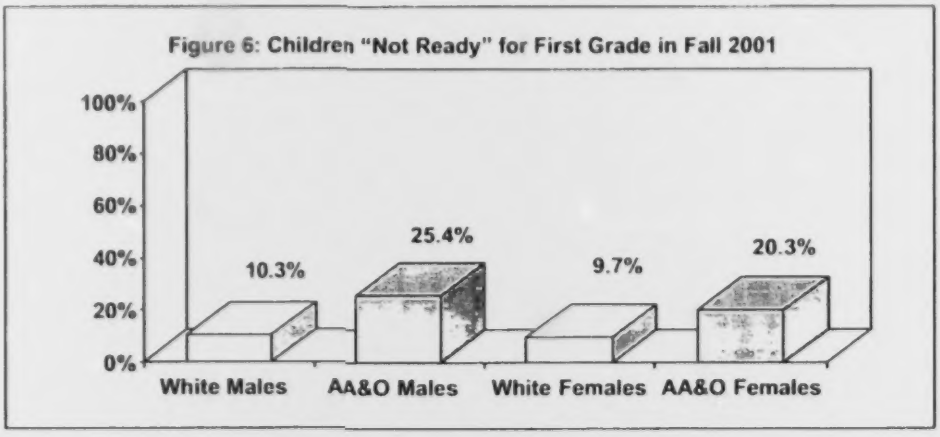
Ambulatory Care: When children lack adequate primary care, whether through lack of insurance, through limite access, or through failing to utilize available care, preventable and treatable conditions become serious and requi hospitalization. A useful indicator of inadequate primary care is the percentage of all hospitalizations that could typicall have been avoided through ambulatory care, especially for pneumonia, asthma, diarrhea and vomiting, dehydration, ar severe ear, nose, and throat infections. The share of hospitalizations for these types of conditions could normally be ke below 20%; for children in the county under the age of 18 during 2001, the share was 27.9% for Whites and 29.1% f African-Americans and Others.

READINESS AND EARLY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Too many children reach school without the readiness skills needed for success in learning, such as language, soci skills, visual and auditory discrimination, memory recall, and knowledge of colors, letters, numbers, names of objects, et Likewise, some schools are not ready to respond appropriately to the varying developmental levels of children in the ear grades. As a result, too many students do not experience the success needed to create the motivation and engagement th sustain learning.

1st Grade "Readiness" on 2001-02 Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB):

154 children not ready 16.3% children not ready

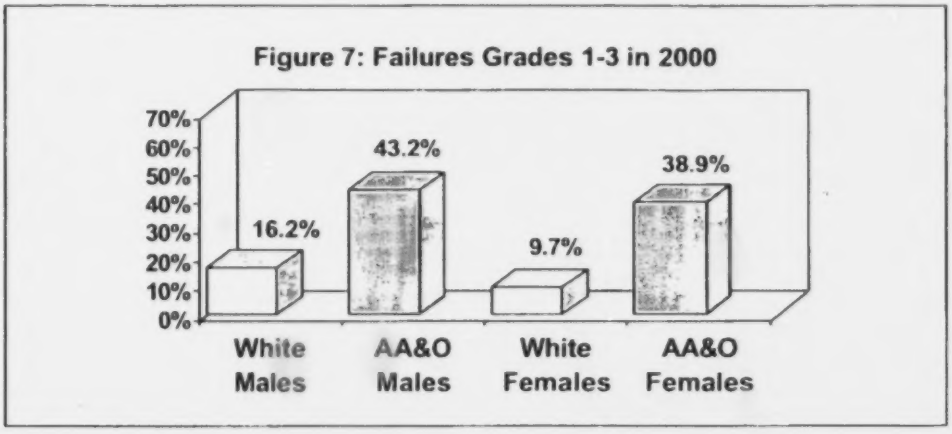


1st Grade Failures in 2002:

107 children failing 10.6% children failing

Failures Grades 1-3 in 2002 (approximate cumulative percentage of grades one, two and three):

208 children failing 21.3% children failing



Over-age for Grade 3 in 2001

221 children over-age 25.4% children over-age

Special Education: Large numbers of children are placed in special education classes. In elementary school, 321 six and seven year olds and 320 eight and nine year-olds were enrolled in special education classes during 2001-02, approximately 17.0% and 16.8% of their age groups respectively: 17.9% of White 8 – 9 year olds were in special education and 15.6% of African American and Others.

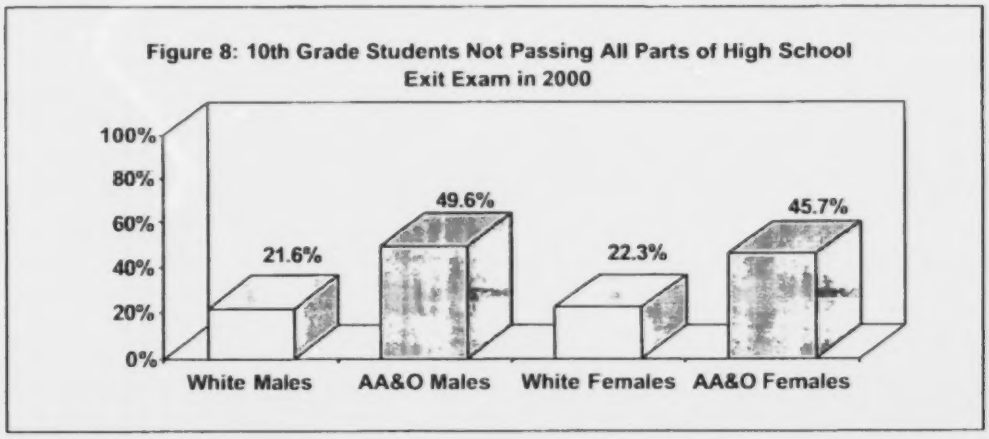
Readiness Summary: A serious problem exists in terms of student readiness and school success in the early grades. With 16.3% assessed not ready for the 1st grade, 25.4% over age in grade 3, and 16.8% of eight and nine year-olds placed in special education, unacceptably large numbers of students still begin school without good prospects of success in future school achievement and graduation; however, great improvement has occurred since the mid 1990s.

SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

By the end of elementary school, significant numbers of students perform below minimum standards. The following standardized test measures, comparing student performance to state minimum standards, should be used in combination with routine classroom assessments more reflective of real-world performance skills.

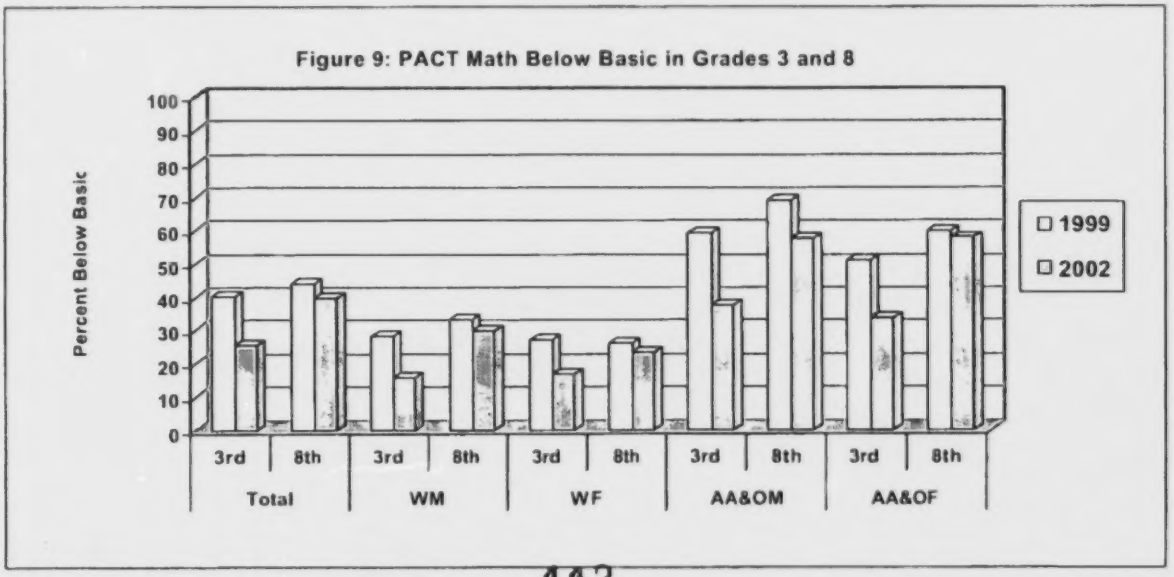
Special Education: Special education placements reflect both the significant number of children with serious handicapping conditions and a large number of students with mild learning and behavioral problems that have not been accommodated successfully by the regular educational program. The result is a large system of self-contained, resource, and itinerant services to meet the needs of 376 speech and language impaired, 1,043 learning disabled, 20 emotionally disabled, 321 mentally impaired, and 80 physically handicapped, deaf, blind, and other handicapped students. Special education classes served approximately 15.8% of all students in grades 1 - 12 during 2001-2002.

Exit Exam - not passing all parts of Exit Exam on first attempt in the 10th grade in 2002	
240 students did not pass all parts	31.6% of students did not pass all parts



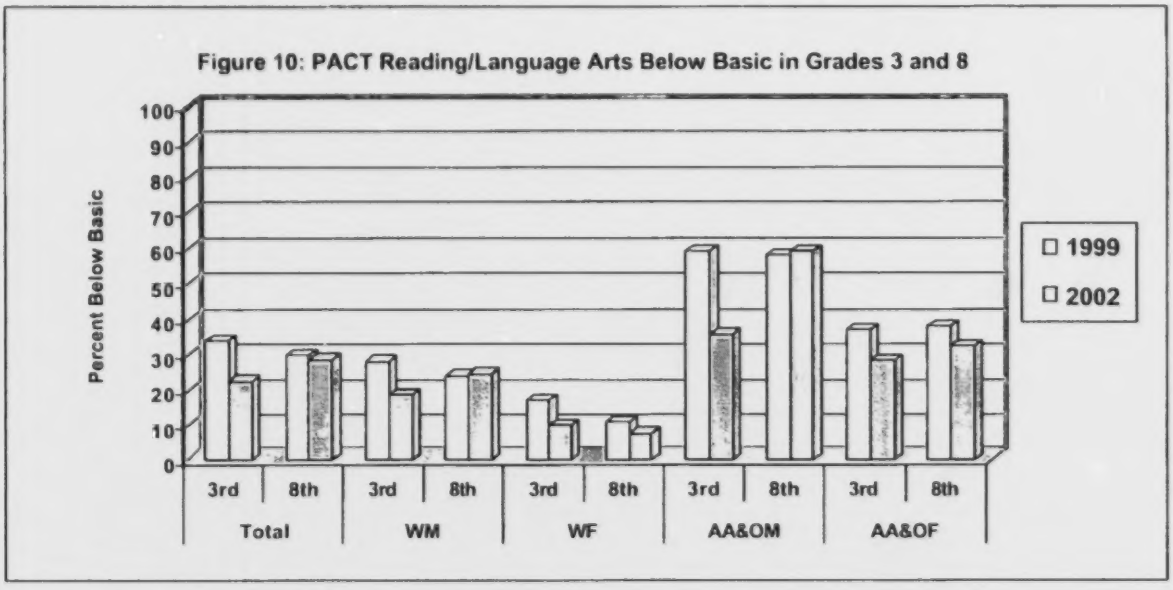
Achievement Trends: How has performance on standardized achievement tests changed over the past 20 years? During the 1980s, student performance on the BSAP tests improved dramatically. Between 1981 and 1990, the percentage of 8th grade students in Greenwood County who did not meet standards declined from 60.7% to 36.2% in math and from 48.4% to 24.9% in reading. During the 1990's the BSAP trend changed, with 39.3% not meeting 8th grade math standards in 1998 and 36.5% in reading. On standardized tests, the first year when South Carolina students take the exam is comparable to the challenge encountered by the national norm group which took the test only once. Looking at first year data, the percentage of 4th grade students at or below the 25th percentile of national norms was 26.8% in 1983 on the CTBS, 24.7% in 1990 on the Stanford, and 25.8% in 1995 on the Metropolitan; for 9th graders, the percentage in the bottom quarter was 33.2% in 1990 and 29.0% in 1995. Although not comparable, the percent below basic on the 4th grade PACT in 1999, the first year of administration, was 37.1%, but in 2002 22.6% of 4th graders were below basic in reading and math; the percentage of 8th graders below basic in reading and math averaged 37.2% in 1999 and 34.1% in 2002.

PACT: The Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) was first administered in 1999 for grades 3 - 8 in math and reading/language arts. Math assesses skills in numbers, numerical and algebraic concepts, patterns and functions, geometry, measurement, probability and statistics. The percentage of students scoring below basic in math has decreased by 21.5% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 1,073 students below basic in grades 3-8 but there would have been an additional 294 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
		Math (%)				
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	25.2	15.5	16.9	37.7	33.8
	4	24.1	14.7	15.0	35.4	38.1
	5	29.0	15.9	18.8	45.6	38.2
	6	28.1	17.8	15.9	44.8	41.8
	7	37.3	24.9	24.1	55.8	52.6
	8	39.5	30.0	23.3	57.5	57.9
Basic	3	47.5	45.0	44.4	53.8	47.2
	4	39.1	33.1	36.9	40.2	48.7
	5	42.0	35.6	44.8	40.3	46.8
	6	41.1	38.2	40.2	39.7	47.8
	7	36.3	39.0	40.6	29.9	33.7
	8	44.6	48.8	52.2	36.0	36.6
Proficient	3	17.4	23.9	24.3	6.1	13.3
	4	23.3	28.7	32.2	18.3	9.5
	5	19.0	25.8	24.8	10.7	13.3
	6	19.0	23.2	28.9	10.9	8.2
	7	15.9	21.3	21.4	7.6	9.7
	8	11.9	15.2	18.9	3.8	5.5
Advanced	3	9.9	15.5	14.4	2.4	5.6
	4	13.5	23.5	15.9	6.1	3.7
	5	10.1	22.7	11.6	3.4	1.7
	6	11.7	20.7	15.1	4.6	2.2
	7	10.5	14.9	13.9	6.6	4.1
	8	4.0	6.0	5.6	2.7	0.0

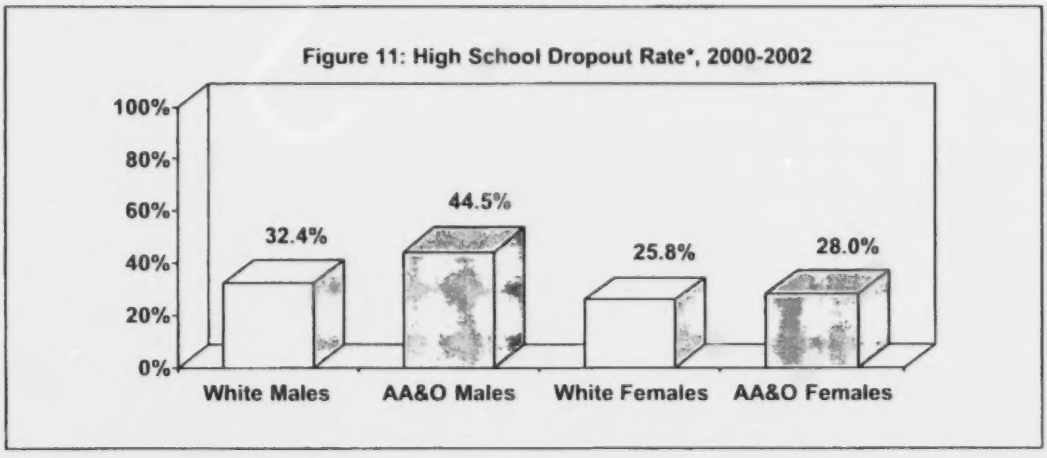
Reading/Language Arts assesses reading, listening, speaking, writing, research, and communication wi technology. The first PACT assessment found a high percentage of elementary and middle grades students performin below standards and only a modest number above basic. The percentage of students scoring below basic reading/language arts has decreased by 25.8% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 8 students below basic in grades 3 - 8 but there would have been an additional 294 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
		Reading/Language Arts (%)				
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	22.4	18.5	9.9	35.8	28.2
	4	21.1	18.7	9.4	35.4	26.1
	5	28.0	19.7	13.2	49.5	33.0
	6	25.7	20.7	14.2	42.5	31.3
	7	25.0	17.3	11.7	42.9	35.2
	8	28.6	24.4	7.6	59.1	32.3
Basic	3	42.1	35.7	39.3	49.1	45.6
	4	47.6	43.8	41.6	50.0	58.0
	5	51.3	49.8	56.0	40.8	57.1
	6	36.8	36.1	28.9	42.5	42.9
	7	46.4	48.2	45.5	43.9	48.0
	8	45.5	49.6	45.8	31.2	54.9
Proficient	3	32.7	43.7	44.2	14.2	25.1
	4	29.5	34.3	45.9	14.6	16.0
	5	19.8	29.2	28.8	9.7	9.9
	6	29.3	35.3	41.0	12.6	22.0
	7	24.9	29.7	37.6	10.7	15.8
	8	22.4	23.2	39.4	8.1	11.6
Advanced	3	2.8	2.1	6.6	0.9	1.0
	4	1.8	3.2	3.0	0.0	0.0
	5	0.9	1.3	2.0	0.0	0.0
	6	8.1	7.9	15.9	2.3	3.8
	7	3.6	4.8	5.3	2.6	1.0
	8	3.5	2.8	7.2	1.6	1.2

Dropout Rate - 8th grade students no longer enrolled in grade 12
(average of students for the three years ending 2000-2002)

292 students drop out annually **32.2% students drop out?**



Dropouts: Distressing numbers of students drop out and fail to graduate. An average of 28.4% of 8th grade failed to graduate** from county schools five years later during the period 1980-84, 31.8% during 1985-89, and 39.1 during 1990-94, 30.6% during 1995-97 and 40.2% during 1998-2000***.

During 2001-02, 97.3% of all who did graduate received the State High School Diploma, while the remainir 2.7% received a State Certificate for meeting the required Carnegie units but not passing the Exit Exam.

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* 12th grade enrollment compared to 8th grade enrollment four years earlier

** This is calculated by using 8th grade enrollment to graduation data.

*** 2001 data will be available soon and will be posted on the website.

Fortunately, many dropouts enroll in adult education programs and either earn a high school diploma or obtain a GED. During 2001-02, 22 Adult Education high school diplomas were awarded to school completers and in 2001 131 GEDs were awarded in the county. Over time, adult education high school diplomas and GEDs increase the effective school completion rate substantially. In the 2000 Census, 18.1% of county resident 25 - 34 year-olds said they had not completed either high school or a GED.

Achievement Summary: The numbers of students testing below basic on the PACT and dropping out range from 21.1% to 41.8%. Thus, far too many students fail to acquire the knowledge, skills, learning habits, and motivation necessary to compete in the economy or contribute to society in the 21st Century.

ADOLESCENT RISK BEHAVIORS

Academic achievement is greatly influenced by the prevailing youth culture which often promotes popularity with peers and partying rather than studying and doing well in school. The prevalence of adolescent risk-taking and under-achievement is illustrated by the poor grades of substance-abusing teens.

Substance Abuser Rates at Levels of Academic Performance

	Usual School Grades in Past Year					Total
	A Range	B Range	C Range	D Range	F Range	
Smoked Cigarettes (in past 30 days)	13.3%	24.6%	40.7%	52.9%	67.8%	29.7%
Drank 5 or More Drinks on One Occasion (in past 30 days)	9.2%	18.4%	26.7%	52.7%	46.6%	21.6%
Used Any Illicit Drug (in past 30 days)	5.8%	13.2%	21.0%	37.1%	14.4%	15.6%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

As influence from parents and other adults declines during adolescence, significant numbers of students engage in violence, crime, school offenses, depressive emotions and attempted suicide:

Risk Behaviors Participated in During Past 12 Months	White Male		White Female		African American Male		African American Female		Total		Total (Grade 7-12)
	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	
Carried a handgun or knife for self-defense?	26.6%	28.1%	5.4%	7.4%	14.1%	15.4%	4.2%	5.6%	13.5%	15.9%	14.7%
Carried a handgun or knife as a weapon?	8.8%	12.1%	0.9%	1.1%	8.3%	17.8%	2.9%	5.1%	4.8%	7.2%	6.0%
Been in a fight with someone?	36.5%	33.4%	14.2%	15.5%	40.3%	21.1%	31.4%	29.1%	27.2%	24.5%	25.8%
Hit your boyfriend or girlfriend?	2.6%	2.9%	6.4%	13.8%	2.6%	2.5%	17.4%	25.2%	6.1%	9.9%	8.1%
Been hit by your boyfriend or girlfriend?	9.4%	11.0%	3.7%	10.3%	12.7%	13.6%	11.6%	7.9%	7.8%	10.6%	9.3%
Rec'd detention or in-school suspension?	29.8%	25.4%	10.6%	12.6%	33.6%	17.7%	25.0%	29.9%	21.9%	19.9%	20.9%
Been suspended from school?	11.0%	20.3%	6.2%	9.4%	21.0%	16.8%	11.8%	8.2%	10.5%	14.1%	12.3%
Stolen anything worth > $5?	7.5%	7.3%	2.2%	6.0%	13.0%	7.7%	10.9%	12.2%	6.5%	7.4%	6.9%
Had an accident while driving?	NA	11.0%	NA	12.3%	NA	13.7%	NA	4.7%	NA	11.1%	NA
Been arrested and booked?	4.5%	9.2%	NA%	2.7%	5.4%	7.5%	1.2%	4.2%	0.0%	5.8%	3.0%
Felt hopeless for two weeks or more?	13.8%	12.0%	19.9%	25.8%	5.9%	2.6%	15.5%	14.9%	15.5%	17.2%	16.4%
Seriously considered attempting suicide?	7.3%	10.1%	4.3%	9.7%	5.6%	2.7%	3.5%	5.3%	5.4%	8.8%	7.1%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

Adolescence is often a time of taking risks and asserting independence from adults. When asked whether they would tell an adult about a problem, the following percentages of county students said they would be "not likely" or "very unlikely" to tell if they:

-heard a student threaten to harm someone: 28.5% middle school, 42.2% high school;
-saw a student with a handgun at school: 18.6% middle school, 20.5% high school;
-saw a student with a knife at school: 20.3% middle school, 40.7% high school;
-saw a student with drugs at school: 27.0% middle school, 53.0% high school;

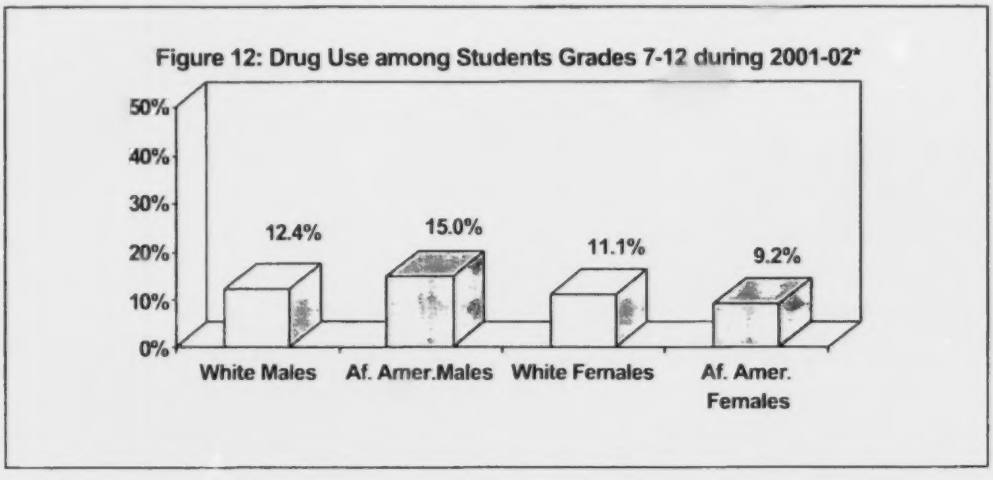
Alcohol Use:* In the county during 2001-02, 17.9% of 7th and 8th graders and 36.4% of high schoolers said they had used alcohol in the past month. Of White males in grades 7 - 12, 36.4% had used it in the past month, compared with 25.8% of African-American males; likewise, 26.8% of White females said they had used alcohol, compared with 28.3% of African-American females. Many youth first used alcohol at an early age: 16.1% had used alcohol by age 11 or younger, 36.0% by age 13, and 67.0% by age 15.

During the previous year, 17.7% of 7th and 8th graders and 27.8% of high schoolers said they had ridden with a drinking driver. Of seniors who drive, 9.2% said they had driven after drinking. Widespread use is encouraged by the ready availability and perceived low risk of alcohol use. Among students who expressed an opinion, 35.3% of eighth graders and 71.3% of seniors felt that beer was easy to get. Also, 74.6% of eighth graders and 68.1% of seniors felt there was not a great risk in drinking two drinks a day, and 48.2% of eighth graders and 50.0% of high schoolers felt there was not a great risk in drinking 5 drinks every weekend.

Heavy Drinking:* In 2001-02, 6.1% of 7th and 8th graders and 21.4% of high school students in the county repor drinking 5 or more drinks in a day during the past month. When asked how many drinks, if any, they usually consur 13.8% of all county students in grades 7 - 12 in 2001-02 responded 3 or more drinks at a time and 7.7% reported usually 5 more drinks. Among high school students, 19.6% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 11.5% 5 or mo Among seniors, 21.0% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 13.0% 5 or more; however 20.4% of seni said that they drank 5 or more drinks in a day once or more during the past month.

Drugs:* In 2001-02, 5.9% of 7th and 8th graders and 15.4% of high schoolers in the county reported using ille drugs during the previous month. Among students in grades 7 - 12, use was reported by 12.4% of White males, 11.1% Wh females, 15.0% of African-American males, and 9.2% of African-American females. Some young people initiated drug u at an early age: 5.7% had experienced their first use by age 11 or sooner; 16.2% had used a drug by age 13, and 31.9% by a 15.

In the past year, 7.5% of all high school students in the county who drive and 4.1% of seniors who drive said that they had driven after using drugs. Such use is encouraged by the ready availability of drugs: 14.0% of 8th graders who had an opinion said it is easy to get marijuana and 5.3% said it is easy to get cocaine or crack; 61.7% of seniors said it is easy to get marijuana and 22.6% said it was easy to get cocaine or crack.



* County participation in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking was not complete but county data is presented to provide the best available picture of teen risk-taking attitudes and behavior in Greenwood County. Two of 3 districts participated, but not the largest district (District 50).

Sexual Activity and Pregnancy: Many teenagers now engage in sexual activity. The Youth Risk Behavi Survey (YRBS) administered to a representative sample of high school students throughout South Carolina in 20 showed that sexual activity begins at an early age: 7% of female and 21% of male students have engaged in intercour before age 13; by age 15, 38% the females and 49% of males have engaged in sexual intercourse. Statewide, 48% females and 50% of males in the 11th and 12th grades reported engaging in intercourse during the past three month Furthermore, 27% of female and 33% of male 12th graders have had intercourse with four or more partners during the lifetimes.

Premature sexual activity often results in pregnancy. In the county, 83 girls between the ages of 14 and became pregnant in 1999, 69 in 2000 and 77 in 2001. This represented 3.8% of all girls ages 14 – 17 in 2001; sever times this percentage become pregnant at least once by age 18. The 2001 pregnancy rate for ages 14 - 17 was 2.6% f Whites and 5.7% for African-Americans and Others. Of all pregnancies of 14-17 year olds, 81.8% resulted in live birth with almost all other pregnancies ending in abortions.

Teen pregnancy rates increased substantially across the state during the 1980s; as a result, greater emphasis devoted to preventing teen pregnancy. Since 1989, the teen pregnancy rate in Greenwood County has decreased by 48 Overall, it has decreased by 51.9% for Whites, and decreased by 44.7% for African Americans and Others.

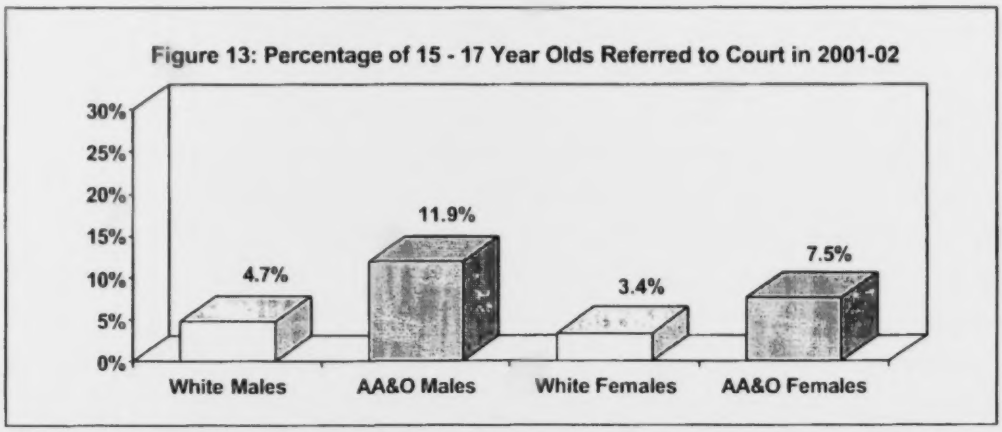
Juvenile Delinquency: In 2001-02, 387 individual juvenile offenders in the county were referred to the Solicit for delinquency; of these, 17.3% were age 12 or younger, 33.9% were 13 or 14, and 48.8% were 15 or older.

Of the referrals to the family court, 8.3% of all referrals were for violent and serious crimes which include dru trafficking, acts against persons for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and serious property offenses for arso and burglary. Also, 58 juvenile cases constituting 11.3% of all referrals were for status offenses. Status offenses inclu truancy, running away, incorrigibility, and other offenses that would not be crimes for adults.

Delinquents are likely to live in families with low income: 28.3% lived in families with income under $10,00 31.5% with $10,000-$19,999 and 40.2% with $20,000 or more. Furthermore, only 17.5% of delinquents lived with bo natural parents, while 54.5% lived in a single parent household, 22.2% lived with other relatives, and 5.8% in oth situations including parent plus step-parent. Delinquency or criminal activity occurs among many related family member 47.0% had at least one family member who was delinquent or had some criminal record.

Youth referred to the family courts are likely to have been there before. In 2001-02, 51.9% had at least one pri referral and 17.6% had been referred to court 3 times or more. Many were referred at an early age. For delinquents 15 17 years old, 3.8% had been referred by the age of 10, 12.5% by the age of 12, and 23.6% by the age of 14.

During 2001-02, 188 youth ages 15 to 17 were referred to the family courts. In the county, 6.3% of all youth to 17 were referred to court in one year and roughly double that percentage are referred at least once by age 18 Furthermore, the National Youth Survey indicates that typically across the United States the proportion of youth engagi in crime is two or three times the number ever apprehended. In 2001-02, there were 38 juveniles committed from t county to DJJ custody and placed in residential programs.



Not in School or Employed: During 2000, 537 teenagers ages 16-19 were idle, meaning they neither work any hours nor were enrolled in school, even part-time. Idle teens comprised 14.2% of their age group: 9.5% for White a 21.4% African-American & Other teens. A much larger number, perhaps twice as many, were not engaged in eith school full time or work full time. The data reflect a serious failure in both school completion and the critical transiti from school to work, significantly affecting their development as future workers. For an in-depth description of t problems of young adults seeking to enter the labor force, visit our website at www.scyoungadults.org for our state a county reports on 18-29 year olds.

Deaths: During 1997-2001, 24 youth ages 15 to 19 died. Historically, automobile accidents have been the major cause, resulting in 9 deaths between 1996 and 2000; homicides killed 1 youth 15 to 19 years old during the five-year period, and 4 youth committed suicide. Alcohol use is often a significant factor in deaths among teenagers.

SUMMARY

Facing the Scope of Problems: The data on families, economic status, health, readiness, school achievement, and adolescent risk behaviors provide a troublesome picture of the condition of children in Greenwood County. The 34.2% of children in single-parent families, 18.2% in poverty, 40.2% not graduating from school, 36.4% of high school students using alcohol and 15.4% using drugs each month, and other data profiled in this report suggest that too many children are at risk of not growing up to become self-supporting adults, good family members, and responsible community citizens.

Emphasizing the Positive: South Carolina Kids Count reports have been developed to describe the problems of children in each of the counties. Fortunately, the majority of children and youth are doing well, and some very well. One simple description is the percentage of children who do not fall into the problem categories reported. For the county, 83.2% of children are born to non-teen mothers ages 20 or older, 55.3% are born to married parents, and 65.8% lived in two-parent families; 81.8% were not poor and 54.4% lived in families with incomes above twice the poverty level for a family of three, $30,040 in 2002; 91.1% of babies were born with normal birthweights; 83.7% were assessed as ready for the first grade, 60.5% scored basic or better on PACT for 8th grade math and 71.4% for 8th grade reading, 68.4% passed all parts of the Exit Exam in the 10th grade, and 59.8% graduated with their class. In a typical month, 63.6% of high school students do not drink alcohol, 84.6% do not use drugs, and 70.6% do not smoke. Unfortunately, the absence of a problem is not always an indicator of success. Some data is available for exemplary performance: for example, 35.5% of 3rd graders and 25.9% of 8th graders scored proficient or advanced on PACT in reading and 27.3% of 3rd graders and 15.9% of 8th graders in math. Unfortunately, data on success is not generally available.

Despite the limitations of success data, we must emphasize the positive in providing good support and appropriate influences for children and youth. Recent philosophy and publications such as those of the Search Institute (700 South Third Street, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN, 55415-1138, tel. 1-800-888-7828, www.search-institute.org), emphasize the critical importance of "developmental assets" to promote and support positive development. One short book from the Search Institute, (What Kids Need to Succeed, by Peter J. Benson, Judy Gailbraith, and Pamela Espeland, 1995) presents an excellent array of suggestions for promoting developmental assets through families, community, faith congregations, and schools. If each family, school, religious congregation and community organization assertively worked to build such assets, the problems described in this report would be reduced dramatically. Such positive family-school-community efforts could improve South Carolina's national Kids Count ranking from the bottom 10 to the average or even into the top 10 by prevention of unnecessary problems affecting children and youth, as shown on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

All data presented in this report is the most recent available at the date it goes to the printer. This version of the Kids Count report will be revised as more recent and additional data become available. Please send us your corrections and suggestions for improvement. We welcome your ideas for ways to make the state and county reports more useful and accurate. Please utilize local data sources whenever possible to supplement the profile provided through our report.

Data related inquiries should be directed to:

Anne Wilson, Data Manager (awilson@drss.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-4810

Calls for **copies of reports** for other counties and inquiries regarding more recent reports should be made to:

Kim Hazel-Lohr, Project Manager (khazel@ogc.state.sc.us)
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For **policy questions and general comments**, please contact:

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1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
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Comparable reports for all 46 counties and for the state can also be found on the World Wide Web at

www.sckidscount.org

Our website also provides: links to other websites for indicators in our report; high to low rankings for individual indicators; information on how to improve SC's national rank; and a glossary of definitions.

The national Kids Count Report can be found on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website at

www.aecf.org

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Greenwood County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Indicators		Number					Percent					R
	Most Recent Year	1980*	1990*	Most Recent Data	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980 Rank	199
Health													
Low Birth Weight	2001	75	65	81	+8.0%	+24.6%	8.6	6.9	8.9	3.2%	28.3%	23	
White babies	*2001*	*26*	*29*	*32*	*+23.1%*	*+10.3%*	*5.2*	*5.2*	*5.6*	*7.7%*	*7.2%*	*12*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*49*	*36*	*49*	*+0.0%*	*+36.1%*	*13.4*	*9.4*	*14.2*	*6.7%*	*51.1%*	*34*	
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	2001	392	461	224	+42.9%	-51.4%	45.1	49.2	24.5	-45.7%	-50.2%	31	
White babies	*2001*	*167*	*207*	*120*	*-28.1%*	*-42.0%*	*33.2*	*37.3*	*21.0*	*-36.7%*	*-43.7%*	*37*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*225*	*254*	*104*	*-53.8%*	*-59.1%*	*61.3*	*66.5*	*30.2*	*-50.7%*	*-54.5%*	*35*	
Infant Mortality	2001	44	45	30	-31.8%	-33.3%	1.7	1.6	1.1	-38.4%	-33.8%	27	
White babies	*2001*	*20*	*17*	*11*	*-45.0%*	*-35.3%*	*1.4*	*1.0*	*0.6*	*-54.0%*	*-40.3%*	*32*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*24*	*28*	*19*	*-20.8%*	*-32.1%*	*2.3*	*2.4*	*1.8*	*-19.5%*	*-24.7%*	*21*	
Family													
Births to mothers under 18	2001	82	85	63	-23.2%	-25.9%	9.4	9.1	6.9	-26.8%	-23.9%	27	
White babies	*2001*	*33*	*27*	*27*	*-18.2%*	*+0.0%*	*6.6*	*4.9*	*4.7*	*-28.4%*	*-3.4%*	*33*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*49*	*58*	*36*	*-26.5%*	*-37.9%*	*13.4*	*15.2*	*10.5*	*-21.6%*	*-31.1%*	*28*	
Births to mothers under 20	2001	175	188	154	-12.0%	-18.1%	20.1	20.1	16.8	-16.5%	-16.3%	17	
White babies	*2001*	*84*	*72*	*73*	*-13.1%*	*-1.4%*	*16.7*	*13.0*	*12.8*	*-23.4%*	*-1.3%*	*27*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*91*	*116*	*81*	*-11.0%*	*+30.2%*	*24.8*	*30.4*	*23.5*	*-5.0%*	*-22.5%*	*15*	
Births to mothers with less than a high school education	2001	312	234	229	-26.6%	-2.1%	35.9	25.0	25.0	-30.3%	0.1%	26	
White babies	*2001*	*144*	*106*	*124*	*-13.9%*	*+17.0%*	*28.6*	*19.1*	*21.7*	*-24.2%*	*13.6%*	*25*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*168*	*128*	*105*	*-37.5%*	*-18.0%*	*45.8*	*33.5*	*30.5*	*-33.3%*	*-8.9%*	*30*	
Births to single mothers****	2001	196	336	409	+108.7%	+21.7%	22.5	35.9	44.7	98.4%	24.7%	16	
White babies	*2001*	*29*	*87*	*143*	*+393.1%*	*+64.4%*	*5.8*	*15.7*	*25.0*	*333.6%*	*59.5%*	*17*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*167*	*249*	*266*	*+59.3%*	*+6.8%*	*45.5*	*65.2*	*77.3*	*69.9%*	*18.6%*	*16*	
Children in single parent families	2000	2,882	3,565	4,934	+71.2%	+38.4%	18.9	26.8	34.2	80.8%	27.5%	24	
White	*2000*	*1,098*	*1,229*	*1,697*	*+54.6%*	*+38.1%*	*10.4*	*14.5*	*19.4*	*86.3%*	*33.6%*	*28*	
African American and Other	*2000*	*1,774*	*2,331*	*3,237*	*+82.5%*	*+38.9%*	*35.0*	*48.3*	*57.0*	*62.8%*	*18.0%*	*31*	
Education													
Not Ready for Grade 1	2001	279	301	154	-44.8%	-48.8%	32.1	29.1	16.3	-49.2%	-44.0%	12	
White males	*2001*	*67*	*56*	*24*	*-64.2%*	*-57.1%*	*23.8*	*18.9*	*10.3*	*-56.7%*	*-45.5%*	*8*	
White females	*2001*	*32*	*30*	*24*	*-25.0%*	*-20.0%*	*13.9*	*11.3*	*9.7*	*-30.2%*	*-14.2%*	*5*	
African American and Other males	*2001*	*91*	*121*	*61*	*-33.0%*	*-49.6%*	*52.6*	*46.0*	*25.4*	*-51.7%*	*-44.8%*	*18*	
African American and Other females	*2001*	*89*	*94*	*45*	*-49.4%*	*-52.1%*	*48.4*	*45.0*	*20.3*	*-58.1%*	*-54.9%*	*27*	
Repeating Grades 1-3	2000	141	155	244	+73.0%	+57.4%	16.0	15.8	25.8	61.3%	63.3%	17	
White males	*2000*	*46*	*41*	*43*	*-6.5%*	*+4.9%*	*16.6*	*14.5*	*16.2*	*-2.4%*	*11.7%*	*22*	
White females	*2000*	*23*	*22*	*24*	*+4.3%*	*+9.1%*	*8.9*	*8.4*	*9.7*	*9.0%*	*15.5%*	*19*	
African American and Other males	*2000*	*38*	*66*	*92*	*+142.1%*	*+39.4%*	*21.8*	*27.9*	*43.2*	*98.2%*	*54.8%*	*16*	
African American and Other females	*2000*	*34*	*26*	*85*	*+150.0%*	*+226.9%*	*19.1*	*13.2*	*38.9*	*103.7%*	*194.7%*	*26*	
Grade 3 Math below standards****	2002	379	135	224	-40.9%	+65.9%	41.5	15.9	25.2	-39.3%	58.5%	22	
White males	*2002*	*70*	*23*	*37*	*-47.1%*	*+60.9%*	*25.5*	*9.5*	*15.5*	*-39.2%*	*63.2%*	*12*	
White females	*2002*	*70*	*20*	*41*	*-41.4%*	*+105.0%*	*26.0*	*7.5*	*16.9*	*-35.0%*	*125.3%*	*19*	
African American and Other males	*2002*	*135*	*48*	*80*	*-40.7%*	*+66.7%*	*71.8*	*28.4*	*37.7*	*-47.5%*	*32.7%*	*44*	
African American and Other females	*2002*	*103*	*44*	*66*	*-35.9%*	*+50.0%*	*57.2*	*25.4*	*33.8*	*-40.9%*	*33.1%*	*36*	
Grade 3 Reading below standards****	2002	308	96	199	-35.4%	+107.3%	33.7	11.3	22.4	-33.5%	98.2%	18	
White males	*2002*	*66*	*17*	*44*	*-33.3%*	*+158.8%*	*24.0*	*7.0*	*18.5*	*-22.9%*	*164.3%*	*13*	
White females	*2002*	*54*	*13*	*24*	*-55.6%*	*+84.6%*	*20.1*	*4.9*	*9.9*	*-50.7%*	*102.0%*	*27*	
African American and Other males	*2002*	*111*	*41*	*76*	*-31.5%*	*+85.4%*	*59.0*	*24.6*	*35.8*	*-39.3%*	*45.5%*	*26*	
African American and Other females	*2002*	*76*	*25*	*55*	*-27.6%*	*+120.0%*	*42.2*	*14.5*	*28.2*	*-33.2%*	*94.5%*	*26*	
Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT Grade 4	1998	228	223	179	-21.5%	-19.7%	26.8	24.7	23.3	-13.1%	-5.7%	14	
White males	*1998*	*60*	*54*	*42*	*-30.0%*	*-22.2%*	*22.6*	*19.8*	*18.3*	*-19.0%*	*-7.6%*	*18*	
White females	*1998*	*49*	*30*	*34*	*-30.6%*	*+13.3%*	*18.5*	*11.0*	*14.2*	*-23.2%*	*29.1%*	*35*	
African American and Other males	*1998*	*63*	*77*	*52*	*-17.5%*	*-32.5%*	*41.2*	*44.5*	*39.1*	*-5.1%*	*-12.1%*	*6*	
African American and Other females	*1998*	*54*	*62*	*51*	*-5.6%*	*-17.7%*	*36.5*	*33.7*	*31.2*	*-14.5%*	*-7.4%*	*21*	

*Year of data is approximate in many cases.
**1 is best, 46 is worst.
*** Data include paternity acknowledgements.
**** BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Greenwood County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Education (continued)

Indicators		Number					Percent				
	Most Recent Year	1980*	1990*	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres
Grade 8 Math below state standards**	2002	582	299	336	-42.3%	+12.4%	60.7	36.2	39.5	-34.9%	9.1%
White males	*2002*	*152*	*61*	*75*	*-50.7%*	*+23.0%*	*45.4*	*25.7*	*30.0*	*-33.9%*	*16.7%*
White females	*2002*	*129*	*59*	*58*	*-55.0%*	*-1.7%*	*48.3*	*22.8*	*23.3*	*-51.8%*	*2.2%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*150*	*94*	*107*	*-28.7%*	*+13.8%*	*85.7*	*53.7*	*57.5*	*-32.9%*	*7.1%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*150*	*85*	*95*	*-36.7%*	*+11.8%*	*83.3*	*55.6*	*57.9*	*-30.5%*	*4.1%*
Grade 8 Reading below state standards**	2002	463	205	243	-47.5%	+18.5%	48.4	24.9	28.6	-40.9%	14.9%
White males	*2002*	*131*	*52*	*61*	*-53.4%*	*+17.3%*	*39.2*	*21.9*	*24.4*	*-37.8%*	*11.4%*
White females	*2002*	*68*	*23*	*19*	*-72.1%*	*-17.4%*	*25.4*	*8.9*	*7.6*	*-70.1%*	*-14.6%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*147*	*77*	*110*	*-25.2%*	*+42.9%*	*84.5*	*44.2*	*59.1*	*-30.1%*	*33.7%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*116*	*53*	*53*	*-54.3%*	*+0.0%*	*64.8*	*34.9*	*32.3*	*-50.2%*	*-7.4%*
Grade 9 Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT	1998	NA	267	263	NA	-1.5%	NA	33.2	31.0	NA	-6.6%
White males	*1998*	*NA*	*75*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*27.1*	*26.3*	*NA*	*-3.0%*
White females	*1998*	*NA*	*39*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*16.6*	*13.7*	*NA*	*-17.5%*
African American and Other males	*1998*	*NA*	*88*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*61.5*	*54.5*	*NA*	*-11.4%*
African American and Other females	*1998*	*NA*	*65*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*43.9*	*42.0*	*NA*	*-4.3%*
Exit Exam (not passing all parts on 1st attempt)	2002	433	240	240	-44.6%	+0.0%	48.3	32.4	31.6	-34.6%	-2.5%
White males	*2002*	*95*	*59*	*51*	*-46.3%*	*-13.6%*	*34.8*	*24.7*	*21.6*	*-37.9%*	*-12.6%*
White females	*2002*	*83*	*42*	*53*	*-36.1%*	*+26.2%*	*27.9*	*17.0*	*22.3*	*-20.1%*	*31.2%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*126*	*64*	*62*	*-50.8%*	*-3.1%*	*82.4*	*57.1*	*49.6*	*-39.8%*	*-13.1%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*129*	*75*	*69*	*-46.5%*	*-8.0%*	*75.0*	*52.8*	*45.7*	*-39.1%*	*-13.4%*
Dropout Rate (8th graders no longer enrolled in 12th grade 4 years later)	2000-02	310	310	292	-5.5%	-5.7%	29.6	31.0	32.2	8.7%	3.9%
White males	*2000-02*	*98*	*120*	*85*	*-13.6%*	*-29.1%*	*28.7*	*36.3*	*32.4*	*12.8%*	*-10.9%*
White females	*2000-02*	*96*	*70*	*68*	*-29.2%*	*-2.2%*	*30.1*	*23.2*	*25.8*	*-14.2%*	*11.1%*
African American and Other males	*2000-02*	*68*	*71*	*87*	*+27.5%*	*+22.9%*	*34.8*	*35.8*	*44.5*	*28.0%*	*24.4%*
African American and Other females	*2000-02*	*48*	*51*	*53*	*+11.6%*	*+5.0%*	*25.3*	*28.6*	*28.0*	*11.0%*	*-2.0%*
Young Adults Not Completing High School (18-24)	2000	2,008	1,574	1,618	-19.4%	+2.8%	28.9	24.2	18.1	-37.3%	-25.1%
White males	*NA*	*632*	*516*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*27.6*	*24.6*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
White females	*NA*	*552*	*414*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*22.1*	*18.0*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other males	*NA*	*445*	*303*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*46.9*	*34.6*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other females	*NA*	*379*	*341*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*31.3*	*27.8*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*

Economics

Poverty Rate	2000	2,893	3,270	3,010	+4.0%	-8.0%	17.4	21.4	18.2	4.6%	-15.0%
White children	*2000*	*808*	*868*	*751*	*-7.1%*	*-13.5%*	*7.8*	*9.5*	*8.0*	*2.6%*	*-15.8%*
African American and Other children	*2000*	*2,052*	*2,402*	*2,259*	*+10.1%*	*-6.0%*	*33.3*	*39.5*	*31.7*	*-4.7%*	*-19.7%*
Income of Families w/children (1999 $)	2000	$ 43,005	$ 45,509	$ 47,359	+10.1%	+4.1%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
White families	*2000*	*$ 47,904*	*$ 53,998*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other families	*2000*	*$ 31,451*	*$ 28,986*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*

Adolescent Risk Factors

Teenage Pregnancy (ages 14-17)	2001	133	122	77	-42.1%	-36.9%	6.4	6.5	3.8	-40.5%	-41.5%
White	*2001*	*63*	*49*	*31*	*-50.8%*	*-36.7%*	*4.7*	*4.1*	*2.6*	*-44.3%*	*-36.6%*
African American and Other	*2001*	*70*	*73*	*46*	*-34.3%*	*-37.0%*	*9.7*	*10.4*	*5.7*	*-41.4%*	*-45.2%*
Delinquency	2002	110	193	188	+70.9%	-2.6%	3.7	7.5	6.3	70.5%	-15.9%
White males	*2002*	*42*	*75*	*40*	*-4.8%*	*-46.7%*	*4.4*	*10.0*	*4.7*	*7.0%*	*-52.9%*
White females	*2002*	*25*	*24*	*31*	*+24.0%*	*+29.2%*	*2.6*	*3.0*	*3.4*	*31.0%*	*13.6%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*35*	*67*	*69*	*+97.1%*	*+3.0%*	*7.0*	*13.5*	*11.9*	*70.0%*	*-11.9%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*8*	*27*	*48*	*+500.0%*	*+77.8%*	*1.5*	*5.3*	*7.5*	*400.0%*	*41.5%*

*Closest available data to this year was used in many cases.
**BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Kids Count 2003

Hampton County

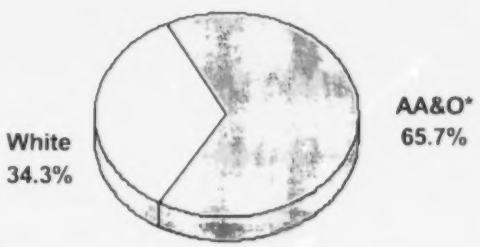
DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2000 there were an estimated 5,911 children under age 18 in the county. Of these, 2,026 were White, 3,783 were African-American, and 102 were other races. There were 5,809 children under age 18 in 1990, 6,120 in 1980, 6,229 in 1970, and 8,009 in 1960.

Children represent a shrinking portion of the county's population. Those under 18 constituted 27.6% of the population in 2000, down from 46.0% in 1960, 39.2% in 1970, and 33.7% in 1980.

In 2000 the 1,715 pre-schoolers under age 6 were 8.0% of the overall population: 6.6% of Whites and 9.0% of African Americans.

Figure 1: Population Ages 0-17 in 2000



* In all charts African-American is combined with other races, and often abbreviated as AA&O. Other races comprise 1.7% of children in the county, with "some other race alone" at 0.9% and 'two or more races" at 0.6% as the largest Other groups.

FAMILY

Families have always been the most important influence in a child's life. Children depend on their families for material needs, stimulation and guidance. Family life is different in numerous ways from previous generations, and many families now face exceptional challenges.

Families with children now make up a smaller share of all households. Only 34.6% of all households in 2000, as compared with 47.0% of households in 1960, had children below the age of 18.

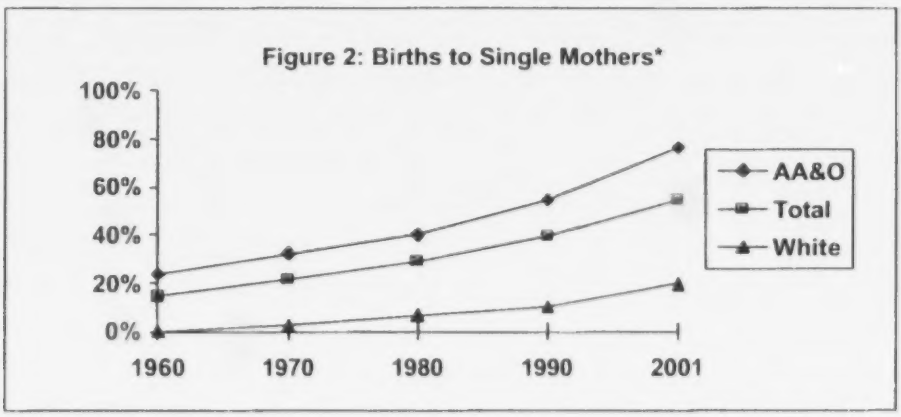
Births to Teen Mothers: In 2001, 25 babies were born to mothers younger than age 18. They were 7.9% of all babies born in the county; 6.6% of all White and 8.8% of all African-American and Other babies were born to teen mothers under the age of 18. Of the babies born to these teens in 2001, 92.0% were born to single mothers, including babies whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers.

In 2001, 72 babies were born to mothers younger than age 20. These babies were 22.8% of all born in the county; 17.2% of all White and 26.3% of all African-American and Other babies were born to mothers under the age of 20. Of the babies born to these mothers in 2001, 77.8% were born to single mothers, including paternity acknowledeged babies.

Education of Mothers Giving Birth: Children's success is strongly influenced by the education of their parents. In 2001, 74 babies, 23.5% of all babies, were born to mothers of all ages who had not completed the 12th grade. In 2001, 19.7% of White and 25.9% of African-American and Other babies were born to mothers who had completed less than the 12th grade. This is a substantial improvement from 55.3% in 1970. In addition, during 2001, 44.1% had completed 12 grades (39.3% of Whites and 47.2% of African Americans and Others) and 32.4% had more than a high school degree (41.0% of Whites and 26.9% of African American and Others).

Births to Single Mothers: Births to single mothers have increased steadily over four decades. In 2001, 129 babies, 40.8% of all babies, were recorded as born to single mothers. A decade earlier in 1990, the percentage was 36.0% and in 1960 it was 14.4%. In 2001, 10.7% of White children and 59.8% of African-American and Other children were born to single mothers. These numbers, however, do not include paternity acknowlegement births.

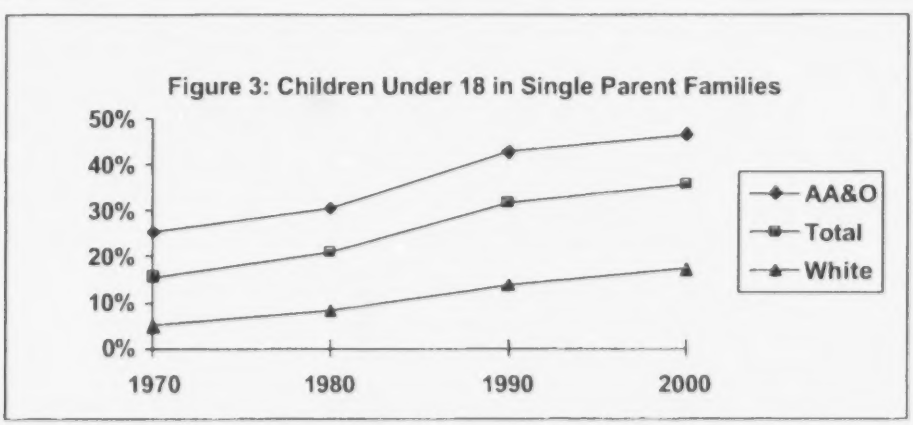
Thus, to these numbers should be added an additional group of 43 babies, 13.6% of all born in 2001, whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers. When the paternity-acknowledged babies are added, the total number born to single mothers in 2001 was 172, constituting 54.4% of all babies, 19.7% of White babies, and 76.3% of African-American and Others.



*Includes paternity acknowleged babies in 1980, 1990 and 2001. Prior to 1979, paternity acknowleged cases were not a statistical category, and thus were included in births to single mothers.

Divorce Rate: In 2001, 147 marriage licenses were issued, while 61 divorce decrees involving 49 children were filed. In 1970, only 27 children were in families involved in divorce.

Single-Parent Family: Increasing numbers of children live in single-parent families. In 2000, 1,770 children lived with only one parent. This was 35.8% of all children, up from 31.8% in 1990, 21.1% in 1980, and 15.6% in 1970. In 2000, 17.3% of White and 46.7% of African-American and Other children lived in single-parent families. Also in 2000, 447 or 36.9% of children under age 6 lived in single parent families: 15.6% of White and 51.6% of African American and Other pre-schoolers.



Parents Working and Child Care: Increasingly, parents must divide their time between children and employers. In order to meet family financial needs, most parents must work and thus have less time for family life. In 2000, 66.2% of mothers with children under 6 and 71.8% with children 6 - 17 were in the labor force. This has increased substantially from 1960 when 37.4% of mothers with children under 6 were in the labor force. Most fathers also work: 57.7% of children under 6 are in families where the single parent or both parents work. Caring for children is a problem for parents unable to obtain quality, affordable daycare while they are at work.

Overall, there are 728 spaces in state-regulated childcare facilities* in the county, 90.2% of these are in licensed programs and 9.8% are in registered programs. Of the spaces, 87.4% are in licensed childcare centers serving more than 12 children, 9.1% are in registered or licensed family childcare homes serving six or fewer children, 2.9% are in licensed group childcare homes serving 7-12 children, and 0.7% are in registered or licensed church programs.

The homes and centers are severely constrained by the limited ability of parents to pay. In the county, the average weekly charge is $ 69.55 for centers and $ 60.63 for homes. Consequently, center wages are low: 80% of centers with pre-school staff and 100% of centers with assistant pre-school staff report paying these staff under $6 per hour. Paying $6-$8 per hour are 20% of centers with pre-school staff and 0% of centers with assistants. Low wages attract workers with limited education. In 60% of centers, most pre-school staff and in 100% of centers most assistants have only a high school degree. In 20% of centers few to none of the pre-school staff have early childhood credentials. In childcare homes, 50% of lead providers have no more education than a high school degree or GED; 33.3% have less than a high school degree.

Family Violence: In 2000, 224 domestic assaults were recorded by law enforcement officials. These domestic assaults comprised 38.4% of all assaults, which include aggravated assaults, simple assaults, and intimidation. Overall, 49.6% of all domestic assaults involve spouse abuse which constitutes 19.0% of all assaults. Since most family violence is not reported, the true incidence of family disruption is much more widespread than even the large number of reported cases would indicate.

Separation from Parents: Some children do not live with their natural parents. In 2000, 9.7% of all children did not live with their natural parents. Approximately 452 or 7.6% of all children lived with relatives, 107 or 1.8% lived with non-relatives, 10 or 0.2% were householders or spouses, and 3 or 0.1% were in institutional facilities.

Abuse and Neglect: In 2000-01, there were 108 investigations into reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children. Through its investigations, the Department of Social Services (DSS) determined that 41 of the investigations were indicated for abuse or neglect: 9.8% for physical abuse, 7.3% for sexual abuse, 2.4% for mental injury, 34.1% for physical neglect, 0.0% for educational neglect, 7.3% for medical neglect, 34.1% for threat of harm for physical/sexual abuse, and 4.9% for other types of abuse.

In the indicated cases of abuse and neglect, DSS determined there were 83 children who were victims of abuse or neglect. Of these, 38.6% were male, 61.4% were female; 15.7% were White, 84.3% were African-American and Other. By age, 32.5% were ages 0 - 5, 41.3% were ages 6 - 12, and 26.3% were ages 13 - 17. In the indicated cases, 33.7% of the children lived in two-parent families, 48.2% in single parent families, 14.5% with unmarried couples, and 3.6% in other circumstances.

Out of Home Placements: As of June 2001, 16 children lived in foster care. The median age at first placement in the county is 4.8 years. The ages of children in foster care were 31.3% 0-2, 6.3% 3-5, 18.8% 6-10, 12.5% 11-13, and 31.3% 14 and above. The foster care population is 56.3% males and 43.8% females. Regarding their future, 43.8% were under a plan for placement in adoptive homes, 25.0% for return to a parent or guardian, 6.3% for placement with a relative, 12.5% for independent living, 12.5% for permanent foster care, and 0.0% for other circumstances.

Adult/Child Ratio: A measure of potential adult attention for children from family and community is the ratio of adults to children and youth. In 2000 there were 2.62 adults for every person below age 18. This was up substantially from 1960, when there were only 1.18 adults for every person under the age 18. This indicates that today there are more adults potentially available to provide attention and care for each child than in the past.

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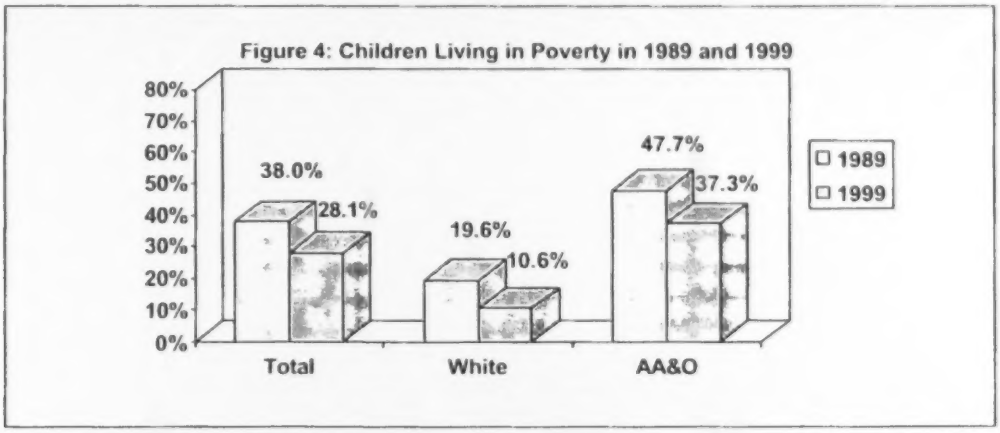
* This data is the best currently available; however, an effort is being made to check the coverage and improve the accuracy. As soon as more recent and complete data becomes available, it will be posted on the website.

ECONOMIC STATUS

Low income makes it difficult for many families to provide the material and environmental enrichment necessary for healthy child development.

Poverty: In 1999, 1,640 children and youth under the age of 18 lved in 740 families with incomes below poverty, comprising 28.1% of all children and youth: 10.6% of Whites and 37.3% of African-Americans and Others. A rough estimate of child poverty in 2001 calculated by the Census Bureau was 23.0%.



Poverty has always been a serious problem. While the rate among children under age 18 in 1989 was 38.0%, it was 36.2% in 1979 and 42.8% in 1969.

Children and the elderly are the age groups most seriously affected by poverty. In 1999, 30.1% of children 0 - 5 (12.9% White, 40.5% African-American and Other), and 27.1% of children 6 - 17 (8.9% White, 36.3% African-American and Other), lived in poverty; 21.7% of persons 65 years and older lived in poverty. Historically, the poverty rate among the elderly was much higher. During the last three decades, federal policy actions have substantially improved the economic status of older persons but have not done so for children.

Single-parent families are most likely to be poor. In 1999, 52.4% of children in single-parent families lived in poverty, but only 12.6% of children in married-couple families were poor. Children in single-parent families made up 79.0% of all the county's children living in poverty.

In 2002, the poverty level was $15,020 for a family of three and $18,100 for a family of four. The poverty threshold is often criticized as an arbitrary number. People can still be poor but may be just above the poverty level. Federal programs utilize varying thresholds. For example, in 1999 there were 3,242 children ages 0-17 who were less than 200 percent of poverty; thus an additional 1,602 children were above the poverty level but could still be considered poor or near-poor with incomes below $30,040 and $36,200 respectively for 3 and 4 person families.

Children Under 18 in Poverty in 1999

Percent of Poverty	Total		White		African American & Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 50%	755	12.9%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 100%	1,640	28.1%	215	10.6%	1,425	37.3%
Under 125%	2,057	35.2%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 150%	2,508	42.9%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 175%	2,913	49.9%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 185%	2,987	51.1%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 200%	3,242	55.5%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total Children	5,911		2,026		3,885	

Note: Missing data will be released by the Census Bureau later in 2003, and will be posted on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

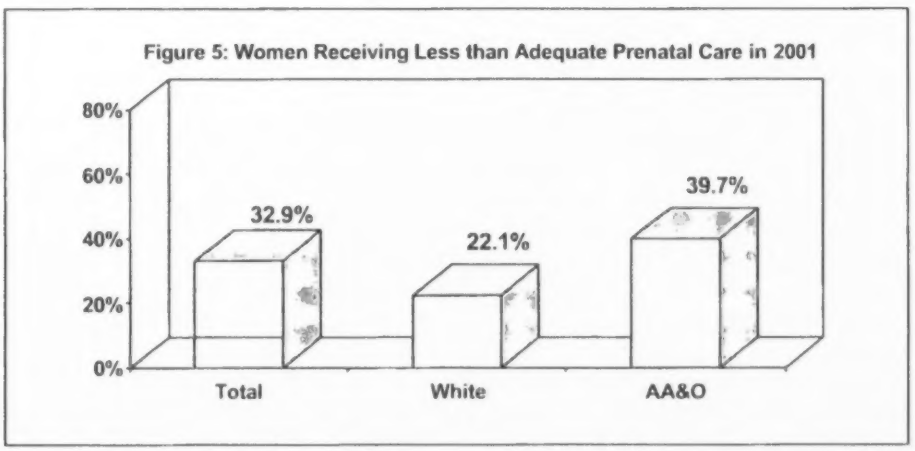
Income: The mean income of families with children in 1999 was $39,757. In 1989 it was $36,062, and 1979, it was $35,416, adjusted for inflation (i.e., in 1999 dollars). The mean income of single-parent families with children was $20,588 for single parents in 1999, as compared with $50,414 in married-couple families with children. From 1999 to 2000, Hampton County real dollar per capita income (eliminating inflation) increased by 1.2%.

Child Support Payments: There were 167[7] families receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families in fiscal year 2002, but only 34.7 % had child support court orders. Their average monthly payment of child support was $ 223, including child support receipts and tax refund intercepts. In addition, during fiscal year 2002, an estimated 605 parents in non-TANF families were obligated to pay a monthly average of $ 225. Information is not available regarding the amount actually paid.

HEALTH

Good health during a child's formative years helps children to reach their maximum potential. Good health requires healthy lifestyles and effective primary care, starting during the prenatal period and continuing through adolescence into adulthood. Children's health reflects the well-being of the community, as well as how adequately they are protected.

Prenatal Care: Early and continuous prenatal care can make a significant difference in assuring births of healthy babies. Delayed or insufficient prenatal care is associated with low birthweight and other health risks for infants. In 2001, 74, or 23.4% of pregnant women received no prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy. In 2001, 104, or 32.9% of pregnant women received less than adequate prenatal care: 27 or 22.1% of Whites and 77 or 39.7% of African-Americans and Others. In that same year, 4 women received no prenatal care at all.



Low Birthweight: Low birthweight of less than 5.5 pounds and very low birthweight of less than 3.3 pounds are associated with health risks and growth and development problems. In 2001, 20 or 6.3% of all babies in the county were born with low birthweight: 8.8% of African-American and Other babies and 2.5% of White babies. During 1999-2001, approximately 17 or 1.9% of all babies were born with very low birthweight and had the most serious complications: 0.8% of White babies and 2.5% of African-American and Other babies. The cost of hospitalization for each newborn low birthweight baby in the county in 1999 - 2001 was $6,340 and $46,339 for each very low birthweight baby, compared with $1,276 for a baby of normal birthweight. The result was excess cost in the county of $254,355 for all low birthweight babies, of which $195,273 was for very low birthweight babies.

Infant Mortality: During the decade since 1989-91, the overall infant mortality rate decreased by 31.6% from 12.8 to 8.8 per 1000 live births. For Whites, the rate increased 110.7% from 2.7 to 5.6 per 1000 live births, while for African-Americans and Others the rate decreased 40.5% from 18.1 to 10.8 per 1000 live births. Over the three-year period 1999-2001, 2 White and 6 African-American and Other infants died before age one. By comparison, 1 White and 13 African-American and Other infants died during 1989-91.

[7] Number is an unduplicated count for the entire fiscal year.

Child Injuries and Deaths: Childhood deaths and injuries reflect whether communities are safe for children. In 2001, children in the Hampton County went to the emergency room 822 times because of injuries. Boys are injured more often than girls. Children visit the emergency room at comparable rates for each age from 0 to 17.

In South Carolina, the major causes of death among young children are unintentional injuries, cancer, homicide, and congenital anomalies. Over the three year period 1999-2001, 7 White and 3 African-American and Other children ages 1-14 died in the county. During 1989-91, 1 White and 6 African-American and Other children died.

Immunization: Immunization rates are an important indication of whether young children are receiving adequate preventive health care. During FY 1989-90, 44.3% of children less than two years old seen in public health clinics were not fully immunized against such preventable diseases as Polio, Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Haemophilus Influenza B and Whooping Cough. After a concerted statewide campaign to increase immunizations, the percentage of children seen in public health dinics who were not fully immunized in January 2001 had declined in the county to 9.7%. The DHEC statewide birth registry survey of all two year old children found that 88.1% were fully immunized in 2001. This success demonstrates the potential to improve the status of children when the leadership of the state and its communities act decisively together.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Children and youth are infected with sexually transmitted diseases through sexual abuse or irresponsible sexual activity. National prevalence rates indicate: a 1 in 8 chance that sexually active 15 year-old girls will develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), the most rapidly increasing cause of infertility; 10% of sexually active adolescent girls and boys are infected with chlamydia, the most common cause of PID; and as many as 15% of teen girls are infected with human papilloma virus, often with strains linked to cervical cancer. Furthermore, research evidence indicates that susceptibility to HIV/AIDS increases by 3 to 8 times through prior infection with various STDs.

According to national studies, approximately 1 in 4 sexually experienced youth aged 13-19 acquires a STD ever year; since two-thirds of all high school students have had sexual intercourse and half engage in intercourse over a thr month period, this would suggest that 10-15% of teens are infected with STDs annually. For 2000, this would indicate th an estimated 227 to 341 youth ages 13-19 in the county were infected with a STD. Many infections are either not identifi for treatment or not reported. In the county, there were reported cases of children under age 15 and 11 youth ages 15 19 infected with gonorrhea; 2 youth under 15 and 48 ages 15 - 19 were reported infected with chlamydia. Youth wi undiagnosed and untreated STDs often spread their infections.

Healthy Lifestyles: Although no county data is available, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2001 found that mai high school students are not following good health habits. The YRBS revealed that 26% felt that they were overweight; 42 were trying to lose weight: 27% of boys and 57% of girls. Although during a week 79% of high school students ate fru 59% ate salad, and over 83% ate vegetables, only 17% ate the recommended five or more servings of fruit and vegetabl per day. During a week, 49% did stretching or muscle strengthening exercises, and 59% exercised three or more times f 20 minutes in sports that made them sweat or breathe hard. However, 11% of students engaged in no vigorous or modera activity at all during a week: 8% of boys and 13% of girls.

Tobacco Use:* Cigarette smoking starts at a young age and often becomes habitual. In the state during 2002 among all students 15 and older, 16.7% first smoked by age 11, 36.3% by age 13, and 51.4% by age 15. In a typical month, 17.1% of 7th and 8th graders and 25.3% of high school students smoked cigarettes. White youths were much more likely than African-Americans to smoke: 26.4% of White male and 27.2% of White female 7th to 12th graders used cigarettes, as compared with 18.9% of African-American males and 12.2% of African American females. A smaller but significant group of high school students (5.4%) used smokeless tobacco monthly; it was used primarily by White males (15.9% compared with 1.1% of all other race and sex groups).

* Schools in the county elected not to participate in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking. Therefore, data for all of South Carolina is presented here.

Disabilities: No data are collected on the true prevalence of disabilities within the county. According to national reported estimates, over 10% of children and youth have developmental disabilities at any point in time, and more than 17 are affected at some time before age 18 by deafness, blindness, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, speech defects, development delays, learning disabilities, and emotional or behavioral problems. For 2000 this suggests that at least 591 children ar youth under age 18 in the county are currently affected by disabilities.

Approximately 5% of children and youth nationally have serious disabilities which have lifelong implications f work, social life and community living. Typically among children and youth, there are 1 - 2% who are mentally retarded, - 3% with serious emotional disturbances, over 1% with orthopedic or multiple disabilities, including cerebral palsy an many hereditary conditions, and under 1% with visual or hearing impairments.

Other chronic health problems also affect the lives of many children. Over 3% of children have one or more these limitations. Such serious chronic conditions affect 1 - 2% who have respiratory problems (asthma and chron bronchitis), 0.5 - 1.0% with neurological problems (epilepsy and seizures), and less than 1% with circulatory problen (congenital heart defects and acquired diseases).

Other disabilities are identified primarily in school performance. These would include 221 students in grades 1- with learning disabilities and 141 students in grades 1-12 with speech/language deficits.

Disabilities are caused by genetics, disease, poor prenatal conditions, injuries, and environmental factors. For example, lead exposure, primarily from paint dust, was detected in over 1% of all children screened, including 3 in Hampton County.

Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: While over 20% of 9-17 year olds meet diagnostic criteria for some form of mental disorder, the number with serious emotional disturbance and impaired functioning in family, school, or community activities is: 9-13% for substantial functional impairment and 5-9% for extreme functional impairment. The rates among poor children are at the higher end of these ranges. Based on a federal formula for estimating prevalence, in the county there are 12% or 381 seriously emotionally disturbed 9-17 year olds with substantial functional impairment and 8% or 254 with extreme functional impairment during the course of a year. Conduct disorders, attention deficit, depression, and anxiety disorders are the most prevalent, each affecting 3% or more of school-aged children. These disorders may occur simultaneously in a child. The prevalence rates are highest among males, adolescents, and disadvantaged persons in communities under stress and lacking social cohesion; depression, however, is more prevalent among females. On the YRBS, 20% of boys and 33% of girls in high school reported that during the past year they felt so sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that they stopped doing some usual activities. Another indicator of emotional problems is the 8% of high school students in South Carolina who reported that they had "attempted suicide" in the past year: 5% of boys and 10% of girls. Suicide attempts resulted in 4% of high school students reporting that they required treatment by a doctor or nurse for injury, poisoning, or overdose.

Inadequate Healthcare: No county level data is routinely collected regarding the number of children and youth with inadequate healthcare. According to estimates for 2000-02 by the Bureau of the Census through the annual Current Population Survey, the statewide average rate of uninsured children and youth under age 18 in families with incomes under 200% of poverty in South Carolina was 16.6%, and 9.9% above 200% of poverty. If these rates are applied to the county, there are 539 children in the county below 200% of poverty with no health insurance, and 265 children above 200% of poverty with no health insurance, for a total of 804 uninsured children in Hampton County. The number lacking basic accessible primary care is at least double the number lacking insurance. Those lacking primary care are often dependent on health services at school. The ratio of students to nurses recommended nationally is 750:1. In the county, this would suggest the need for 5 nurses, compared with 4 currently working in the schools.

Medicaid: For several years, the State of South Carolina has emphasized enrolling eligible children into Medicaid. In late 1997, South Carolina implemented its version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, Partners for Healthy Children (PHC), and aggressively pursued outreach enrollment for PHC and Medicaid. As a result, enrollment of children ages 0 through 18 in Hampton County has increased by 60.7% from June 1997 to June 2001; thus Medicaid and PHC were serving 58.4% of all children in that age range. The total Medicaid expenditures in South Carolina for services provided to children ages 0 through 18 for state fiscal year 2002 were $991 million, at an average statewide expenditure of $2,343 per child enrolled, approximate Medicaid expenditure for children in the county would be $8.1 million.

In June 2001, the total number of Hampton County children, birth through 18, enrolled in Medicaid was 3,451. The total can be broken down into the following age and race groupings:

	White	African American	Hispanic	Other	Total
Children under 1	63	167	2	4	236
Children 1 - 5	189	702	6	25	922
Children 6 - 14	271	1,374	13	41	1,699
Children 15 - 18	104	480	1	9	594
Total	627	2,723	22	79	3,451

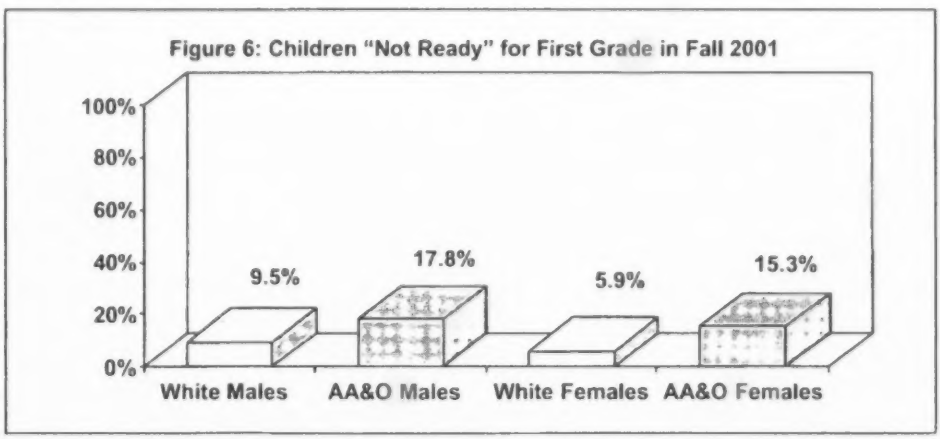
Ambulatory Care: When children lack adequate primary care, whether through lack of insurance, through limite access, or through failing to utilize available care, preventable and treatable conditions become serious and requi hospitalization. A useful indicator of inadequate primary care is the percentage of all hospitalizations that could typicall have been avoided through ambulatory care, especially for pneumonia, asthma, diarrhea and vomiting, dehydration, ar severe ear, nose, and throat infections. The share of hospitalizations for these types of conditions could normally be ke below 20%; for children in the county under the age of 18 during 2001, the share was 35.2% for Whites and 27.8% f African-Americans and Others.

READINESS AND EARLY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Too many children reach school without the readiness skills needed for success in learning, such as language, soci skills, visual and auditory discrimination, memory recall, and knowledge of colors, letters, numbers, names of objects, et Likewise, some schools are not ready to respond appropriately to the varying developmental levels of children in the ear grades. As a result, too many students do not experience the success needed to create the motivation and engagement th sustain learning.

1st Grade "Readiness" on 2001-02 Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB):

48 children not ready 14.6% children not ready

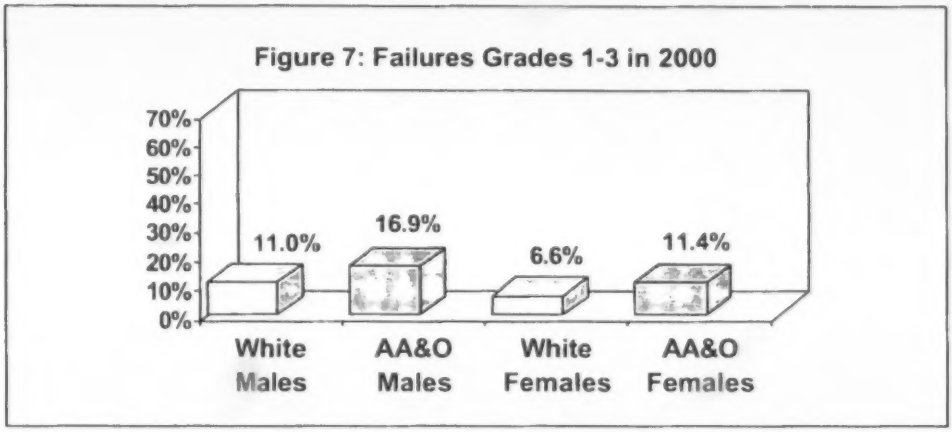


1st Grade Failures in 2002:

24 children failing 7.3% children failing

Failures Grades 1-3 in 2002 (approximate cumulative percentage of grades one, two and three):

37 children failing 11.4% children failing



Over-age for Grade 3 in 2001

79 children over-age 23.3% children over-age

Special Education: Large numbers of children are placed in special education classes. In elementary school, 93 six and seven year olds and 91 eight and nine year-olds were enrolled in special education classes during 2001-02, approximately 15.5% and 14.3% of their age groups respectively: 19.6% of White 8 – 9 year olds were in special education and 12.3% of African American and Others.

Readiness Summary: A serious problem exists in terms of student readiness and school success in the early grades. With 14.6% assessed not ready for the 1st grade, 23.3% over age in grade 3, and 14.3% of eight and nine year-olds placed in special education, unacceptably large numbers of students still begin school without good prospects of success in future school achievement and graduation; however, great improvement has occurred since the mid 1990s.

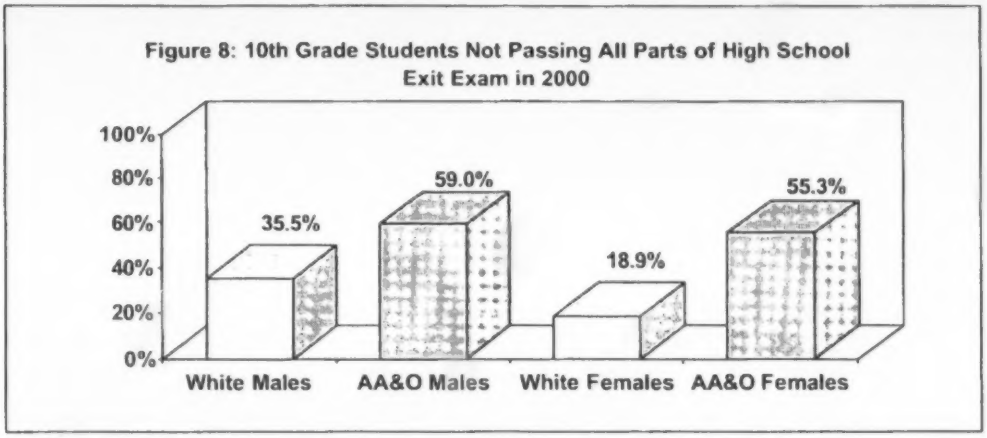
SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

By the end of elementary school, significant numbers of students perform below minimum standards. The following standardized test measures, comparing student performance to state minimum standards, should be used in combination with routine classroom assessments more reflective of real-world performance skills.

Special Education: Special education placements reflect both the significant number of children with serious handicapping conditions and a large number of students with mild learning and behavioral problems that have not been accommodated successfully by the regular educational program. The result is a large system of self-contained, resource, and itinerant services to meet the needs of 141 speech and language impaired, 221 learning disabled, 19 emotionally disabled, 182 mentally impaired, and 17 physically handicapped, deaf, blind, and other handicapped students. Special education classes served approximately 14.3% of all students in grades 1 - 12 during 2001-2002.

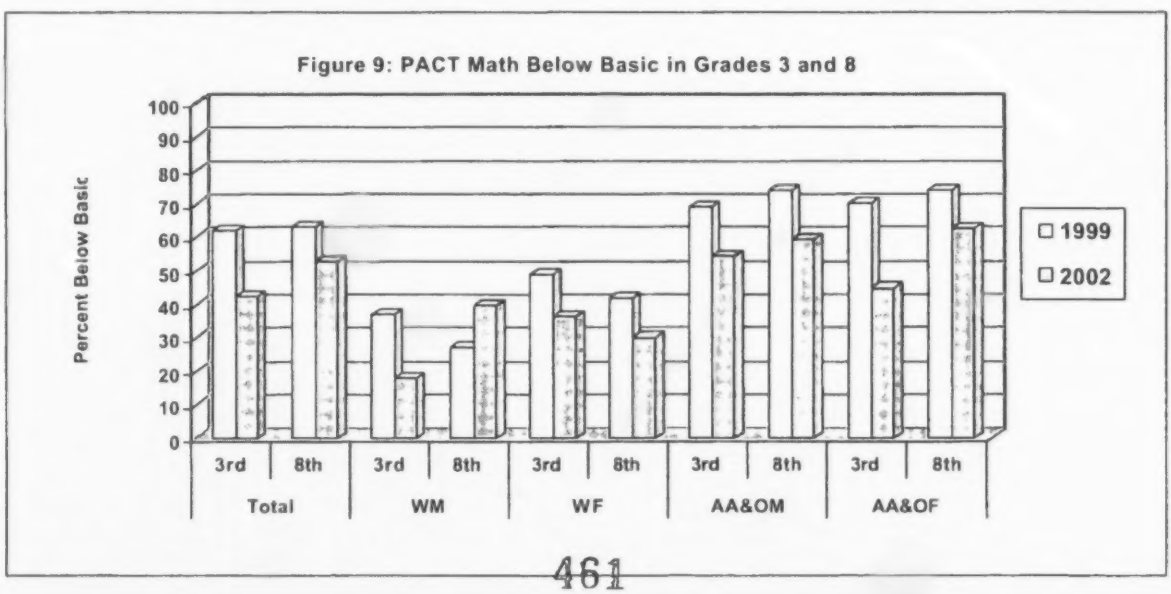
Exit Exam - not passing all parts of Exit Exam on first attempt in the 10th grade in 2002

107 students did not pass all parts — 47.8% of students did not pass all parts



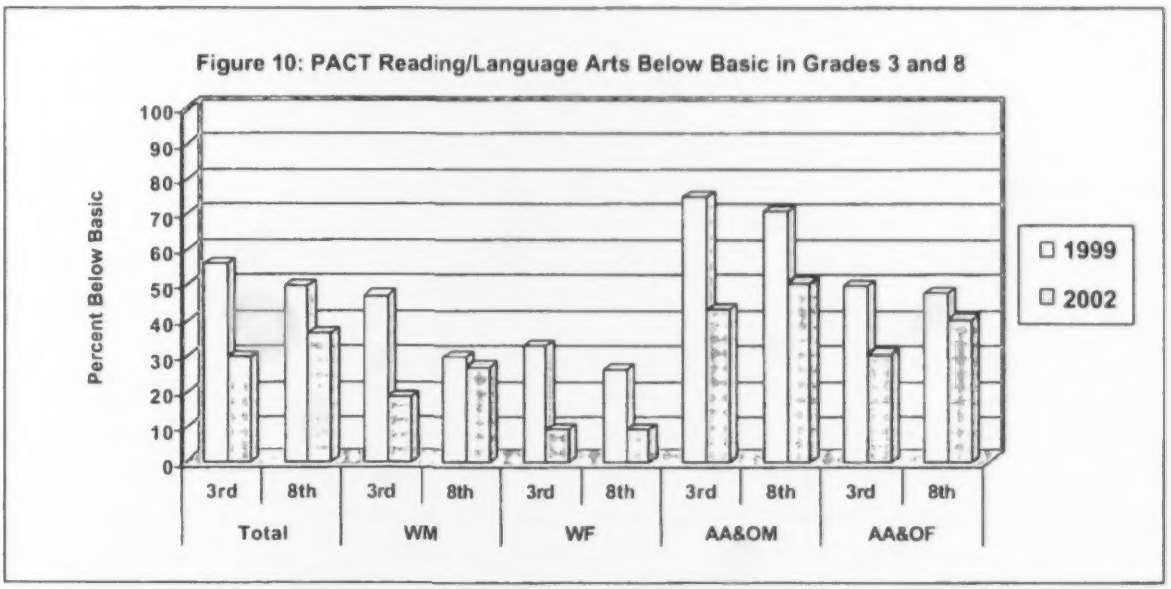
Achievement Trends: How has performance on standardized achievement tests changed over the past 20 years? During the 1980s, student performance on the BSAP tests improved dramatically. Between 1981 and 1990, the percentage of 8th grade students in Hampton County who did not meet standards declined from 69.9% to 37.5% in math and from 61.1% to 32.7% in reading. During the 1990's the BSAP trend changed, with 39.2% not meeting 8th grade math standards in 1998 and 42.8% in reading. On standardized tests, the first year when South Carolina students take the exam is comparable to the challenge encountered by the national norm group which took the test only once. Looking at first year data, the percentage of 4th grade students at or below the 25th percentile of national norms was 40.5% in 1983 on the CTBS, 44.2% in 1990 on the Stanford, and 37.1% in 1995 on the Metropolitan; for 9th graders, the percentage in the bottom quarter was 43.5% in 1990 and 47.4% in 1995. Although not comparable, the percent below basic on the 4th grade PACT in 1999, the first year of administration, was 56.5%, but in 2002 40.7% of 4th graders were below basic in reading and math; the percentage of 8th graders below basic in reading and math averaged 56.6% in 1999 and 44.5% in 2002.

PACT: The Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) was first administered in 1999 for grades 3 - 8 in math and reading/language arts. Math assesses skills in numbers, numerical and algebraic concepts, patterns and functions, geometry, measurement, probability and statistics. The percentage of students scoring below basic in math has decreased by 18.9% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 636 students below basic in grades 3-8 but there would have been an additional 148 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
		Math (%)				
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	42.3	18.0	36.4	54.5	44.9
	4	45.6	24.6	19.0	57.1	54.1
	5	47.7	37.0	23.9	56.5	52.3
	6	48.6	33.3	22.2	62.0	52.6
	7	57.8	44.0	36.1	67.4	67.5
	8	52.6	39.6	30.2	59.6	62.8
Basic	3	38.3	42.0	27.3	39.8	38.6
	4	40.4	52.6	45.2	39.5	33.3
	5	37.9	34.8	56.5	33.1	36.9
	6	37.9	35.3	55.6	34.0	36.8
	7	30.6	28.0	41.0	28.4	28.1
	8	38.3	50.0	58.1	31.5	29.8
Proficient	3	13.4	28.0	15.2	5.7	12.6
	4	9.7	10.5	26.2	3.4	9.9
	5	11.0	21.7	8.7	8.1	10.8
	6	10.3	23.5	16.7	3.0	8.4
	7	9.1	20.0	19.7	3.2	3.5
	8	8.0	8.3	11.6	7.9	6.4
Advanced	3	6.0	12.0	21.2	0.0	3.9
	4	4.3	12.3	9.5	0.0	2.7
	5	3.4	6.5	10.9	2.4	0.0
	6	3.2	7.8	5.6	1.0	2.1
	7	2.5	8.0	3.3	1.1	0.9
	8	1.1	2.1	0.0	1.1	1.1

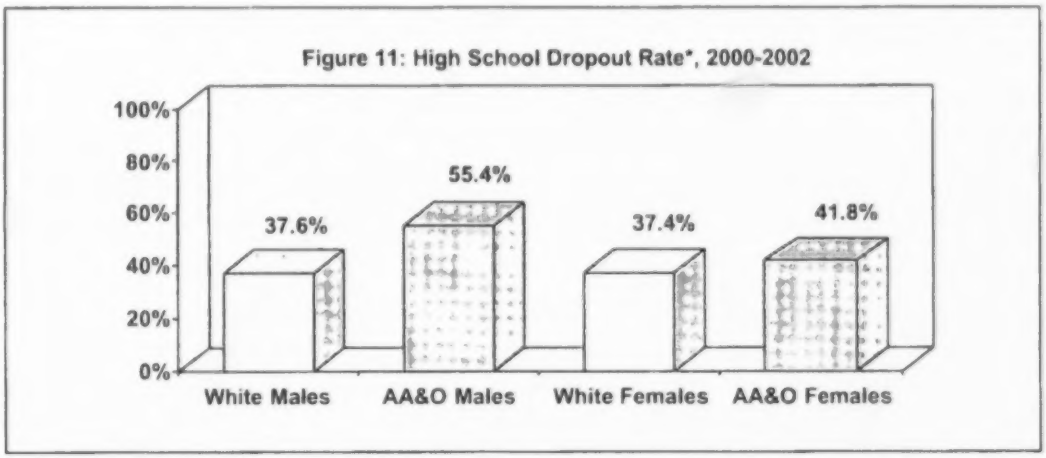
Reading/Language Arts assesses reading, listening, speaking, writing, research, and communication with technology. The first PACT assessment found a high percentage of elementary and middle grades students performing below standards and only a modest number above basic. The percentage of students scoring below basic in reading/language arts has decreased by 33.3% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 435 students below basic in grades 3 - 8 but there would have been an additional 217 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
	Reading/Language Arts (%)					
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	30.0	18.4	9.1	43.2	30.7
	4	35.8	26.3	11.9	57.6	26.4
	5	36.5	17.4	10.9	52.8	36.9
	6	41.7	32.7	16.7	59.0	37.9
	7	38.8	28.0	19.7	48.4	45.6
	8	36.5	27.1	9.3	50.6	40.4
Basic	3	43.4	32.7	45.5	42.0	48.0
	4	47.4	43.9	52.4	35.6	60.0
	5	47.5	52.2	63.0	40.7	46.8
	6	33.9	34.6	30.6	32.0	36.8
	7	41.6	44.0	37.7	41.1	43.0
	8	42.7	41.7	48.8	34.8	47.9
Proficient	3	25.6	46.9	42.4	14.8	20.5
	4	15.9	26.3	33.3	6.8	13.6
	5	14.7	26.1	23.9	5.7	16.2
	6	19.4	25.0	36.1	9.0	21.1
	7	18.1	24.0	37.7	10.5	11.4
	8	17.5	22.9	34.9	13.5	10.6
Advanced	3	1.0	2.0	3.0	0.0	0.8
	4	0.9	3.5	2.4	0.0	0.0
	5	1.2	4.3	2.2	0.8	0.0
	6	4.9	7.7	16.7	0.0	4.2
	7	1.6	4.0	4.9	0.0	0.0
	8	3.3	8.3	7.0	1.1	1.1

Dropout Rate - 8th grade students no longer enrolled in grade 12
(average of students for the three years ending 2000-2002)

171 students drop out annually **45.9% students drop out?**



Dropouts: Distressing numbers of students drop out and fail to graduate. An average of 30.4% of 8th graders failed to graduate** from county schools five years later during the period 1980-84, 14.2% during 1985-89, and 13.3% during 1990-94, 34.1% during 1995-97 and 40.0% during 1998-2000***.

During 2001-02, 95.2% of all who did graduate received the State High School Diploma, while the remaining 4.8% received a State Certificate for meeting the required Carnegie units but not passing the Exit Exam.

* 12th grade enrollment compared to 8th grade enrollment four years earlier
** This is calculated by using 8th grade enrollment to graduation data.
*** 2001 data will be available soon and will be posted on the website.

Fortunately, many dropouts enroll in adult education programs and either earn a high school diploma or obtain a GED. During 2001-02, 12 Adult Education high school diplomas were awarded to school completers and in 2001 19 GEDs were awarded in the county. Over time, adult education high school diplomas and GEDs increase the effective school completion rate substantially. In the 2000 Census, 24.8% of county resident 25 - 34 year-olds said they had not completed either high school or a GED.

Achievement Summary: The numbers of students testing below basic on the PACT and dropping out range from 30.0% to 57.8%. Thus, far too many students fail to acquire the knowledge, skills, learning habits, and motivation necessary to compete in the economy or contribute to society in the 21st Century.

ADOLESCENT RISK BEHAVIORS

Academic achievement is greatly influenced by the prevailing youth culture which often promotes popularity with peers and partying rather than studying and doing well in school. The prevalence of adolescent risk-taking and under-achievement is illustrated by the poor grades of substance-abusing teens.

Substance Abuser Rates at Levels of Academic Performance

	Usual School Grades in Past Year					Total
	A Range	B Range	C Range	D Range	F Range	
Smoked Cigarettes (in past 30 days)	13.3%	22.4%	31.7%	42.8%	63.6%	25.3%
Drank 5 or More Drinks on One Occasion (in past 30 days)	12.4%	17.3%	22.6%	26.8%	43.5%	18.9%
Used Any Illicit Drug (in past 30 days)	11.5%	17.1%	25.1%	34.1%	53.0%	20.0%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

As influence from parents and other adults declines during adolescence, significant numbers of students engage in violence, crime, school offenses, depressive emotions and attempted suicide:

Risk Behaviors Participated in During Past 12 Months	White Male		White Female		African American Male		African American Female		Total		Total (Grade 7-12)
	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	
Carried a handgun or knife for self-defense?	22.5%	26.1%	5.3%	6.3%	14.6%	20.2%	5.0%	7.6%	12.2%	14.9%	13.7%
Carried a handgun or knife as a weapon?	6.8%	9.4%	1.3%	1.6%	9.0%	13.9%	3.0%	5.0%	4.8%	6.9%	5.9%
Been in a fight with someone?	40.1%	31.3%	18.5%	16.2%	41.4%	31.9%	29.4%	22.4%	31.7%	24.9%	28.0%
Hit your boyfriend or girlfriend?	2.0%	1.6%	6.9%	10.0%	5.7%	4.9%	17.7%	24.2%	7.4%	9.7%	8.7%
Been hit by your boyfriend or girlfriend?	7.1%	6.1%	6.1%	8.5%	11.5%	9.7%	9.5%	10.6%	8.1%	8.5%	8.3%
Rec'd detention or in-school suspension?	38.1%	37.3%	22.4%	25.0%	41.6%	37.6%	34.3%	30.7%	33.3%	32.1%	32.7%
Been suspended from school?	12.9%	13.9%	5.2%	7.2%	24.0%	22.6%	14.8%	15.4%	13.1%	13.8%	13.5%
Stolen anything worth > $5?	12.9%	17.6%	6.9%	10.7%	14.2%	15.6%	8.5%	8.4%	10.4%	13.1%	11.9%
Had an accident while driving?	NA	14.3%	NA	12.6%	NA	7.7%	NA	6.3%	NA	11.0%	NA
Been arrested and booked?	3.9%	6.1%	1.5%	2.7%	5.7%	8.1%	2.2%	2.9%	3.2%	4.7%	4.0%
Felt hopeless for two weeks or more?	14.8%	15.9%	21.8%	29.0%	14.0%	13.3%	22.0%	24.8%	18.2%	21.4%	19.9%
Seriously considered attempting suicide?	6.9%	8.4%	9.6%	14.3%	5.5%	5.4%	6.8%	8.7%	7.4%	9.7%	8.7%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

Adolescence is often a time of taking risks and asserting independence from adults. When asked whether they would tell an adult about a problem, the following percentages of state students said they would be "not likely" or "very unlikely" to tell if they:

-heard a student threaten to harm someone: 33.2% middle school, 47.0% high school;
-saw a student with a handgun at school: 22.7% middle school, 20.5% high school;
-saw a student with a knife at school: 24.7% middle school, 31.6% high school;
-saw a student with drugs at school: 33.7% middle school, 61.9% high school;

Alcohol Use:* In the state during 2001-02, 21.0% of 7th and 8th graders and 37.1% of high schoolers said they had used alcohol in the past month. Of White males in grades 7 - 12, 33.8% had used it in the past month, compared with 26.0% of African-American males; likewise, 34.5% of White females said they had used alcohol, compared with 26.4% of African-American females. Many youth first used alcohol at an early age: 14.2% had used alcohol by age 11 or younger, 33.0% by age 13, and 61.1% by age 15.

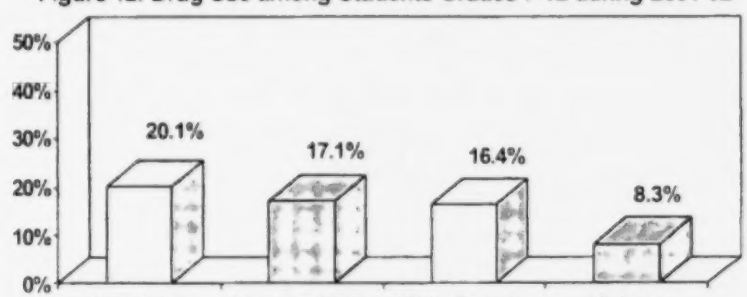
During the previous year, 21.0% of 7th and 8th graders and 30.4% of high schoolers said they had ridden with a drinking driver. Of seniors who drive, 19.4% said they had driven after drinking. Widespread use is encouraged by the ready availability and perceived low risk of alcohol use. Among students who expressed an opinion, 43.6% of eighth graders and 75.4% of seniors felt that beer was easy to get. Also, 71.6% of eighth graders and 70.7% of seniors felt there was not a great risk in drinking two drinks a day, and 47.3% of eighth graders and 53.1% of high schoolers felt there was not a great risk in drinking 5 drinks every weekend.

Heavy Drinking:* In 2001-02, 7.7% of 7th and 8th graders and 18.9% of high school students in the state repor drinking 5 or more drinks in a day during the past month. When asked how many drinks, if any, they usually consur 13.7% of all state students in grades 7 - 12 in 2001-02 responded 3 or more drinks at a time and 7.1% reported usually 5 more drinks. Among high school students, 18.6% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 10.0% 5 or mc Among seniors, 24.7% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 13.7% 5 or more; however 22.9% of seni said that they drank 5 or more drinks in a day once or more during the past month.

Drugs:* In 2001-02, 9.5% of 7th and 8th graders and 20.1% of high schoolers in the state reported using ille drugs during the previous month. Among students in grades 7 - 12, use was reported by 20.1% of White males, 16.4% Wh females, 17.1% of African-American males, and 8.3% of African-American females. Some young people initiated drug u at an early age: 5.3% had experienced their first use by age 11 or sooner; 16.3% had used a drug by age 13, and 34.7% by a 15.

In the past year, 10.3% of all high school students in the state who drive and 15.4% of seniors who drive said that they had driven after using drugs. Such use is encouraged by the ready availability of drugs: 22.3% of 8th graders who had an opinion said it is easy to get marijuana and 8.4% said it is easy to get cocaine or crack; 65.0% of seniors said it is easy to get marijuana and 29.5% said it was easy to get cocaine or crack.

Figure 12: Drug Use among Students Grades 7-12 during 2001-02*



* Schools in the county elected not to participate in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking. Therefore, data for all of South Carolina is presented here. The latest Hampton County data, for 1992-93, is available on the Kids Count website at www.sckidscount.org.

Sexual Activity and Pregnancy: Many teenagers now engage in sexual activity. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) administered to a representative sample of high school students throughout South Carolina in 2001 showed that sexual activity begins at an early age: 7% of female and 21% of male students have engaged in intercourse before age 13; by age 15, 38% the females and 49% of males have engaged in sexual intercourse. Statewide, 48% of females and 50% of males in the 11th and 12th grades reported engaging in intercourse during the past three months. Furthermore, 27% of female and 33% of male 12th graders have had intercourse with four or more partners during their lifetimes.

Premature sexual activity often results in pregnancy. In the county, 31 girls between the ages of 14 and 17 became pregnant in 1999, 27 in 2000 and 30 in 2001. This represented 4.6% of all girls ages 14 – 17 in 2001; several times this percentage become pregnant at least once by age 18. The 2001 pregnancy rate for ages 14 - 17 was 4.8% for Whites and 4.5% for African-Americans and Others. Of all pregnancies of 14-17 year olds, 83.3% resulted in live births, with almost all other pregnancies ending in abortions.

Teen pregnancy rates increased substantially across the state during the 1980s; as a result, greater emphasis v devoted to preventing teen pregnancy. Since 1989, the teen pregnancy rate in Hampton County has decreased by 36.2 Overall, it has decreased by 20.0% for Whites, and decreased by 43.8% for African Americans and Others.

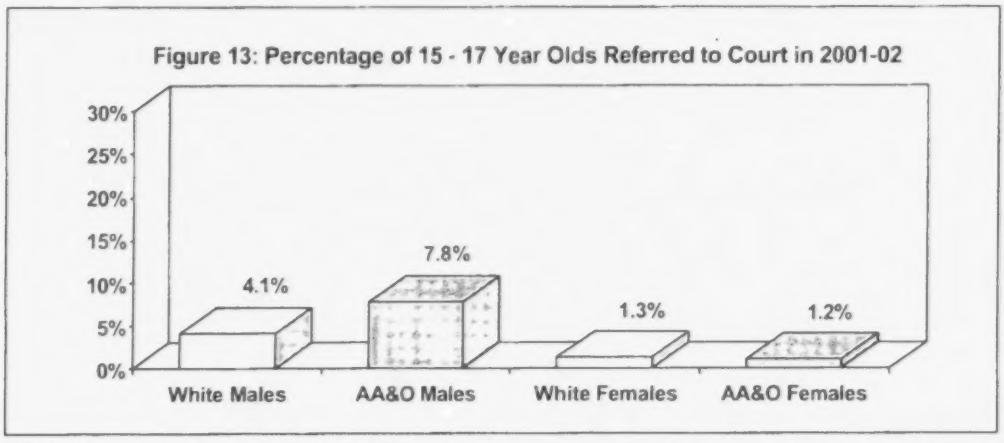
Juvenile Delinquency: In 2001-02, 54 individual juvenile offenders in the county were referred to the Solicitor for delinquency; of these, 7.4% were age 12 or younger, 20.4% were 13 or 14, and 72.2% were 15 or older.

Of the referrals to the family court, 19.6% of all referrals were for violent and serious crimes which include drug trafficking, acts against persons for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and serious property offenses for arson and burglary. Also, 12 juvenile cases constituting 13.0% of all referrals were for status offenses. Status offenses include truancy, running away, incorrigibility, and other offenses that would not be crimes for adults.

Delinquents are likely to live in families with low income: 45.0% lived in families with income under $10,000, 40.0% with $10,000-$19,999 and 15.0% with $20,000 or more. Furthermore, only 19.2% of delinquents lived with both natural parents, while 42.3% lived in a single parent household, 38.5% lived with other relatives, and 0.0% in other situations including parent plus step-parent. Delinquency or criminal activity occurs among many related family members: 37.5% had at least one family member who was delinquent or had some criminal record.

Youth referred to the family courts are likely to have been there before. In 2001-02, 64.8% had at least one prior referral and 22.2% had been referred to court 3 times or more. Many were referred at an early age. For delinquents 15 - 17 years old, 0.0% had been referred by the age of 10, 3.7% by the age of 12, and 25.9% by the age of 14.

During 2001-02, 38 youth ages 15 to 17 were referred to the family courts. In the county, 3.9% of all youth 15 to 17 were referred to court in one year and roughly double that percentage are referred at least once by age 18. Furthermore, the National Youth Survey indicates that typically across the United States the proportion of youth engaging in crime is two or three times the number ever apprehended. In 2001-02, there were 24 juveniles committed from the county to DJJ custody and placed in residential programs.



Not in School or Employed: During 2000, 153 teenagers ages 16-19 were idle, meaning they neither worked any hours nor were enrolled in school, even part-time. Idle teens comprised 11.8% of their age group: 13.3% for White and 11.1% African-American & Other teens. A much larger number, perhaps twice as many, were not engaged in either school full time or work full time. The data reflect a serious failure in both school completion and the critical transition from school to work, significantly affecting their development as future workers. For an in-depth description of the problems of young adults seeking to enter the labor force, visit our website at www.scyoungadults.org for our state and county reports on 18-29 year olds.

Deaths: During 1997-2001, 3 youth ages 15 to 19 died. Historically, automobile accidents have been the major cause, resulting in 1 deaths between 1996 and 2000; homicides killed 1 youth 15 to 19 years old during the five-year period, and 0 youth committed suicide. Alcohol use is often a significant factor in deaths among teenagers.

Summary

Facing the Scope of Problems: The data on families, economic status, health, readiness, school achievement, and adolescent risk behaviors provide a troublesome picture of the condition of children in Hampton County. The 35.8% of children in single-parent families, 28.1% in poverty, 40.0% not graduating from school, 37.1% of high school students using alcohol and 20.1% using drugs each month, and other data profiled in this report suggest that too many children are at risk of not growing up to become self-supporting adults, good family members, and responsible community citizens.

Emphasizing the Positive: South Carolina Kids Count reports have been developed to describe the problems of children in each of the counties. Fortunately, the majority of children and youth are doing well, and some very well. One simple description is the percentage of children who do not fall into the problem categories reported. For the county, 77.2% of children are born to non-teen mothers ages 20 or older, 45.6% are born to married parents, and 64.2% lived in two-parent families; 71.9% were not poor and 44.5% lived in families with incomes above twice the poverty level for a family of three, $30,040 in 2002; 93.7% of babies were born with normal birthweights; 85.4% were assessed as ready for the first grade, 47.4% scored basic or better on PACT for 8th grade math and 63.5% for 8th grade reading, 52.2% passed all parts of the Exit Exam in the 10th grade, and 60.0% graduated with their class. In a typical month, 62.9% of high school students do not drink alcohol, 79.9% do not use drugs, and 74.7% do not smoke. Unfortunately, the absence of a problem is not always an indicator of success. Some data is available for exemplary performance: for example, 26.6% of 3rd graders and 20.8% of 8th graders scored proficient or advanced on PACT in reading and 19.4% of 3rd graders and 9.1% of 8th graders in math. Unfortunately, data on success is not generally available.

Despite the limitations of success data, we must emphasize the positive in providing good support and appropriate influences for children and youth. Recent philosophy and publications such as those of the Search Institute (700 South Third Street, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN, 55415-1138, tel. 1-800-888-7828, www.search-institute.org), emphasize the critical importance of "developmental assets" to promote and support positive development. One short book from the Search Institute, (What Kids Need to Succeed, by Peter J. Benson, Judy Gailbraith, and Pamela Espeland, 1995) presents an excellent array of suggestions for promoting developmental assets through families, community, faith congregations, and schools. If each family, school, religious congregation and community organization assertively worked to build such assets, the problems described in this report would be reduced dramatically. Such positive family-school-community efforts could improve South Carolina's national Kids Count ranking from the bottom 10 to the average or even into the top 10 by prevention of unnecessary problems affecting children and youth, as shown on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

All data presented in this report is the most recent available at the date it goes to the printer. This version of the Kids Count report will be revised as more recent and additional data become available. Please send us your corrections and suggestions for improvement. We welcome your ideas for ways to make the state and county reports more useful and accurate. Please utilize local data sources whenever possible to supplement the profile provided through our report.

Data related inquiries should be directed to:

Anne Wilson, Data Manager (awilson@drss.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-4810

Calls for **copies of reports** for other counties and inquiries regarding more recent reports should be made to:

Kim Hazel-Lohr, Project Manager (khazel@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-1295

For **policy questions and general comments**, please contact:

Dr. A. Baron Holmes, Project Director (bholmes@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-2291

Comparable reports for all 46 counties and for the state can also be found on the World Wide Web at

www.sckidscount.org

Our website also provides: links to other websites for indicators in our report; high to low rankings for individual indicators; information on how to improve SC's national rank; and a glossary of definitions.

The national Kids Count Report can be found on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website at

www.aecf.org

Hampton County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Indicators	Most Recent Year	Number					Percent					R	
		1980*	1990*	Most Recent Data	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980 Rank	199
Health													
Low Birth Weight	2001	35	30	20	-42.9%	-33.3%	10.2	9.1	6.3	-38.1%	-30.5%	38	
White babies	*2001*	*3*	*5*	*3*	*+0.0%*	*-40.0%*	*2.9*	*4.5*	*2.5*	*-13.8%*	*-45.0%*	*1*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*32*	*25*	*17*	*-46.9%*	*-32.0%*	*13.3*	*11.3*	*8.8*	*-34.3%*	*-22.5%*	*33*	
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	2001	141	166	104	+26.2%	-37.3%	41.0	50.2	32.9	-19.8%	-34.4%	23	
White babies	*2001*	*22*	*35*	*27*	*+22.7%*	*-22.9%*	*21.1*	*31.8*	*22.1*	*4.7%*	*-30.5%*	*11*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*119*	*131*	*77*	*-35.3%*	*-41.2%*	*49.6*	*59.3*	*39.7*	*-20.0%*	*-33.0%*	*14*	
Infant Mortality	2001	21	14	8	-61.9%	-42.9%	2.0	1.3	0.9	-55.3%	-31.6%	32	
White babies	*2001*	*5*	*1*	*2*	*-60.0%*	*+100.0%*	*1.6*	*0.3*	*0.6*	*-64.6%*	*110.7%*	*35*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*16*	*13*	*6*	*-62.5%*	*-53.8%*	*2.1*	*1.8*	*1.1*	*-49.1%*	*-40.5%*	*17*	
Family													
Births to mothers under 18	2001	33	23	25	-24.2%	+8.7%	9.6	6.9	7.9	-17.6%	13.7%	31	
White babies	*2001*	*8*	*5*	*8*	*+0.0%*	*+60.0%*	*7.7*	*4.5*	*6.6*	*-14.2%*	*45.2%*	*42*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*25*	*18*	*17*	*-32.0%*	*-5.6%*	*10.4*	*8.1*	*8.8*	*-15.9%*	*7.6%*	*9*	
Births to mothers under 20	2001	75	63	72	-4.0%	+14.3%	21.8	19.0	22.8	4.6%	19.8%	30	
White babies	*2001*	*19*	*21*	*21*	*+10.5%*	*+0.0%*	*18.3*	*19.1*	*17.2*	*-5.9%*	*9.9%*	*35*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*56*	*42*	*51*	*-8.9%*	*-21.4%*	*23.3*	*19.0*	*26.3*	*12.7%*	*38.3%*	*9*	
Births to mothers with less than a high school education	2001	126	84	74	-41.3%	-11.9%	36.6	25.4	23.4	-36.1%	-7.8%	29	
White babies	*2001*	*37*	*23*	*24*	*-35.1%*	*+4.3%*	*35.6*	*20.9*	*19.7*	*-44.6%*	*-5.8%*	*36*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*89*	*61*	*50*	*-43.8%*	*-18.0%*	*37.1*	*27.6*	*25.8*	*-30.5%*	*-6.6%*	*12*	
Births to single mothers****	2001	103	131	172	+67.0%	+31.3%	29.9	39.6	54.4	81.7%	37.5%	32	
White babies	*2001*	*7*	*11*	*24*	*+242.9%*	*+118.2%*	*6.7*	*10.0*	*19.7*	*192.7%*	*97.0%*	*27*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*96*	*120*	*148*	*+54.2%*	*+23.3%*	*40.0*	*54.3*	*76.3*	*90.7%*	*40.5%*	*7*	
Children in single parent families	2000	1,146	1,567	1,770	+54.5%	+13.0%	21.1	31.8	35.8	69.5%	12.4%	34	
White	*2000*	*200*	*259*	*318*	*+59.0%*	*+22.8%*	*8.3*	*13.9*	*17.3*	*108.0%*	*24.2%*	*8*	
African American and Other	*2000*	*943*	*1,308*	*1,452*	*+54.0%*	*+11.0%*	*30.5*	*42.7*	*46.7*	*53.2%*	*9.4%*	*12*	
Education													
Not Ready for Grade 1	2001	214	130	48	-77.6%	-63.1%	54.2	33.3	14.6	-73.1%	-56.2%	44	
White males	*2001*	*20*	*10*	*4*	*-80.0%*	*-60.0%*	*30.8*	*14.5*	*9.5*	*-69.2%*	*-34.5%*	*22*	
White females	*2001*	*11*	*5*	*2*	*-81.8%*	*-60.0%*	*24.4*	*10.2*	*5.9*	*-75.8%*	*-42.2%*	*36*	
African American and Other males	*2001*	*97*	*61*	*23*	*-76.3%*	*-62.3%*	*69.8*	*41.8*	*17.8*	*-74.5%*	*-57.4%*	*44*	
African American and Other females	*2001*	*86*	*54*	*19*	*-77.9%*	*-64.8%*	*58.9*	*42.9*	*15.3*	*-74.0%*	*-64.3%*	*41*	
Repeating Grades 1-3	2000	108	81	46	-57.4%	-43.2%	29.6	22.3	12.7	-57.1%	-43.0%	41	
White males	*2000*	*11*	*6*	*6*	*-45.5%*	*+0.0%*	*16.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*-34.1%*	*0.0%*	*23*	
White females	*2000*	*-*	*7*	*3*	*NA*	*-57.1%*	*-*	*13.7*	*6.6*	*NA*	*-51.8%*	*1*	
African American and Other males	*2000*	*60*	*43*	*22*	*-63.3%*	*-48.8%*	*46.6*	*32.9*	*16.9*	*-63.7%*	*-48.6%*	*44*	
African American and Other females	*2000*	*37*	*24*	*15*	*-59.5%*	*-37.5%*	*28.6*	*20.0*	*11.4*	*-60.1%*	*-43.0%*	*39*	
Grade 3 Math below standards****	2002	196	93	126	-35.7%	+35.5%	58.2	25.8	42.3	-27.3%	64.0%	44	
White males	*2002*	*24*	*7*	*9*	*-62.5%*	*+28.6%*	*35.8*	*17.5*	*18.0*	*-49.7%*	*2.9%*	*32*	
White females	*2002*	*15*	*3*	*12*	*-20.0%*	*+300.0%*	*35.7*	*6.4*	*36.4*	*2.0%*	*468.8%*	*40*	
African American and Other males	*2002*	*98*	*50*	*48*	*-51.0%*	*-4.0%*	*71.0*	*38.2*	*54.5*	*-23.2%*	*42.7%*	*43*	
African American and Other females	*2002*	*59*	*33*	*57*	*-3.4%*	*+72.7%*	*66.3*	*23.2*	*44.9*	*-32.3%*	*93.5%*	*45*	
Grade 3 Reading below standards****	2002	199	82	89	-55.3%	+8.5%	58.7	22.8	30.0	-48.9%	31.6%	45	
White males	*2002*	*30*	*6*	*9*	*-70.0%*	*+50.0%*	*44.1*	*15.0*	*18.4*	*-58.3%*	*22.7%*	*43*	
White females	*2002*	*13*	*6*	*3*	*-76.9%*	*-50.0%*	*31.0*	*12.8*	*9.1*	*-70.6%*	*-28.9%*	*44*	
African American and Other males	*2002*	*101*	*42*	*38*	*-62.4%*	*-9.5%*	*73.2*	*32.1*	*43.2*	*-41.0%*	*34.6%*	*45*	
African American and Other females	*2002*	*54*	*28*	*39*	*-27.8%*	*+39.3%*	*60.0*	*19.7*	*30.7*	*-48.8%*	*55.8%*	*46*	
Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT Grade 4	1998	117	149	64	-45.3%	-57.0%	40.5	44.2	22.9	-43.5%	-48.2%	36	
White males	*1998*	*16*	*21*	*8*	*-50.0%*	*-61.9%*	*34.8*	*35.0*	*17.8*	*-48.9%*	*-49.1%*	*41*	
White females	*1998*	*7*	*13*	*4*	*-42.9%*	*-69.2%*	*17.1*	*25.5*	*9.5*	*-44.4%*	*-62.7%*	*30*	
African American and Other males	*1998*	*48*	*70*	*26*	*-45.8%*	*-62.9%*	*53.3*	*59.3*	*28.1*	*-47.3%*	*-52.6%*	*27*	
African American and Other females	*1998*	*45*	*45*	*26*	*-42.2%*	*-42.2%*	*40.9*	*41.7*	*27.4*	*-33.0%*	*-34.3%*	*31*	

*Year of data is approximate in many cases.

**1 is best, 46 is worst.

*** Data include paternity acknowledgements.

**** BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Hampton County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Education (continued)

Indicators		Number					Percent				
	Most Recent Year	1980*	1990*	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres
Grade 8 Math below state standards**	2002	239	106	144	-39.7%	+35.8%	69.9	37.5	52.6	-24.7%	40.3%
White males	*2002*	*25*	*11*	*19*	*-24.0%*	*+72.7%*	*45.5*	*19.6*	*39.6*	*-13.0%*	*102.0%*
White females	*2002*	*19*	*9*	*13*	*-31.6%*	*+44.4%*	*33.9*	*23.7*	*30.2*	*-10.9%*	*27.4%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*87*	*38*	*53*	*-39.1%*	*+39.5%*	*82.9*	*48.7*	*59.6*	*-28.1%*	*22.4%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*108*	*48*	*59*	*-45.4%*	*+22.9%*	*86.4*	*43.2*	*62.8*	*-27.3%*	*45.4%*
Grade 8 Reading below state standards**	2002	210	93	100	-52.4%	+7.5%	61.1	32.7	36.5	-40.3%	11.6%
White males	*2002*	*22*	*13*	*13*	*-40.9%*	*+0.0%*	*40.0*	*23.2*	*27.1*	*-32.3%*	*16.8%*
White females	*2002*	*13*	*7*	*4*	*-69.2%*	*-42.9%*	*22.8*	*18.4*	*9.3*	*-59.2%*	*-49.5%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*80*	*38*	*45*	*-43.8%*	*+18.4%*	*75.5*	*48.1*	*50.6*	*-33.0%*	*5.2%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*95*	*35*	*38*	*-60.0%*	*+8.6%*	*76.0*	*31.5*	*40.4*	*-46.8%*	*28.3%*
Grade 9 Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT	1998	NA	155	106	NA	-31.6%	NA	43.5	33.4	NA	-23.2%
White males	*1998*	*NA*	*12*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*21.4*	*12.8*	*NA*	*-40.2%*
White females	*1998*	*NA*	*7*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*16.3*	*7.5*	*NA*	*-54.0%*
African American and Other males	*1998*	*NA*	*74*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*59.7*	*45.7*	*NA*	*-23.5%*
African American and Other females	*1998*	*NA*	*62*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*46.6*	*38.6*	*NA*	*-17.2%*
Exit Exam (not passing all parts on 1st attempt)	2002	193	121	107	-44.6%	-11.6%	61.7	43.4	47.8	-22.5%	10.1%
White males	*2002*	*13*	*15*	*11*	*-15.4%*	*-26.7%*	*29.6*	*27.8*	*35.5*	*19.9%*	*27.7%*
White females	*2002*	*17*	*9*	*7*	*-58.8%*	*-22.2%*	*26.6*	*20.9*	*18.9*	*-28.9%*	*-9.6%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*71*	*49*	*36*	*-49.3%*	*-26.5%*	*73.2*	*58.3*	*59.0*	*-19.4%*	*1.2%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*92*	*48*	*52*	*-43.5%*	*+8.3%*	*85.2*	*49.0*	*55.3*	*-35.1%*	*12.9%*
Dropout Rate (8th graders no longer enrolled in 12th grade 4 years later)	2000-02	81	88	171	+111.5%	+95.8%	25.9	28.1	45.9	77.4%	63.5%
White males	*2000-02*	*17*	*13*	*21*	*+25.3%*	*+65.3%*	*26.4*	*24.0*	*37.6*	*42.3%*	*56.3%*
White females	*2000-02*	*13*	*7*	*16*	*+30.7%*	*+133.3%*	*20.3*	*13.5*	*37.4*	*84.0%*	*177.9%*
African American and Other males	*2000-02*	*30*	*40*	*80*	*+171.2%*	*+102.5%*	*30.7*	*35.7*	*55.4*	*80.4%*	*55.1%*
African American and Other females	*2000-02*	*23*	*29*	*54*	*+141.5%*	*+90.6%*	*24.2*	*29.4*	*41.8*	*72.8%*	*42.2%*
Young Adults Not Completing High School (18-24)	2000	794	681	731	-7.9%	+7.3%	39.2	39.1	24.8	-36.9%	-36.7%
White males	*NA*	*152*	*142*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*35.7*	*40.0*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
White females	*NA*	*127*	*102*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*34.3*	*26.7*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other males	*NA*	*244*	*214*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*44.7*	*47.0*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other females	*NA*	*271*	*223*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*39.7*	*40.5*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
Economics											
Poverty Rate	2000	2,209	2,166	1,640	-25.8%	-24.3%	36.2	38.0	28.1	-22.4%	-26.1%
White children	*2000*	*327*	*387*	*215*	*-34.3%*	*-44.4%*	*13.7*	*19.6*	*10.6*	*-22.6%*	*-45.9%*
African American and Other children	*2000*	*1,882*	*1,779*	*1,425*	*-24.3%*	*-19.9%*	*50.7*	*47.7*	*37.3*	*-26.4%*	*-21.8%*
Income of Families w/children (1999 $)	2000	$ 35,416	$ 36,062	$ 39,757	+12.3%	+10.2%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
White families	*2000*	*$ 45,007*	*$ 46,531*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other families	*2000*	*$ 25,791*	*$ 27,064*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
Adolescent Risk Factors											
Teenage Pregnancy (ages 14-17)	2001	41	25	30	-26.8%	+20.0%	6.2	3.9	4.6	-25.9%	17.9%
White	*2001*	*13*	*6*	*10*	*-23.1%*	*+66.7%*	*5.0*	*2.7*	*4.8*	*-4.0%*	*77.8%*
African American and Other	*2001*	*28*	*19*	*20*	*-28.6%*	*+5.3%*	*7.0*	*4.5*	*4.5*	*-35.7%*	*0.0%*
Delinquency	2002	29	54	38	+31.0%	-29.6%	2.9	5.6	3.9	35.1%	-30.0%
White males	*2002*	*9*	*12*	*7*	*-22.2%*	*-41.7%*	*4.2*	*5.5*	*4.1*	*-2.0%*	*-25.1%*
White females	*2002*	*6*	*1*	*2*	*-66.7%*	*+100.0%*	*3.0*	*0.6*	*1.3*	*-55.6%*	*122.2%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*13*	*32*	*25*	*+92.3%*	*-21.9%*	*4.3*	*10.9*	*7.8*	*81.7%*	*-28.3%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*1*	*9*	*4*	*+300.0%*	*-55.6%*	*0.3*	*3.2*	*1.2*	*304.0%*	*-62.1%*

*Closest available data to this year was used in many cases.
**BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Kids Count 2003 Horry County

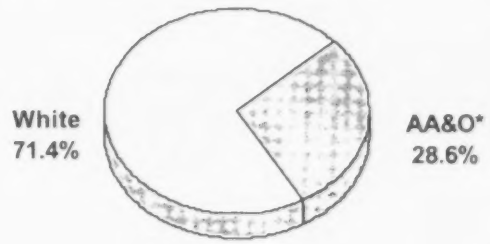
DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2000 there were an estimated 41,929 children under age 18 in the county. Of these, 29,919 were White, 9,980 were African-American, and 2,030 were other races. There were 34,311 children under age 18 in 1990, 30,490 in 1980, 26,648 in 1970, and 30,149 in 1960.

Children represent a shrinking portion of the county's population. Those under 18 constituted 21.3% of the population in 2000, down from 44.2% in 1960, 38.1% in 1970, and 30.1% in 1980.

In 2000 the 13,563 pre-schoolers under age 6 were 6.9% of the overall population: 6.1% of Whites and 9.8% of African Americans.

Figure 1: Population Ages 0-17 in 2000



* In all charts African-American is combined with other races, and often abbreviated as AA&O. Other races comprise 4.8% of children in the county, with "two or more races" at 2.1% and "some other race alone" at 1.4% as the largest Other groups.

FAMILY

Families have always been the most important influence in a child's life. Children depend on their families for material needs, stimulation and guidance. Family life is different in numerous ways from previous generations, and many families now face exceptional challenges.

Families with children now make up a smaller share of all households. Only 26.3% of all households in 2000, as compared with 50.0% of households in 1960, had children below the age of 18.

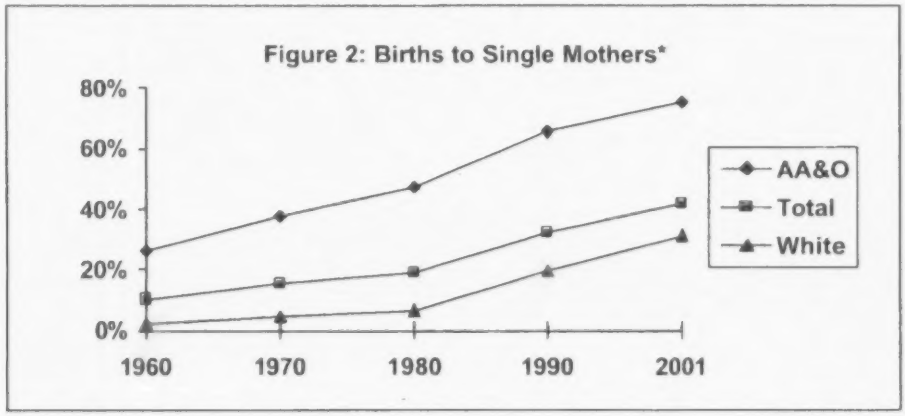
Births to Teen Mothers: In 2001, 120 babies were born to mothers younger than age 18. They were 4.6% of all babies born in the county; 3.6% of all White and 8.0% of all African-American and Other babies were born to teen mothers under the age of 18. Of the babies born to these teens in 2001, 91.7% were born to single mothers, including babies whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers.

In 2001, 370 babies were born to mothers younger than age 20. These babies were 14.3% of all born in the county; 12.0% of all White and 21.5% of all African-American and Other babies were born to mothers under the age of 20. Of the babies born to these mothers in 2001, 84.6% were born to single mothers, including paternity acknowledeged babies.

Education of Mothers Giving Birth: Children's success is strongly influenced by the education of their parents. In 2001, 600 babies, 23.2% of all babies, were born to mothers of all ages who had not completed the 12th grade. In 2001, 20.6% of White and 31.4% of African-American and Other babies were born to mothers who had completed less than the 12th grade. This is a substantial improvement from 47.2% in 1970. In addition, during 2001, 35.3% had completed 12 grades (32.1% of Whites and 45.6% of African Americans and Others) and 41.5% had more than a high school degree (47.3% of Whites and 23.0% of African American and Others).

Births to Single Mothers: Births to single mothers have increased steadily over four decades. In 2001, 516 babies, 19.9% of all babies, were recorded as born to single mothers. A decade earlier in 1990, the percentage was 27.5% and in 1960 it was 10.2%. In 2001, 12.4% of White children and 43.9% of African-American and Other children were born to single mothers. These numbers, however, do not include paternity acknowlegement births.

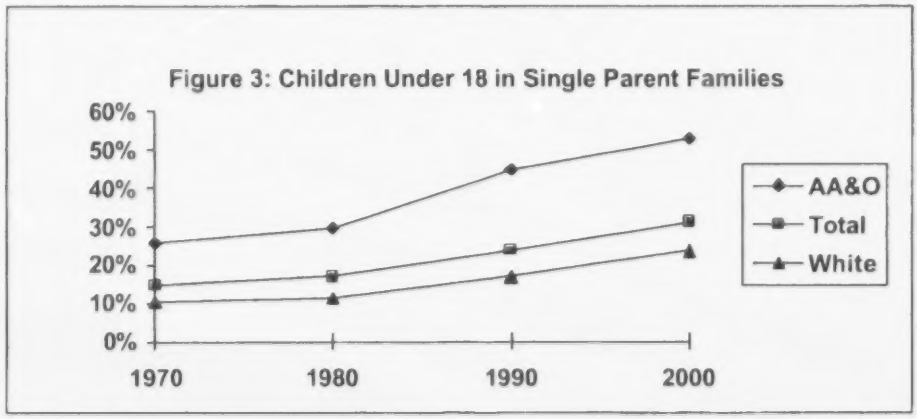
Thus, to these numbers should be added an additional group of 567 babies, 21.9% of all born in 2001, whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers. When the paternity-acknowledged babies are added, the total number born to single mothers in 2001 was 1,083, constituting 41.8% of all babies, 31.2% of White babies, and 75.4% of African-American and Others.



*Includes paternity acknowleged babies in 1980, 1990 and 2001. Prior to 1979, paternity acknowleged cases were not a statistical category, and thus were included in births to single mothers.

Divorce Rate: In 2001, 3,249 marriage licenses were issued, while 613 divorce decrees involving 427 children were filed. In 1970, only 178 children were in families involved in divorce.

Single-Parent Family: Increasing numbers of children live in single-parent families. In 2000, 11,433 children lived with only one parent. This was 31.1% of all children, up from 23.8% in 1990, 16.9% in 1980, and 14.7% in 1970. In 2000, 23.5% of White and 53.0% of African-American and Other children lived in single-parent families. Also in 2000, 3,218 or 28.4% of children under age 6 lived in single parent families: 20.2% of White and 54.0% of African American and Other pre-schoolers.



Parents Working and Child Care: Increasingly, parents must divide their time between children and employers. In order to meet family financial needs, most parents must work and thus have less time for family life. In 2000, 68.2% of mothers with children under 6 and 75.2% with children 6 - 17 were in the labor force. This has increased substantially from 1960 when 27.2% of mothers with children under 6 were in the labor force. Most fathers also work: 62.9% of children under 6 are in families where the single parent or both parents work. Caring for children is a problem for parents unable to obtain quality, affordable daycare while they are at work.

Overall, there are 6,196 spaces in state-regulated childcare facilities* in the county, 92.9% of these are in licensed programs and 7.1% are in registered programs. Of the spaces, 89.9% are in licensed childcare centers serving more than 12 children, 5.7% are in registered or licensed family childcare homes serving six or fewer children, 1.7% are in licensed group childcare homes serving 7-12 children, and 2.6% are in registered or licensed church programs.

The homes and centers are severely constrained by the limited ability of parents to pay. In the county, the average weekly charge is $ 84.98 for centers and $ 66.78 for homes. Consequently, center wages are low: 12.8% of centers with pre-school staff and 20% of centers with assistant pre-school staff report paying these staff under $6 per hour. Paying $6-$8 per hour are 51.3% of centers with pre-school staff and 60% of centers with assistants. Low wages attract workers with limited education. In 33.3% of centers, most pre-school staff and in 95% of centers most assistants have only a high school degree. In 28.2% of centers few to none of the pre-school staff have early childhood credentials. In childcare homes, 47.6% of lead providers have no more education than a high school degree or GED; 9.5% have less than a high school degree.

Family Violence: In 2000, 2,081 domestic assaults were recorded by law enforcement officials. These domestic assaults comprised 23.0% of all assaults, which include aggravated assaults, simple assaults, and intimidation. Overall, 57.7% of all domestic assaults involve spouse abuse which constitutes 13.3% of all assaults. Since most family violence is not reported, the true incidence of family disruption is much more widespread than even the large number of reported cases would indicate.

Separation from Parents: Some children do not live with their natural parents. In 2000, 6.3% of all children did not live with their natural parents. Approximately 1,588 or 3.8% of all children lived with relatives, 966 or 2.3% lived with non-relatives, 55 or 0.1% were householders or spouses, and 45 or 0.1% were in institutional facilities.

Abuse and Neglect: In 2000-01, there were 902 investigations into reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children. Through its investigations, the Department of Social Services (DSS) determined that 274 of the investigations were indicated for abuse or neglect: 19.3% for physical abuse, 5.6% for sexual abuse, 0.4% for mental injury, 40.5% for physical neglect, 4.5% for educational neglect, 2.2% for medical neglect, 24.5% for threat of harm for physical/sexual abuse, and 3.0% for other types of abuse.

In the indicated cases of abuse and neglect, DSS determined there were 426 children who were victims of abuse or neglect. Of these, 48.6% were male, 51.4% were female; 65.7% were White, 34.3% were African-American and Other. By age, 36.1% were ages 0 - 5, 39.9% were ages 6 - 12, and 24.1% were ages 13 - 17. In the indicated cases, 29.1% of the children lived in two-parent families, 42.0% in single parent families, 21.1% with unmarried couples, and 7.8% in other circumstances.

Out of Home Placements: As of June 2001, 238 children lived in foster care. The median age at first placement in the county is 6.1 years. The ages of children in foster care were 24.0% 0-2, 11.8% 3-5, 19.3% 6-10, 15.6% 11-13, and 29.4% 14 and above. The foster care population is 49.2% males and 50.8% females. Regarding their future, 29.4% were under a plan for placement in adoptive homes, 45.8% for return to a parent or guardian, 4.2% for placement with a relative, 12.2% for independent living, 7.1% for permanent foster care, and 1.3% for other circumstances.

Adult/Child Ratio: A measure of potential adult attention for children from family and community is the ratio of adults to children and youth. In 2000 there were 3.69 adults for every person below age 18. This was up substantially from 1960, when there were only 1.26 adults for every person under the age 18. This indicates that today there are more adults potentially available to provide attention and care for each child than in the past.

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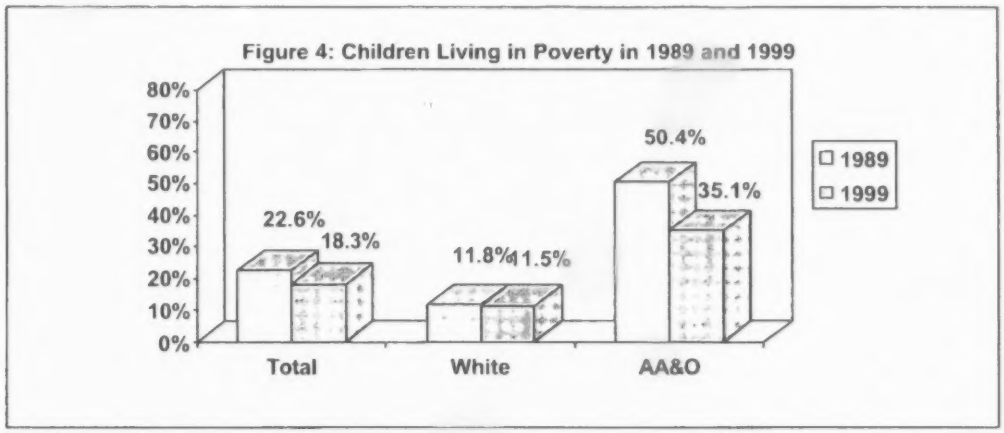
* This data is the best currently available; however, an effort is being made to check the coverage and improve the accuracy. As soon as more recent and complete data becomes available, it will be posted on the website.

ECONOMIC STATUS

Low income makes it difficult for many families to provide the material and environmental enrichment necessary for healthy child development.

Poverty: In 1999, 7,563 children and youth under the age of 18 lved in 3,453 families with incomes below poverty, comprising 18.3% of all children and youth: 11.5% of Whites and 35.1% of African-Americans and Others. A rough estimate of child poverty in 2001 calculated by the Census Bureau was 23.0%.



Poverty has always been a serious problem. While the rate among children under age 18 in 1989 was 22.6%, it was 24.2% in 1979 and 37.8% in 1969.

Children and the elderly are the age groups most seriously affected by poverty. In 1999, 18.7% of children 0 - 5 (12.7% White, 35.9% African-American and Other), and 17.2% of children 6 - 17 (10.2% White, 33.5% African-American and Other), lived in poverty; 8.7% of persons 65 years and older lived in poverty. Historically, the poverty rate among the elderly was much higher. During the last three decades, federal policy actions have substantially improved the economic status of older persons but have not done so for children.

Single-parent families are most likely to be poor. In 1999, 36.9% of children in single-parent families lived in poverty, but only 8.6% of children in married-couple families were poor. Children in single-parent families made up 58.6% of all the county's children living in poverty.

In 2002, the poverty level was $15,020 for a family of three and $18,100 for a family of four. The poverty threshold is often criticized as an arbitrary number. People can still be poor but may be just above the poverty level. Federal programs utilize varying thresholds. For example, in 1999 there were 18,643 children ages 0-17 who were less than 200 percent of poverty; thus an additional 11,080 children were above the poverty level but could still be considered poor or near-poor with incomes below $30,040 and $36,200 respectively for 3 and 4 person families.

Children Under 18 in Poverty in 1999

Percent of Poverty	Total		White		African American & Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 50%	3,569	8.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 100%	7,563	18.3%	3,404	11.5%	4,159	35.1%
Under 125%	10,514	25.4%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 150%	13,728	33.2%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 175%	16,552	40.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 185%	17,673	42.8%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 200%	18,643	45.1%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total Children	41,929		29,919		12,010	

Note: Missing data will be released by the Census Bureau later in 2003, and will be posted on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

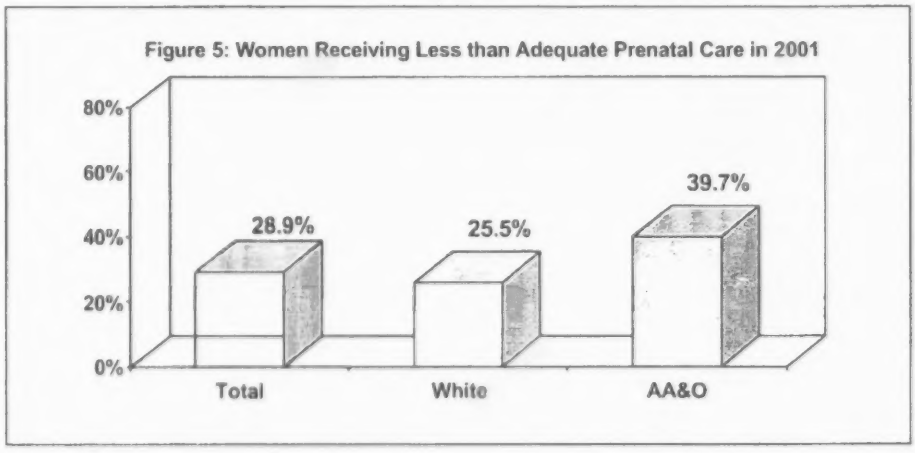
Income: The mean income of families with children in 1999 was $50,144. In 1989 it was $44,186, and 1979, it was $38,036, adjusted for inflation (i.e., in 1999 dollars). The mean income of single-parent families with children was $24,200 for single parents in 1999, as compared with $61,758 in married-couple families with children. From 1999 to 2000, Horry County real dollar per capita income (eliminating inflation) increased by 0.4%.

Child Support Payments: There were 1,409[7] families receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families in fiscal year 2002, but only 17.1 % had child support court orders. Their average monthly payment of child support was $ 276, including child support receipts and tax refund intercepts. In addition, during fiscal year 2002, an estimated 3,118 parents in non-TANF families were obligated to pay a monthly average of $ 236. Information is not available regarding the amount actually paid.

HEALTH

Good health during a child's formative years helps children to reach their maximum potential. Good health requires healthy lifestyles and effective primary care, starting during the prenatal period and continuing through adolescence into adulthood. Children's health reflects the well-being of the community, as well as how adequately they are protected.

Prenatal Care: Early and continuous prenatal care can make a significant difference in assuring births of healthy babies. Delayed or insufficient prenatal care is associated with low birthweight and other health risks for infants. In 2001, 652, or 25.2% of pregnant women received no prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy. In 2001, 748, or 28.9% of pregnant women received less than adequate prenatal care: 501 or 25.5% of Whites and 247 or 39.7% of African-Americans and Others. In that same year, 16 women received no prenatal care at all.



Low Birthweight: Low birthweight of less than 5.5 pounds and very low birthweight of less than 3.3 pounds are associated with health risks and growth and development problems. In 2001, 217 or 8.4% of all babies in the county were born with low birthweight: 11.7% of African-American and Other babies and 7.3% of White babies. During 1999-2001, approximately 119 or 1.6% of all babies were born with very low birthweight and had the most serious complications: 1.3% of White babies and 2.5% of African-American and Other babies. The cost of hospitalization for each newborn low birthweight baby in the county in 1999 - 2001 was $7,033 and $41,848 for each very low birthweight baby, compared with $1,493 for a baby of normal birthweight. The result was excess cost in the county of $1,545,995 for all low birthweight babies, of which $1,143,385 was for very low birthweight babies.

Infant Mortality: During the decade since 1989-91, the overall infant mortality rate decreased by 19.3% from 10.6 to 8.5 per 1000 live births. For Whites, the rate decreased 35.2% from 6.6 to 4.3 per 1000 live births, while for African-Americans and Others the rate increased 4.0% from 20.5 to 21.3 per 1000 live births. Over the three-year period 1999-2001, 24 White and 40 African-American and Other infants died before age one. By comparison, 32 White and 40 African-American and Other infants died during 1989-91.

[7] Number is an unduplicated count for the entire fiscal year.

Child Injuries and Deaths: Childhood deaths and injuries reflect whether communities are safe for children. In 2001, children in the Horry County went to the emergency room 5,739 times because of injuries. Boys are injured more often than girls. Children visit the emergency room at comparable rates for each age from 0 to 17.

In South Carolina, the major causes of death among young children are unintentional injuries, cancer, homicide, and congenital anomalies. Over the three year period 1999-2001, 21 White and 5 African-American and Other children ages 1-14 died in the county. During 1989-91, 23 White and 14 African-American and Other children died.

Immunization: Immunization rates are an important indication of whether young children are receiving adequate preventive health care. During FY 1989-90, 52.5% of children less than two years old seen in public health clinics were not fully immunized against such preventable diseases as Polio, Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Haemophilus Influenza B and Whooping Cough. After a concerted statewide campaign to increase immunizations, the percentage of children seen in public health clinics who were not fully immunized in January 2001 had declined in the county to 19.0%. The DHEC statewide birth registry survey of all two year old children found that 88.1% were fully immunized in 2001. This success demonstrates the potential to improve the status of children when the leadership of the state and its communities act decisively together.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Children and youth are infected with sexually transmitted diseases through sexual abuse or irresponsible sexual activity. National prevalence rates indicate: a 1 in 8 chance that sexually active 15 year-old girls will develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), the most rapidly increasing cause of infertility; 10% of sexually active adolescent girls and boys are infected with chlamydia, the most common cause of PID; and as many as 15% of teen girls are infected with human papilloma virus, often with strains linked to cervical cancer. Furthermore, research evidence indicates that susceptibility to HIV/AIDS increases by 3 to 8 times through prior infection with various STDs.

According to national studies, approximately 1 in 4 sexually experienced youth aged 13-19 acquires a STD ever year; since two-thirds of all high school students have had sexual intercourse and half engage in intercourse over a thr month period, this would suggest that 10-15% of teens are infected with STDs annually. For 2000, this would indicate th an estimated 1,670 to 2,505 youth ages 13-19 in the county were infected with a STD. Many infections are either n identified for treatment or not reported. In the county, there were 18 reported cases of children under age 15 and 124 you ages 15 - 19 infected with gonorrhea; 14 youth under 15 and 238 ages 15 - 19 were reported infected with chlamydi Youth with undiagnosed and untreated STDs often spread their infections.

Healthy Lifestyles: Although no county data is available, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2001 found that mai high school students are not following good health habits. The YRBS revealed that 26% felt that they were overweight; 42 were trying to lose weight: 27% of boys and 57% of girls. Although during a week 79% of high school students ate fru 59% ate salad, and over 83% ate vegetables, only 17% ate the recommended five or more servings of fruit and vegetabl per day. During a week, 49% did stretching or muscle strengthening exercises, and 59% exercised three or more times f 20 minutes in sports that made them sweat or breathe hard. However, 11% of students engaged in no vigorous or modera activity at all during a week: 8% of boys and 13% of girls.

Tobacco Use:* Cigarette smoking starts at a young age and often becomes habitual. In the state during 2002 among all students 15 and older, 16.7% first smoked by age 11, 36.3% by age 13, and 51.4% by age 15. In a typical month, 17.1% of 7th and 8th graders and 25.3% of high school students smoked cigarettes. White youths were much more likely than African-Americans to smoke: 26.4% of White male and 27.2% of White female 7th to 12th graders used cigarettes, as compared with 18.9% of African-American males and 12.2% of African American females. A smaller but significant group of high school students (5.4%) used smokeless tobacco monthly; it was used primarily by White males (15.9% compared with 1.1% of all other race and sex groups).

* Schools in the county elected not to participate in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking. Therefore, data for all of South Carolina is presented here.

Disabilities: No data are collected on the true prevalence of disabilities within the county. According to national reported estimates, over 10% of children and youth have developmental disabilities at any point in time, and more than 17 are affected at some time before age 18 by deafness, blindness, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, speech defects, development delays, learning disabilities, and emotional or behavioral problems. For 2000 this suggests that at least 4,193 children ar youth under age 18 in the county are currently affected by disabilities.

Approximately 5% of children and youth nationally have serious disabilities which have lifelong implications f work, social life and community living. Typically among children and youth, there are 1 - 2% who are mentally retarded, - 3% with serious emotional disturbances, over 1% with orthopedic or multiple disabilities, including cerebral palsy an many hereditary conditions, and under 1% with visual or hearing impairments.

Other chronic health problems also affect the lives of many children. Over 3% of children have one or more these limitations. Such serious chronic conditions affect 1 - 2% who have respiratory problems (asthma and chron bronchitis), 0.5 - 1.0% with neurological problems (epilepsy and seizures), and less than 1% with circulatory problen (congenital heart defects and acquired diseases).

Other disabilities are identified primarily in school performance. These would include 2,555 students in grades 12 with learning disabilities and 682 students in grades 1-12 with speech/language deficits.

Disabilities are caused by genetics, disease, poor prenatal conditions, injuries, and environmental factors. For example, lead exposure, primarily from paint dust, was detected in over 1% of all children screened, including 13 in Horry County.

Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: While over 20% of 9-17 year olds meet diagnostic criteria for some form of mental disorder, the number with serious emotional disturbance and impaired functioning in family, school, or community activities is: 9-13% for substantial functional impairment and 5-9% for extreme functional impairment. The rates among poor children are at the higher end of these ranges. Based on a federal formula for estimating prevalence, in the county there are 12% or 2,562 seriously emotionally disturbed 9-17 year olds with substantial functional impairment and 8% or 1,708 with extreme functional impairment during the course of a year. Conduct disorders, attention deficit, depression, and anxiety disorders are the most prevalent, each affecting 3% or more of school-aged children. These disorders may occur simultaneously in a child. The prevalence rates are highest among males, adolescents, and disadvantaged persons in communities under stress and lacking social cohesion; depression, however, is more prevalent among females. On the YRBS, 20% of boys and 33% of girls in high school reported that during the past year they felt so sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that they stopped doing some usual activities. Another indicator of emotional problems is the 8% of high school students in South Carolina who reported that they had "attempted suicide" in the past year: 5% of boys and 10% of girls. Suicide attempts resulted in 4% of high school students reporting that they required treatment by a doctor or nurse for injury, poisoning, or overdose.

Inadequate Healthcare: No county level data is routinely collected regarding the number of children and youth with inadequate healthcare. According to estimates for 2000-02 by the Bureau of the Census through the annual Current Population Survey, the statewide average rate of uninsured children and youth under age 18 in families with incomes under 200% of poverty in South Carolina was 16.6%, and 9.9% above 200% of poverty. If these rates are applied to the county, there are 3,099 children in the county below 200% of poverty with no health insurance, and 2,311 children above 200% of poverty with no health insurance, for a total of 5,410 uninsured children in Horry County. The number lacking basic accessible primary care is at least double the number lacking insurance. Those lacking primary care are often dependent on health services at school. The ratio of students to nurses recommended nationally is 750:1. In the county, this would suggest the need for 38 nurses, compared with 41 currently working in the schools.

Medicaid: For several years, the State of South Carolina has emphasized enrolling eligible children into Medicaid. In late 1997, South Carolina implemented its version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, Partners for Healthy Children (PHC), and aggressively pursued outreach enrollment for PHC and Medicaid. As a result, enrollment of children ages 0 through 18 in Horry County has increased by 123.6% from June 1997 to June 2001; thus Medicaid and PHC were serving 51.4% of all children in that age range. The total Medicaid expenditures in South Carolina for services provided to children ages 0 through 18 for state fiscal year 2002 were $991 million, at an average statewide expenditure of $2,343 per child enrolled, approximate Medicaid expenditure for children in the county would be $50.5 million.

In June 2001, the total number of Horry County children, birth through 18, enrolled in Medicaid was 21,534. The total can be broken down into the following age and race groupings:

	White	African American	Hispanic	Other	Total
Children under 1	1,017	550	40	151	1,758
Children 1 - 5	3,604	2,427	89	373	6,493
Children 6 - 14	5,096	4,262	82	380	9,820
Children 15 - 18	1,849	1,500	20	94	3,463
Total	11,566	8,739	231	998	21,534

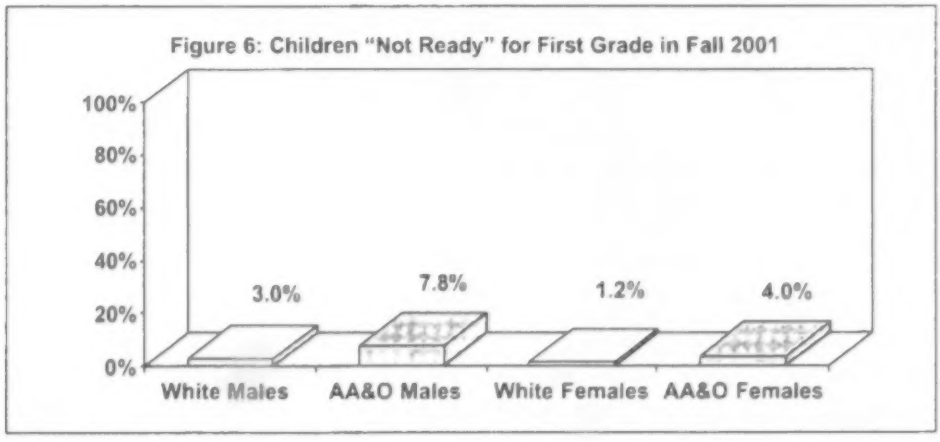
Ambulatory Care: When children lack adequate primary care, whether through lack of insurance, through limite access, or through failing to utilize available care, preventable and treatable conditions become serious and requi hospitalization. A useful indicator of inadequate primary care is the percentage of all hospitalizations that could typicall have been avoided through ambulatory care, especially for pneumonia, asthma, diarrhea and vomiting, dehydration, a severe ear, nose, and throat infections. The share of hospitalizations for these types of conditions could normally be ke below 20%; for children in the county under the age of 18 during 2001, the share was 27.8% for Whites and 29.6% f African-Americans and Others.

READINESS AND EARLY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Too many children reach school without the readiness skills needed for success in learning, such as language, soci skills, visual and auditory discrimination, memory recall, and knowledge of colors, letters, numbers, names of objects, et Likewise, some schools are not ready to respond appropriately to the varying developmental levels of children in the ear grades. As a result, too many students do not experience the success needed to create the motivation and engagement th sustain learning.

1st Grade "Readiness" on 2001-02 Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB):

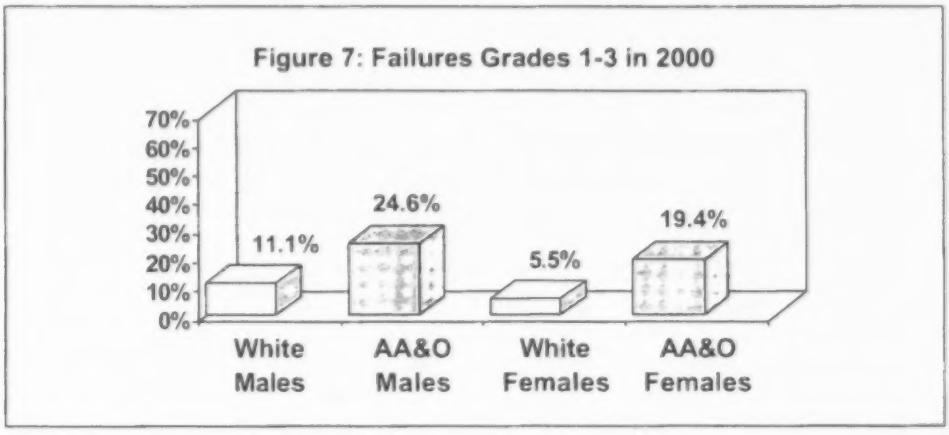
69 children not ready 3.3% children not ready



1st Grade Failures in 2002:

95 children failing 4.2% children failing

Failures Grades 1-3 in 2002 (approximate cumulative percentage of grades one, two and three):	
186 children failing	8.2% children failing



Over-age for Grade 3 in 2001	
302 children over-age	14.7% children over-age

Special Education: Large numbers of children are placed in special education classes. In elementary school, 531 six and seven year olds and 773 eight and nine year-olds were enrolled in special education classes during 2001-02, approximately 11.8% and 16.9% of their age groups respectively: 16.3% of White 8 – 9 year olds were in special education and 18.1% of African American and Others.

Readiness Summary: A serious problem exists in terms of student readiness and school success in the early grades. With 3.3% assessed not ready for the 1st grade, 14.7% over age in grade 3, and 16.9% of eight and nine year-olds placed in special education, unacceptably large numbers of students still begin school without good prospects of success in future school achievement and graduation; however, great improvement has occurred since the mid 1990s.

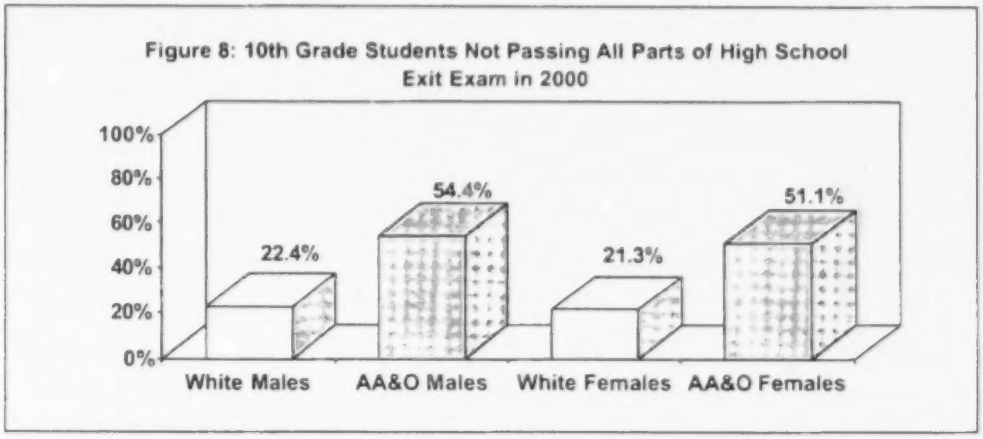
School Achievement

By the end of elementary school, significant numbers of students perform below minimum standards. The following standardized test measures, comparing student performance to state minimum standards, should be used in combination with routine classroom assessments more reflective of real-world performance skills.

Special Education: Special education placements reflect both the significant number of children with serious handicapping conditions and a large number of students with mild learning and behavioral problems that have not been accommodated successfully by the regular educational program. The result is a large system of self-contained, resource, and itinerant services to meet the needs of 682 speech and language impaired, 2,555 learning disabled, 317 emotionally disabled, 795 mentally impaired, and 285 physically handicapped, deaf, blind, and other handicapped students. Special education classes served approximately 16.3% of all students in grades 1 - 12 during 2001-2002.

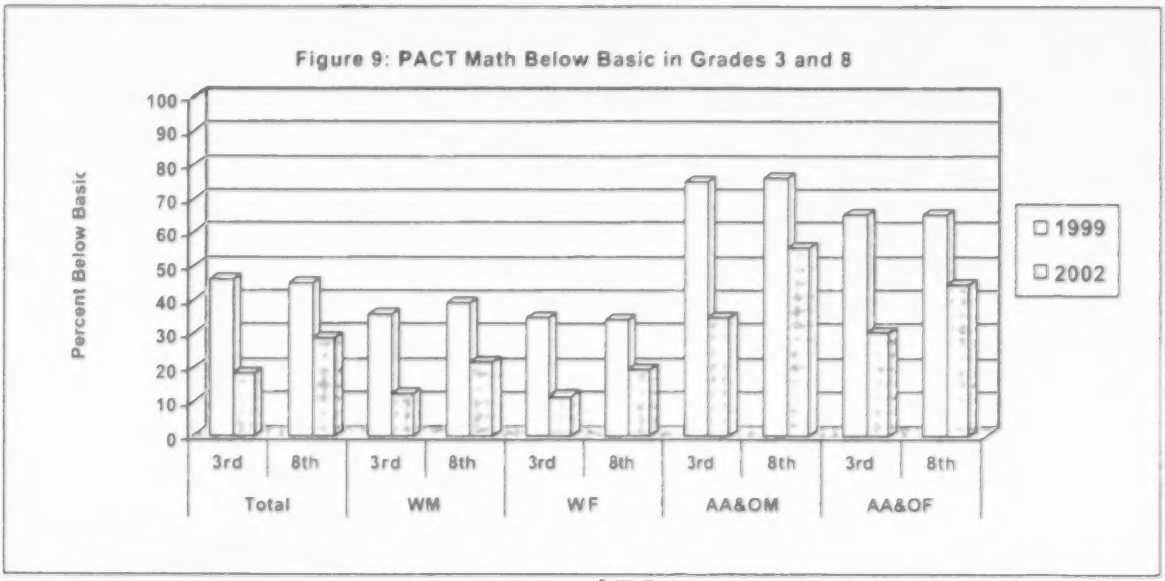
Exit Exam - not passing all parts of Exit Exam on first attempt in the 10th grade in 2002

561 students did not pass all parts — 30.0% of students did not pass all parts



Achievement Trends: How has performance on standardized achievement tests changed over the past 20 years? During the 1980s, student performance on the BSAP tests improved dramatically. Between 1981 and 1990, the percentage of 8th grade students in Horry County who did not meet standards declined from 59% to 18.4% in math and from 45.6% to 13.9% in reading. During the 1990's the BSAP trend changed, with 31.6% not meeting 8th grade math standards in 1998 and 29.7% in reading. On standardized tests, the first year when South Carolina students take the exam is comparable to the challenge encountered by the national norm group which took the test only once. Looking at first year data, the percentage of 4th grade students at or below the 25th percentile of national norms was 24.2% in 1983 on the CTBS, 25.9% in 1990 on the Stanford, and 26.4% in 1995 on the Metropolitan; for 9th graders, the percentage in the bottom quarter was 26.3% in 1990 and 27.1% in 1995. Although not comparable, the percent below basic on the 4th grade PACT in 1999, the first year of administration, was 38.6%, but in 2002 20.1% of 4th graders were below basic in reading and math; the percentage of 8th graders below basic in reading and math averaged 38.4% in 1999 and 28.3% in 2002.

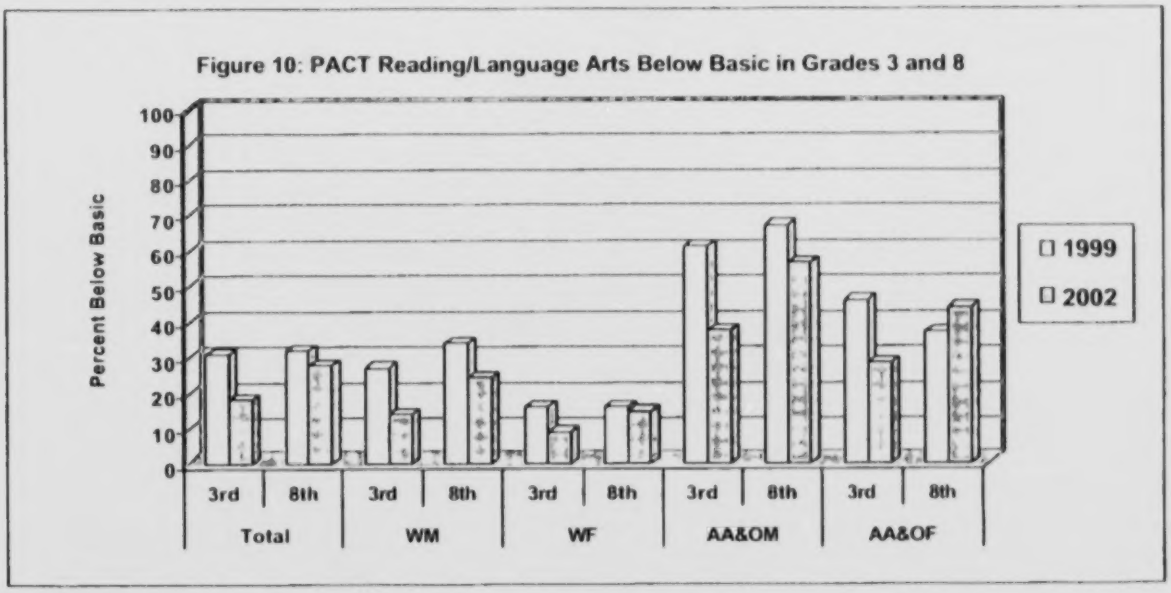
PACT: The Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) was first administered in 1999 for grades 3 - 8 in math and reading/language arts. Math assesses skills in numbers, numerical and algebraic concepts, patterns and functions, geometry, measurement, probability and statistics. The percentage of students scoring below basic in math has decreased by 39.0% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 1,991 students below basic in grades 3-8 but there would have been an additional 1,272 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
		Math (%)				
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	18.4	12.6	11.6	35.0	30.3
	4	20.8	13.7	13.8	41.9	32.1
	5	23.4	18.4	13.0	44.2	40.3
	6	26.5	18.6	14.1	53.7	46.5
	7	33.8	25.0	22.7	63.0	52.8
	8	28.7	21.9	19.3	55.4	44.8
Basic	3	35.1	30.0	32.9	44.3	42.3
	4	30.0	27.0	26.1	32.3	42.3
	5	36.7	31.5	37.5	39.4	44.3
	6	35.7	35.9	39.8	29.4	32.9
	7	31.8	32.0	34.5	24.1	32.7
	8	42.0	41.0	46.6	31.5	43.0
Proficient	3	23.1	27.0	25.9	12.5	18.3
	4	23.2	25.8	27.9	14.5	15.6
	5	21.9	26.8	26.2	11.3	10.4
	6	22.1	24.5	27.1	11.3	15.7
	7	17.5	20.4	22.1	8.7	8.0
	8	18.0	21.4	22.6	8.8	6.5
Advanced	3	23.4	30.3	29.6	8.2	9.2
	4	25.9	33.5	32.2	11.2	9.9
	5	18.0	23.3	23.2	5.2	5.0
	6	15.7	21.1	19.1	5.5	4.9
	7	17.0	22.6	20.7	4.2	6.5
	8	11.3	15.7	11.4	4.4	5.7

Reading/Language Arts assesses reading, listening, speaking, writing, research, and communication with technology. The first PACT assessment found a high percentage of elementary and middle grades students performing below standards and only a modest number above basic. The percentage of students scoring below basic in reading/language arts has decreased by 27.0% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 1,850 students below basic in grades 3 - 8 but there would have been an additional 685 at 1999 performance rates.

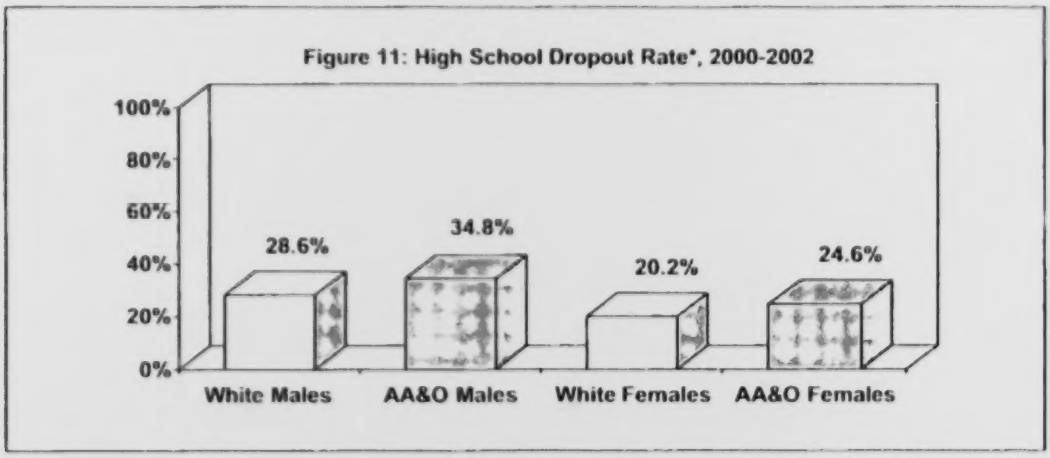
Figure 10: PACT Reading/Language Arts Below Basic in Grades 3 and 8



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
	Reading/Language Arts (%)					
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	18.2	14.1	8.9	37.6	28.2
	4	19.4	17.4	9.2	42.4	24.9
	5	26.1	23.7	11.9	53.5	39.9
	6	27.0	24.4	12.4	54.7	37.8
	7	27.2	24.0	12.8	53.9	42.1
	8	27.9	24.1	14.7	56.4	43.9
Basic	3	33.0	30.0	28.0	40.5	43.3
	4	39.7	40.2	32.6	42.1	51.7
	5	46.2	48.8	45.3	40.3	47.8
	6	35.1	35.9	34.5	32.4	37.8
	7	41.6	42.9	42.4	35.8	41.8
	8	40.1	42.0	42.1	32.4	36.8
Proficient	3	42.3	47.9	53.7	21.0	25.4
	4	37.4	39.5	52.3	14.9	21.6
	5	25.6	25.5	38.9	6.1	12.3
	6	27.8	30.1	36.0	11.0	21.7
	7	25.6	26.5	36.5	9.7	14.2
	8	27.0	29.5	34.8	10.4	16.4
Advanced	3	6.6	7.9	9.3	0.9	3.2
	4	3.4	2.8	5.9	0.7	1.8
	5	2.1	2.0	3.9	0.0	0.0
	6	10.0	9.7	17.1	1.9	2.8
	7	5.6	6.6	8.2	0.6	1.9
	8	5.1	4.4	8.4	0.8	2.9

Dropout Rate - 8th grade students no longer enrolled in grade 12
(average of students for the three years ending 2000-2002)

549 students drop out annually **25.9% students drop out?**



Dropouts: Distressing numbers of students drop out and fail to graduate. An average of 22.7% of 8th graders failed to graduate** from county schools five years later during the period 1980-84, 21.5% during 1985-89, and 23.2% during 1990-94, 28.9% during 1995-97 and 28.6% during 1998-2000***.

During 2001-02, 98.2% of all who did graduate received the State High School Diploma, while the remaining 1.8% received a State Certificate for meeting the required Carnegie units but not passing the Exit Exam.

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*12th grade enrollment compared to 8th grade enrollment four years earlier

** This is calculated by using 8th grade enrollment to graduation data.

*** 2001 data will be available soon and will be posted on the website.

Fortunately, many dropouts enroll in adult education programs and either earn a high school diploma or obtain a GED. During 2001-02, 22 Adult Education high school diplomas were awarded to school completers and in 2001 368 GEDs were awarded in the county. Over time, adult education high school diplomas and GEDs increase the effective school completion rate substantially. In the 2000 Census, 15.8% of county resident 25 - 34 year-olds said they had not completed either high school or a GED.

Achievement Summary: The numbers of students testing below basic on the PACT and dropping out range from 18.2% to 46.5%. Thus, far too many students fail to acquire the knowledge, skills, learning habits, and motivation necessary to compete in the economy or contribute to society in the 21st Century.

ADOLESCENT RISK BEHAVIORS

Academic achievement is greatly influenced by the prevailing youth culture which often promotes popularity with peers and partying rather than studying and doing well in school. The prevalence of adolescent risk-taking and under-achievement is illustrated by the poor grades of substance-abusing teens.

Substance Abuser Rates at Levels of Academic Performance

	Usual School Grades in Past Year					Total
	A Range	B Range	C Range	D Range	F Range	
Smoked Cigarettes (in past 30 days)	13.3%	22.4%	31.7%	42.8%	63.6%	25.3%
Drank 5 or More Drinks on One Occasion (in past 30 days)	12.4%	17.3%	22.6%	26.8%	43.5%	18.9%
Used Any Illicit Drug (in past 30 days)	11.5%	17.1%	25.1%	34.1%	53.0%	20.0%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

As influence from parents and other adults declines during adolescence, significant numbers of students engage in violence, crime, school offenses, depressive emotions and attempted suicide:

Risk Behaviors Participated in During Past 12 Months	White Male		White Female		African American Male		African American Female		Total		Total (Grade 7-12)
	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	
Carried a handgun or knife for self-defense?	22.5%	26.1%	5.3%	6.3%	14.6%	20.2%	5.0%	7.6%	12.2%	14.9%	13.7%
Carried a handgun or knife as a weapon?	6.8%	9.4%	1.3%	1.6%	9.0%	13.9%	3.0%	5.0%	4.8%	6.9%	5.9%
Been in a fight with someone?	40.1%	31.3%	18.5%	16.2%	41.4%	31.9%	29.4%	22.4%	31.7%	24.9%	28.0%
Hit your boyfriend or girlfriend?	2.0%	1.6%	6.9%	10.0%	5.7%	4.9%	17.7%	24.2%	7.4%	9.7%	8.7%
Been hit by your boyfriend or girlfriend?	7.1%	6.1%	6.1%	8.5%	11.5%	9.7%	9.5%	10.6%	8.1%	8.5%	8.3%
Rec'd detention or in-school suspension?	38.1%	37.3%	22.4%	25.0%	41.6%	37.6%	34.3%	30.7%	33.3%	32.1%	32.7%
Been suspended from school?	12.9%	13.9%	5.2%	7.2%	24.0%	22.6%	14.8%	15.4%	13.1%	13.8%	13.5%
Stolen anything worth > $5?	12.9%	17.6%	6.9%	10.7%	14.2%	15.6%	8.5%	8.4%	10.4%	13.1%	11.9%
Had an accident while driving?	NA	14.3%	NA	12.6%	NA	7.7%	NA	6.3%	NA	11.0%	NA
Been arrested and booked?	3.9%	6.1%	1.5%	2.7%	5.7%	8.1%	2.2%	2.9%	3.2%	4.7%	4.0%
Felt hopeless for two weeks or more?	14.8%	15.9%	21.8%	29.0%	14.0%	13.3%	22.0%	24.8%	18.2%	21.4%	19.9%
Seriously considered attempting suicide?	6.9%	8.4%	9.6%	14.3%	5.5%	5.4%	6.8%	8.7%	7.4%	9.7%	8.7%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

Adolescence is often a time of taking risks and asserting independence from adults. When asked whether they would tell an adult about a problem, the following percentages of state students said they would be "not likely" or "very unlikely" to tell if they:

-heard a student threaten to harm someone: 33.2% middle school, 47.0% high school;
-saw a student with a handgun at school: 22.7% middle school, 20.5% high school;
-saw a student with a knife at school: 24.7% middle school, 31.6% high school;
-saw a student with drugs at school: 33.7% middle school, 61.9% high school;

Alcohol Use:* In the state during 2001-02, 21.0% of 7th and 8th graders and 37.1% of high schoolers said they had used alcohol in the past month. Of White males in grades 7 - 12, 33.8% had used it in the past month, compared with 26.0% of African-American males; likewise, 34.5% of White females said they had used alcohol, compared with 26.4% of African-American females. Many youth first used alcohol at an early age: 14.2% had used alcohol by age 11 or younger, 33.0% by age 13, and 61.1% by age 15.

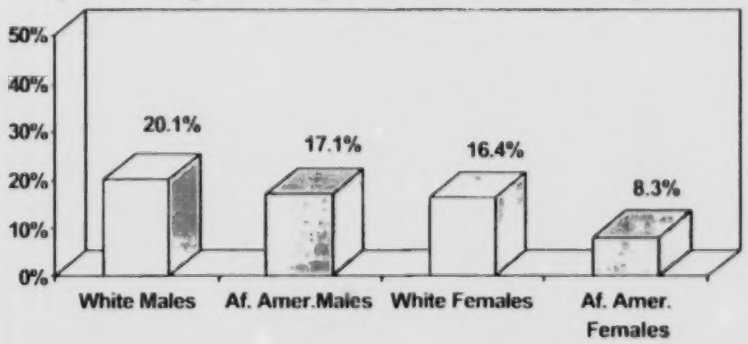
During the previous year, 21.0% of 7th and 8th graders and 30.4% of high schoolers said they had ridden with a drinking driver. Of seniors who drive, 19.4% said they had driven after drinking. Widespread use is encouraged by the ready availability and perceived low risk of alcohol use. Among students who expressed an opinion, 43.6% of eighth graders and 75.4% of seniors felt that beer was easy to get. Also, 71.6% of eighth graders and 70.7% of seniors felt there was not a great risk in drinking two drinks a day, and 47.3% of eighth graders and 53.1% of high schoolers felt there was not a great risk in drinking 5 drinks every weekend.

Heavy Drinking:* In 2001-02, 7.7% of 7th and 8th graders and 18.9% of high school students in the state repor drinking 5 or more drinks in a day during the past month. When asked how many drinks, if any, they usually consur 13.7% of all state students in grades 7 - 12 in 2001-02 responded 3 or more drinks at a time and 7.1% reported usually 5 more drinks. Among high school students, 18.6% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 10.0% 5 or mc Among seniors, 24.7% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 13.7% 5 or more; however 22.9% of seni said that they drank 5 or more drinks in a day once or more during the past month.

Drugs:* In 2001-02, 9.5% of 7th and 8th graders and 20.1% of high schoolers in the state reported using ille drugs during the previous month. Among students in grades 7 - 12, use was reported by 20.1% of White males, 16.4% Wl females, 17.1% of African-American males, and 8.3% of African-American females. Some young people initiated drug at an early age: 5.3% had experienced their first use by age 11 or sooner; 16.3% had used a drug by age 13, and 34.7% by 15.

In the past year, 10.3% of all high school students in the state who drive and 15.4% of seniors who drive said that they had driven after using drugs. Such use is encouraged by the ready availability of drugs: 22.3% of 8th graders who had an opinion said it is easy to get marijuana and 8.4% said it is easy to get cocaine or crack; 65.0% of seniors said it is easy to get marijuana and 29.5% said it was easy to get cocaine or crack.

Figure 12: Drug Use among Students Grades 7-12 during 2001-02*



* Schools in the county elected not to participate in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking. Therefore, data for all of South Carolina is presented here. The latest Horry County data, for 1992-93, is available on the Kids Count website at www.sckidscount.org.

Sexual Activity and Pregnancy: Many teenagers now engage in sexual activity. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) administered to a representative sample of high school students throughout South Carolina in 2001 showed that sexual activity begins at an early age: 7% of female and 21% of male students have engaged in intercourse before age 13; by age 15, 38% the females and 49% of males have engaged in sexual intercourse. Statewide, 48% of females and 50% of males in the 11th and 12th grades reported engaging in intercourse during the past three months. Furthermore, 27% of female and 33% of male 12th graders have had intercourse with four or more partners during their lifetimes.

Premature sexual activity often results in pregnancy. In the county, 160 girls between the ages of 14 and 17 became pregnant in 1999, 170 in 2000 and 157 in 2001. This represented 3.2% of all girls ages 14 – 17 in 2001; several times this percentage become pregnant at least once by age 18. The 2001 pregnancy rate for ages 14 - 17 was 2.8% for Whites and 4.6% for African-Americans and Others. Of all pregnancies of 14-17 year olds, 75.8% resulted in live births, with almost all other pregnancies ending in abortions.

Teen pregnancy rates increased substantially across the state during the 1980s; as a result, greater emphasis v devoted to preventing teen pregnancy. Since 1989, the teen pregnancy rate in Horry County has decreased by 47.2%. Over it has decreased by 40.4% for Whites, and decreased by 48.9% for African Americans and Others.

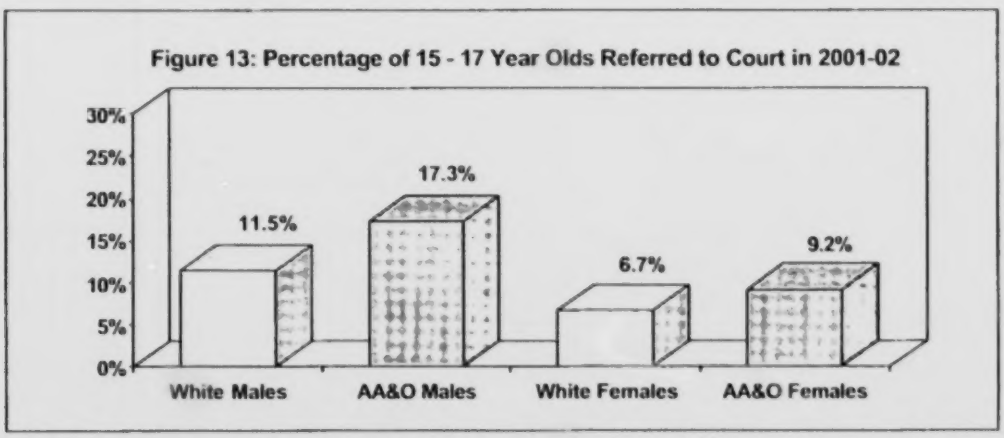
Juvenile Delinquency: In 2001-02, 1,440 individual juvenile offenders in the county were referred to the Solicitor for delinquency; of these, 17.7% were age 12 or younger, 29.2% were 13 or 14, and 53.1% were 15 or older.

Of the referrals to the family court, 6.0% of all referrals were for violent and serious crimes which include drug trafficking, acts against persons for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and serious property offenses for arson and burglary. Also, 329 juvenile cases constituting 15.8% of all referrals were for status offenses. Status offenses include truancy, running away, incorrigibility, and other offenses that would not be crimes for adults.

Delinquents are likely to live in families with low income: 48.8% lived in families with income under $10,000, 27.4% with $10,000-$19,999 and 23.8% with $20,000 or more. Furthermore, only 20.9% of delinquents lived with both natural parents, while 55.5% lived in a single parent household, 21.3% lived with other relatives, and 2.4% in other situations including parent plus step-parent. Delinquency or criminal activity occurs among many related family members: 27.9% had at least one family member who was delinquent or had some criminal record.

Youth referred to the family courts are likely to have been there before. In 2001-02, 52.5% had at least one prior referral and 19.2% had been referred to court 3 times or more. Many were referred at an early age. For delinquents 15 - 17 years old, 2.5% had been referred by the age of 10, 8.6% by the age of 12, and 24.3% by the age of 14.

During 2001-02, 756 youth ages 15 to 17 were referred to the family courts. In the county, 10.3% of all youth 15 to 17 were referred to court in one year and roughly double that percentage are referred at least once by age 18. Furthermore, the National Youth Survey indicates that typically across the United States the proportion of youth engaging in crime is two or three times the number ever apprehended. In 2001-02, there were 145 juveniles committed from the county to DJJ custody and placed in residential programs.



Not in School or Employed: During 2000, 1,116 teenagers ages 16-19 were idle, meaning they neither worked any hours nor were enrolled in school, even part-time. Idle teens comprised 11.1% of their age group: 9.9% for White and 14.3% African-American & Other teens. A much larger number, perhaps twice as many, were not engaged in either school full time or work full time. The data reflect a serious failure in both school completion and the critical transition from school to work, significantly affecting their development as future workers. For an in-depth description of the problems of young adults seeking to enter the labor force, visit our website at www.scyoungadults.org for our state and county reports on 18-29 year olds.

Deaths: During 1997-2001, 44 youth ages 15 to 19 died. Historically, automobile accidents have been the major cause, resulting in 23 deaths between 1996 and 2000; homicides killed 4 youth 15 to 19 years old during the five-year period, and 0 youth committed suicide. Alcohol use is often a significant factor in deaths among teenagers.

Summary

Facing the Scope of Problems: The data on families, economic status, health, readiness, school achievement, and adolescent risk behaviors provide a troublesome picture of the condition of children in Horry County. The 31.1% of children in single-parent families, 18.3% in poverty, 28.6% not graduating from school, 37.1% of high school students using alcohol and 20.1% using drugs each month, and other data profiled in this report suggest that too many children are at risk of not growing up to become self-supporting adults, good family members, and responsible community citizens.

Emphasizing the Positive: South Carolina Kids Count reports have been developed to describe the problems of children in each of the counties. Fortunately, the majority of children and youth are doing well, and some very well. One simple description is the percentage of children who do not fall into the problem categories reported. For the county, 85.7% of children are born to non-teen mothers ages 20 or older, 58.2% are born to married parents, and 68.9% lived in two-parent families; 81.7% were not poor and 54.9% lived in families with incomes above twice the poverty level for a family of three, $30,040 in 2002; 91.6% of babies were born with normal birthweights; 96.7% were assessed as ready for the first grade, 71.3% scored basic or better on PACT for 8th grade math and 72.1% for 8th grade reading, 70.0% passed all parts of the Exit Exam in the 10th grade, and 71.4% graduated with their class. In a typical month, 62.9% of high school students do not drink alcohol, 79.9% do not use drugs, and 74.7% do not smoke. Unfortunately, the absence of a problem is not always an indicator of success. Some data is available for exemplary performance: for example, 48.9% of 3rd graders and 32.1% of 8th graders scored proficient or advanced on PACT in reading and 46.5% of 3rd graders and 29.3% of 8th graders in math. Unfortunately, data on success is not generally available.

Despite the limitations of success data, we must emphasize the positive in providing good support and appropriate influences for children and youth. Recent philosophy and publications such as those of the Search Institute (700 South Third Street, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN, 55415-1138, tel. 1-800-888-7828, www.search-institute.org), emphasize the critical importance of "developmental assets" to promote and support positive development. One short book from the Search Institute, (What Kids Need to Succeed, by Peter J. Benson, Judy Gailbraith, and Pamela Espeland, 1995) presents an excellent array of suggestions for promoting developmental assets through families, community, faith congregations, and schools. If each family, school, religious congregation and community organization assertively worked to build such assets, the problems described in this report would be reduced dramatically. Such positive family-school-community efforts could improve South Carolina's national Kids Count ranking from the bottom 10 to the average or even into the top 10 by prevention of unnecessary problems affecting children and youth, as shown on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

All data presented in this report is the most recent available at the date it goes to the printer. This version of the Kids Count report will be revised as more recent and additional data become available. Please send us your corrections and suggestions for improvement. We welcome your ideas for ways to make the state and county reports more useful and accurate. Please utilize local data sources whenever possible to supplement the profile provided through our report.

Data related inquiries should be directed to:

Anne Wilson, Data Manager (awilson@drss.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-4810

Calls for **copies of reports** for other counties and inquiries regarding more recent reports should be made to:

Kim Hazel-Lohr, Project Manager (khazel@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-1295

For **policy questions and general comments**, please contact:

Dr. A. Baron Holmes, Project Director (bholmes@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-2291

Comparable reports for all 46 counties and for the state can also be found on the World Wide Web at

www.sckidscount.org

Our website also provides: links to other websites for indicators in our report; high to low rankings for individual indicators; information on how to improve SC's national rank; and a glossary of definitions.

The national Kids Count Report can be found on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website at www.aecf.org

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Horry County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Indicators	Most Recent Year	Number					Percent					R	
		1980*	1990*	Most Recent Data	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980 Rank	199
Health													
Low Birth Weight	2001	145	201	217	+49.7%	+8.0%	7.6	8.7	8.4	9.8%	-3.2%	12	
White babies	*2001*	*65*	*127*	*144*	*+121.5%*	*+13.4%*	*5.2*	*7.6*	*7.3*	*40.4%*	*-3.3%*	*12*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*80*	*74*	*73*	*-8.8%*	*-1.4%*	*12.3*	*11.7*	*11.7*	*-4.9%*	*0.4%*	*24*	
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	2001	514	1,051	748	-45.5%	-28.8%	27.1	45.4	28.9	6.6%	-36.3%	4	
White babies	*2001*	*213*	*671*	*501*	*+135.2%*	*-25.3%*	*17.1*	*39.9*	*25.5*	*49.1%*	*-36.1%*	*4*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*301*	*379*	*247*	*-17.9%*	*-34.8%*	*46.5*	*59.9*	*39.7*	*-14.6%*	*-33.7%*	*9*	
Infant Mortality	2001	90	72	64	-28.9%	-11.1%	1.6	1.1	0.9	-48.2%	-19.3%	23	
White babies	*2001*	*39*	*32*	*24*	*-38.5%*	*-25.0%*	*1.1*	*0.7*	*0.4*	*-59.4%*	*-35.2%*	*18*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*51*	*40*	*40*	*-21.6%*	*+0.0%*	*2.9*	*2.0*	*2.1*	*-26.5%*	*4.0%*	*39*	
Family													
Births to mothers under 18	2001	145	145	120	-17.2%	-17.2%	7.6	6.3	4.6	-39.9%	-26.5%	11	
White babies	*2001*	*61*	*68*	*70*	*+14.8%*	*+2.9%*	*4.9*	*4.0*	*3.6*	*-26.4%*	*-11.0%*	*17*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*84*	*77*	*50*	*-40.5%*	*-35.1%*	*13.0*	*12.2*	*8.0*	*-38.0%*	*-33.9%*	*27*	
Births to mothers under 20	2001	385	380	370	-3.9%	-2.6%	20.3	16.4	14.3	-29.6%	-12.8%	20	
White babies	*2001*	*191*	*218*	*236*	*+23.6%*	*-8.3%*	*15.3*	*13.0*	*12.0*	*-21.7%*	*-7.4%*	*18*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*194*	*162*	*134*	*-30.9%*	*+17.3%*	*29.9*	*25.6*	*21.5*	*-28.0%*	*-15.8%*	*37*	
Births to mothers with less than a high school education	2001	573	553	600	+4.7%	+8.5%	30.2	23.9	23.2	-23.2%	-2.8%	12	
White babies	*2001*	*298*	*337*	*405*	*+35.9%*	*+20.2%*	*23.9*	*20.0*	*20.8*	*-13.8%*	*2.8%*	*14*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*275*	*216*	*195*	*-29.1%*	*-9.7%*	*42.4*	*34.1*	*31.4*	*-26.1%*	*-8.1%*	*39*	
Births to single mothers****	2001	389	745	1,083	+178.4%	+45.4%	20.5	32.2	41.8	103.7%	29.9%	10	
White babies	*2001*	*82*	*330*	*614*	*+648.8%*	*+86.1%*	*6.6*	*19.6*	*31.2*	*374.5%*	*59.0%*	*25*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*307*	*415*	*469*	*+52.8%*	*+13.0%*	*47.4*	*65.6*	*75.4*	*59.2%*	*15.0%*	*26*	
Children in single parent families	2000	4,753	7,305	11,433	+140.5%	+56.5%	16.9	23.8	31.1	84.2%	30.8%	12	
White	*2000*	*2,379*	*3,865*	*6,409*	*+169.4%*	*+65.8%*	*11.4*	*16.8*	*23.5*	*106.3%*	*40.0%*	*41*	
African American and Other	*2000*	*2,338*	*3,362*	*5,024*	*+114.9%*	*+49.4%*	*29.4*	*44.7*	*53.0*	*80.2%*	*18.5%*	*35*	
Education													
Not Ready for Grade 1	2001	596	456	69	-88.4%	-84.9%	38.3	23.0	3.3	-91.4%	-85.7%	25	
White males	*2001*	*155*	*115*	*23*	*-85.2%*	*-80.0%*	*30.9*	*16.9*	*3.0*	*-90.3%*	*-82.2%*	*23*	
White females	*2001*	*112*	*77*	*8*	*-92.9%*	*-89.6%*	*24.2*	*12.1*	*1.2*	*-95.0%*	*-90.1%*	*34*	
African American and Other males	*2001*	*181*	*158*	*25*	*-86.2%*	*-84.2%*	*61.8*	*45.0*	*7.8*	*-87.4%*	*-82.7%*	*34*	
African American and Other females	*2001*	*148*	*106*	*13*	*-91.2%*	*-87.7%*	*49.5*	*34.1*	*4.0*	*-91.9%*	*-88.3%*	*32*	
Repeating Grades 1-3	2000	282	323	276	-2.1%	-14.6%	18.4	17.1	12.6	-31.5%	-26.3%	26	
White males	*2000*	*74*	*89*	*85*	*+14.9%*	*-4.5%*	*15.4*	*13.6*	*11.1*	*-27.9%*	*-18.4%*	*20*	
White females	*2000*	*38*	*65*	*40*	*+5.3%*	*-38.5%*	*8.2*	*10.4*	*5.5*	*-32.9%*	*-47.1%*	*16*	
African American and Other males	*2000*	*105*	*90*	*83*	*-21.0%*	*-7.8%*	*35.8*	*28.4*	*24.6*	*-31.3%*	*-13.4%*	*35*	
African American and Other females	*2000*	*64*	*79*	*66*	*+3.1%*	*-16.5%*	*21.7*	*26.7*	*19.4*	*-10.6%*	*-27.3%*	*31*	
Grade 3 Math below standards****	2002	609	176	379	-37.8%	+115.3%	41.5	9.9	18.4	-55.7%	85.9%	22	
White males	*2002*	*157*	*41*	*92*	*-41.4%*	*+124.4%*	*32.4*	*6.4*	*12.6*	*-61.1%*	*96.9%*	*29*	
White females	*2002*	*123*	*41*	*81*	*-34.1%*	*+97.6%*	*26.5*	*6.5*	*11.6*	*-56.2%*	*78.5%*	*21*	
African American and Other males	*2002*	*168*	*44*	*120*	*-28.6%*	*+172.7%*	*68.6*	*18.2*	*35.0*	*-49.0%*	*92.3%*	*41*	
African American and Other females	*2002*	*160*	*50*	*86*	*-46.3%*	*+72.0%*	*59.0*	*19.2*	*30.3*	*-48.6%*	*57.8%*	*40*	
Grade 3 Reading below standards****	2002	443	88	374	-15.6%	+325.0%	30.2	5.0	18.2	-39.8%	264.0%	13	
White males	*2002*	*122*	*27*	*103*	*-15.6%*	*+281.5%*	*25.2*	*4.2*	*14.1*	*-44.0%*	*235.7%*	*17*	
White females	*2002*	*60*	*11*	*62*	*+3.3%*	*+463.6%*	*13.0*	*1.8*	*8.9*	*-31.5%*	*394.4%*	*8*	
African American and Other males	*2002*	*134*	*28*	*129*	*-3.7%*	*+360.7%*	*54.7*	*12.2*	*37.6*	*-31.3%*	*208.2%*	*20*	
African American and Other females	*2002*	*127*	*22*	*80*	*-37.0%*	*+263.6%*	*46.7*	*8.5*	*28.2*	*-39.6%*	*231.8%*	*34*	
Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT Grade 4	1998	334	456	386	+15.6%	-15.4%	24.2	25.9	21.4	-11.6%	-17.4%	11	
White males	*1998*	*88*	*115*	*96*	*+9.1%*	*-16.5%*	*19.8*	*18.9*	*14.5*	*-26.8%*	*-23.3%*	*12*	
White females	*1998*	*52*	*92*	*75*	*+44.2%*	*-18.5%*	*10.6*	*14.8*	*11.7*	*10.4%*	*-20.9%*	*12*	
African American and Other males	*1998*	*104*	*141*	*105*	*+1.0%*	*-25.5%*	*52.0*	*50.4*	*48.8*	*-6.2%*	*-3.2%*	*21*	
African American and Other females	*1998*	*83*	*106*	*108*	*+30.1%*	*+1.9%*	*39.5*	*42.9*	*40.7*	*3.0%*	*-5.1%*	*29*	

*Year of data is approximate in many cases.
**1 is best, 46 is worst.
*** Data include paternity acknowledgements.
**** BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Horry County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Education (continued)

Indicators		Number					Percent				
	Most Recent Year	1980*	1990*	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres
Grade 8 Math below state standards**	2002	915	308	551	-39.8%	+78.9%	59.0	18.4	28.7	-51.4%	56.0%
White males	*2002*	*257*	*78*	*158*	*-38.5%*	*+102.6%*	*48.4*	*12.6*	*21.9*	*-54.8%*	*73.8%*
White females	*2002*	*229*	*77*	*129*	*-43.7%*	*+67.5%*	*44.9*	*12.0*	*19.3*	*-57.0%*	*60.8%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*216*	*61*	*139*	*-35.6%*	*+127.9%*	*84.7*	*32.1*	*55.4*	*-34.6%*	*72.6%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*211*	*92*	*125*	*-40.8%*	*+35.9%*	*83.7*	*40.3*	*44.8*	*-46.5%*	*11.2%*
Grade 8 Reading below state standards**	2002	708	234	536	-24.3%	+129.1%	45.6	13.9	27.9	-38.8%	100.7%
White males	*2002*	*187*	*55*	*174*	*-7.0%*	*+216.4%*	*35.1*	*8.9*	*24.1*	*-31.3%*	*170.8%*
White females	*2002*	*137*	*55*	*98*	*-28.5%*	*+78.2%*	*26.9*	*8.6*	*14.7*	*-45.4%*	*70.9%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*207*	*60*	*141*	*-31.9%*	*+135.0%*	*80.5*	*31.1*	*56.4*	*-29.9%*	*81.4%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*175*	*64*	*123*	*-29.7%*	*+92.2%*	*69.2*	*28.1*	*43.9*	*-36.6%*	*56.2%*
Grade 9 Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT	1998	NA	489	556	NA	+13.7%	NA	26.3	27.3	NA	3.8%
White males	*1998*	*NA*	*167*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*24.3*	*20.5*	*NA*	*-15.6%*
White females	*1998*	*NA*	*89*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*13.1*	*16.0*	*NA*	*22.1%*
African American and Other males	*1998*	*NA*	*126*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*53.4*	*56.2*	*NA*	*5.2%*
African American and Other females	*1998*	*NA*	*107*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*41.1*	*46.6*	*NA*	*13.4%*
Exit Exam (not passing all parts on 1st attempt)	2002	658	336	561	-14.7%	+67.0%	39.9	23.2	30.0	-24.8%	29.3%
White males	*2002*	*192*	*87*	*150*	*-21.9%*	*+72.4%*	*30.8*	*17.2*	*22.4*	*-27.3%*	*30.2%*
White females	*2002*	*159*	*81*	*146*	*-8.2%*	*+80.2%*	*26.6*	*14.9*	*21.3*	*-19.9%*	*43.0%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*152*	*83*	*130*	*-14.5%*	*+56.6%*	*73.4*	*46.4*	*54.4*	*-25.9%*	*17.2%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*155*	*84*	*121*	*-21.9%*	*+44.0%*	*69.5*	*38.9*	*51.1*	*-26.5%*	*31.4%*
Dropout Rate (8th graders no longer enrolled in 12th grade 4 years later)	2000-02	285	379	549	+92.9%	+45.0%	17.0	20.7	25.9	52.6%	25.1%
White males	*2000-02*	*97*	*146*	*218*	*+125.9%*	*+49.3%*	*15.8*	*21.6*	*28.6*	*81.1%*	*32.1%*
White females	*2000-02*	*48*	*114*	*150*	*+215.8%*	*+32.2%*	*8.5*	*18.1*	*20.2*	*137.8%*	*11.1%*
African American and Other males	*2000-02*	*70*	*68*	*107*	*+53.5%*	*+56.9%*	*28.8*	*26.0*	*34.8*	*20.7%*	*33.9%*
African American and Other females	*2000-02*	*71*	*51*	*74*	*+4.2%*	*+45.1%*	*27.3*	*19.4*	*24.6*	*-9.9%*	*26.7%*
Young Adults Not Completing High School (18-24)	2000	3,559	3,721	4,311	+21.1%	+15.9%	26.1	24.9	15.8	-39.4%	-36.5%
White males	*NA*	*1,343*	*1,451*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*24.7*	*24.3*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
White females	*NA*	*987*	*989*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*20.1*	*17.1*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other males	*NA*	*568*	*654*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*36.1*	*43.5*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other females	*NA*	*661*	*627*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*38.7*	*37.6*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*

Economics

Poverty Rate	2000	7,399	7,679	7,563	+2.2%	-1.5%	24.2	22.6	18.3	-24.4%	-19.0%
White children	*2000*	*2,936*	*2,885*	*3,404*	*+15.9%*	*+18.0%*	*14.0*	*11.8*	*11.5*	*-17.9%*	*-2.5%*
African American and Other children	*2000*	*4,417*	*4,794*	*4,159*	*-5.8%*	*-13.2%*	*46.7*	*50.4*	*35.1*	*-24.9%*	*-30.4%*
Income of Families w/children (1999 $)	2000	$ 38,036	$ 44,186	$ 50,144	+31.8%	+13.5%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
White families	*2000*	*$ 41,012*	*$ 49,615*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other families	*2000*	*$ 27,354*	*$ 24,192*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*

Adolescent Risk Factors

Teenage Pregnancy (ages 14-17)	2001	198	195	157	-20.7%	-19.5%	5.5	5.0	3.2	-41.3%	-36.0%
White	*2001*	*100*	*110*	*100*	*+0.0%*	*-9.1%*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*2.8*	*-29.1%*	*-28.2%*
African American and Other	*2001*	*98*	*85*	*57*	*-41.8%*	*-32.9%*	*8.9*	*8.0*	*4.6*	*-48.4%*	*-42.5%*
Delinquency	2002	240	247	756	+215.0%	+206.1%	4.3	4.1	10.3	140.2%	151.9%
White males	*2002*	*130*	*111*	*311*	*+139.2%*	*+180.2%*	*6.2*	*4.7*	*11.5*	*85.8%*	*145.1%*
White females	*2002*	*54*	*57*	*176*	*+225.9%*	*+208.8%*	*2.8*	*3.0*	*6.7*	*140.8%*	*124.8%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*42*	*60*	*180*	*+328.6%*	*+200.0%*	*5.1*	*6.6*	*17.3*	*239.4%*	*162.2%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*14*	*19*	*89*	*+535.7%*	*+368.4%*	*1.7*	*2.3*	*9.2*	*439.7%*	*298.9%*

*Closest available data to this year was used in many cases

**BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Kids Count 2003

Jasper County

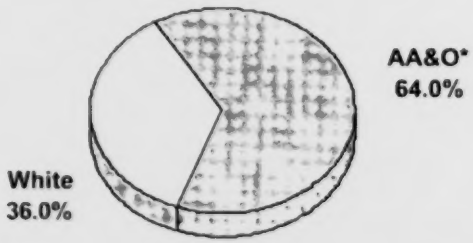
DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2000 there were an estimated 5,541 children under age 18 in the county. Of these, 1,996 were White, 3,262 were African-American, and 283 were other races. There were 4,905 children under age 18 in 1990, 5,155 in 1980, 4,944 in 1970, and 5,672 in 1960.

Children represent a shrinking portion of the county's population. Those under 18 constituted 26.8% of the population in 2000, down from 46.4% in 1960, 41.6% in 1970, and 35.5% in 1980.

In 2000 the 1,825 pre-schoolers under age 6 were 8.8% of the overall population: 8.2% of Whites and 8.9% of African Americans.

Figure 1: Population Ages 0-17 in 2000



* In all charts African-American is combined with other races, and often abbreviated as AA&O. Other races comprise 5.1% of children in the county, with "some other race alone" at 3.5% and 'two or more races" at 0.9% as the largest Other groups.

FAMILY

Families have always been the most important influence in a child's life. Children depend on their families for material needs, stimulation and guidance. Family life is different in numerous ways from previous generations, and many families now face exceptional challenges.

Families with children now make up a smaller share of all households. Only 34.5% of all households in 2000, as compared with 46.0% of households in 1960, had children below the age of 18.

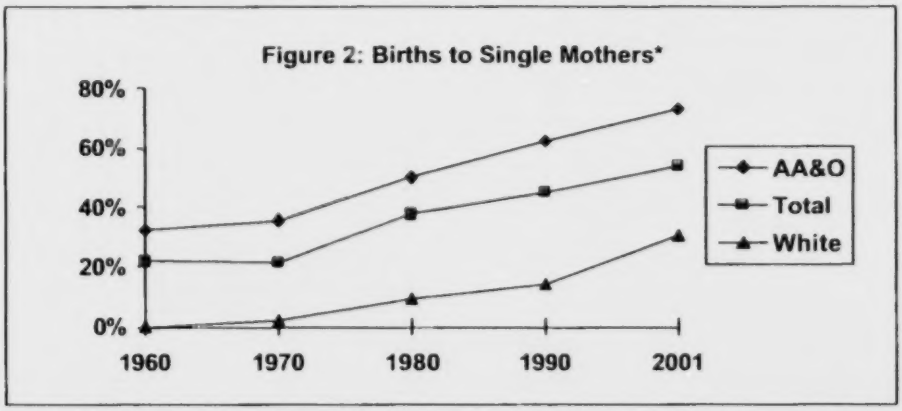
Births to Teen Mothers: In 2001, 30 babies were born to mothers younger than age 18. They were 8.8% of all babies born in the county; 6.6% of all White and 10.8% of all African-American and Other babies were born to teen mothers under the age of 18. Of the babies born to these teens in 2001, 90.0% were born to single mothers, including babies whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers.

In 2001, 76 babies were born to mothers younger than age 20. These babies were 22.4% of all born in the county; 22.4% of all White and 22.6% of all African-American and Other babies were born to mothers under the age of 20. Of the babies born to these mothers in 2001, 76.3% were born to single mothers, including paternity acknowledeged babies.

Education of Mothers Giving Birth: Children's success is strongly influenced by the education of their parents. In 2001, 107 babies, 31.7% of all babies, were born to mothers of all ages who had not completed the 12th grade. In 2001, 42.1% of White and 23.1% of African-American and Other babies were born to mothers who had completed less than the 12th grade. This is a substantial improvement from 57.3% in 1970. In addition, during 2001, 45.6% had completed 12 grades (32.9% of Whites and 55.9% of African Americans and Others) and 22.8% had more than a high school degree (25.0% of Whites and 21.0% of African American and Others).

Births to Single Mothers: Births to single mothers have increased steadily over four decades. In 2001, 131 babies, 38.6% of all babies, were recorded as born to single mothers. A decade earlier in 1990, the percentage was 37.7% and in 1960 it was 21.7%. In 2001, 15.8% of White children and 57.5% of African-American and Other children were born to single mothers. These numbers, however, do not include paternity acknowlegement births.

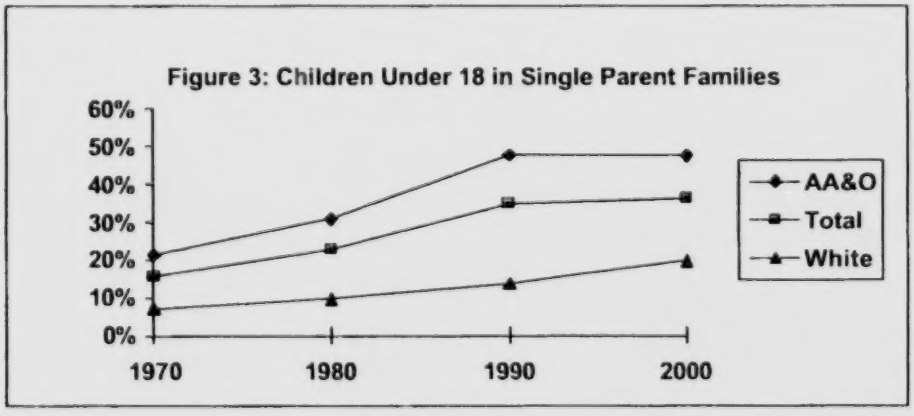
Thus, to these numbers should be added an additional group of 51 babies, 15.0% of all born in 2001, whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers. When the paternity-acknowledged babies are added, the total number born to single mothers in 2001 was 182, constituting 53.7% of all babies, 30.3% of White babies, and 73.1% of African-American and Others.



*Includes paternity acknowleged babies in 1980, 1990 and 2001. Prior to 1979, paternity acknowleged cases were not a statistical category, and thus were included in births to single mothers.

Divorce Rate: In 2001, 1,006 marriage licenses were issued, while 29 divorce decrees involving 23 children were filed. In 1970, only 14 children were in families involved in divorce.

Single-Parent Family: Increasing numbers of children live in single-parent families. In 2000, 1,620 children lived with only one parent. This was 36.3% of all children, up from 34.8% in 1990, 22.8% in 1980, and 15.4% in 1970. In 2000, 19.7% of White and 47.4% of African-American and Other children lived in single-parent families. Also in 2000, 363 or 34.5% of children under age 6 lived in single parent families: 17.8% of White and 48.4% of African American and Other pre-schoolers.



Parents Working and Child Care: Increasingly, parents must divide their time between children and employers. In order to meet family financial needs, most parents must work and thus have less time for family life. In 2000, 61.9% of mothers with children under 6 and 70.5% with children 6 - 17 were in the labor force. This has increased substantially from 1960 when 25.8% of mothers with children under 6 were in the labor force. Most fathers also work: 57.1% of children under 6 are in families where the single parent or both parents work. Caring for children is a problem for parents unable to obtain quality, affordable daycare while they are at work.

Overall, there are 843 spaces in state-regulated childcare facilities* in the county, 74.0% of these are in licensed programs and 26.0% are in registered programs. Of the spaces, 61.7% are in licensed childcare centers serving more than 12 children, 24.2% are in registered or licensed family childcare homes serving six or fewer children, 12.3% are in licensed group childcare homes serving 7-12 children, and 1.8% are in registered or licensed church programs.

The homes and centers are severely constrained by the limited ability of parents to pay. In the county, the average weekly charge is $ 72.50 for centers and $ 77.21 for homes. Consequently, center wages are low: 0% of centers with pre-school staff and 0% of centers with assistant pre-school staff report paying these staff under $6 per hour. Paying $6-$8 per hour are 66.7% of centers with pre-school staff and 100% of centers with assistants. Low wages attract workers with limited education. In 66.7% of centers, most pre-school staff and in 100% of centers most assistants have only a high school degree. In 66.7% of centers few to none of the pre-school staff have early childhood credentials. In childcare homes, 52.1% of lead providers have no more education than a high school degree or GED; 13% have less than a high school degree.

Family Violence: In 2000, 268 domestic assaults were recorded by law enforcement officials. These domestic assaults comprised 29.6% of all assaults, which include aggravated assaults, simple assaults, and intimidation. Overall, 47.4% of all domestic assaults involve spouse abuse which constitutes 14.1% of all assaults. Since most family violence is not reported, the true incidence of family disruption is much more widespread than even the large number of reported cases would indicate.

Separation from Parents: Some children do not live with their natural parents. In 2000, 8.6% of all children did not live with their natural parents. Approximately 343 or 6.2% of all children lived with relatives, 108 or 1.9% lived with non-relatives, 18 or 0.3% were householders or spouses, and 8 or 0.1% were in institutional facilities.

Abuse and Neglect: In 2000-01, there were 100 investigations into reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children. Through its investigations, the Department of Social Services (DSS) determined that 27 of the investigations were indicated for abuse or neglect: 10.3% for physical abuse, 2.6% for sexual abuse, 0.0% for mental injury, 33.3% for physical neglect, 0.0% for educational neglect, 5.1% for medical neglect, 43.6% for threat of harm for physical/sexual abuse, and 5.1% for other types of abuse.

In the indicated cases of abuse and neglect, DSS determined there were 50 children who were victims of abuse or neglect. Of these, 64.0% were male, 36.0% were female; 54.0% were White, 46.0% were African-American and Other. By age, 34.0% were ages 0 - 5, 44.0% were ages 6 - 12, and 22.0% were ages 13 - 17. In the indicated cases, 32.0% of the children lived in two-parent families, 42.0% in single parent families, 18.0% with unmarried couples, and 8.0% in other circumstances.

Out of Home Placements: As of June 2001, 8 children lived in foster care. The median age at first placement in the county is 7.6 years. The ages of children in foster care were 12.5% 0-2, 12.5% 3-5, 37.5% 6-10, .% 11-13, and 37.5% 14 and above. The foster care population is 75.0% males and 25.0% females. Regarding their future, 0.0% were under a plan for placement in adoptive homes, 50.0% for return to a parent or guardian, 0.0% for placement with a relative, 12.5% for independent living, 37.5% for permanent foster care, and 0.0% for other circumstances.

Adult/Child Ratio: A measure of potential adult attention for children from family and community is the ratio of adults to children and youth. In 2000 there were 2.73 adults for every person below age 18. This was up substantially from 1960, when there were only 1.16 adults for every person under the age 18. This indicates that today there are more adults potentially available to provide attention and care for each child than in the past.

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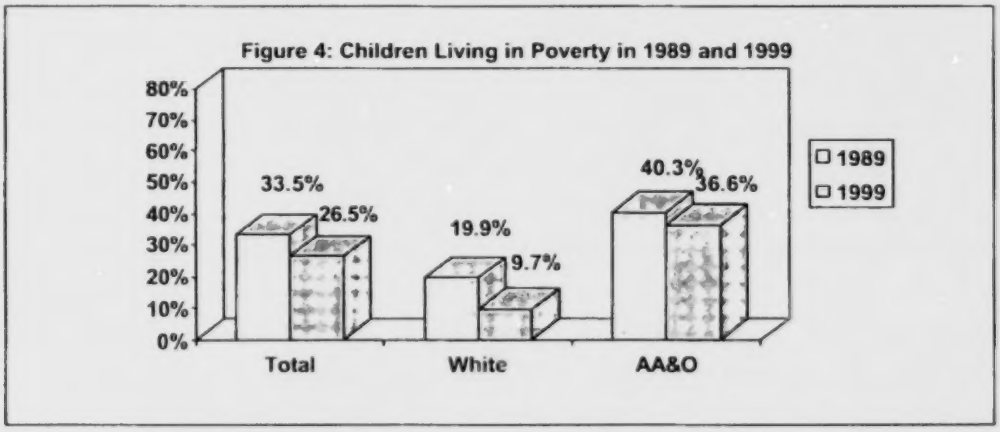
* This data is the best currently available; however, an effort is being made to check the coverage and improve the accuracy. As soon as more recent and complete data becomes available, it will be posted on the website.

ECONOMIC STATUS

Low income makes it difficult for many families to provide the material and environmental enrichment necessary for healthy child development.

Poverty: In 1999, 1,455 children and youth under the age of 18 lved in 640 families with incomes below poverty, comprising 26.5% of all children and youth: 9.7% of Whites and 36.6% of African-Americans and Others. A rough estimate of child poverty in 2001 calculated by the Census Bureau was 23.0%.



Poverty has always been a serious problem. While the rate among children under age 18 in 1989 was 33.5%, it was 35.6% in 1979 and 44.9% in 1969.

Children and the elderly are the age groups most seriously affected by poverty. In 1999, 27.2% of children 0 - 5 (14.6% White, 36.7% African-American and Other), and 25.9% of children 6 - 17 (6.0% White, 36.7% African-American and Other), lived in poverty; 21.4% of persons 65 years and older lived in poverty. Historically, the poverty rate among the elderly was much higher. During the last three decades, federal policy actions have substantially improved the economic status of older persons but have not done so for children.

Single-parent families are most likely to be poor. In 1999, 46.9% of children in single-parent families lived in poverty, but only 14.9% of children in married-couple families were poor. Children in single-parent families made up 61.0% of all the county's children living in poverty.

In 2002, the poverty level was $15,020 for a family of three and $18,100 for a family of four. The poverty threshold is often criticized as an arbitrary number. People can still be poor but may be just above the poverty level. Federal programs utilize varying thresholds. For example, in 1999 there were 3,102 children ages 0-17 who were less than 200 percent of poverty; thus an additional 1,647 children were above the poverty level but could still be considered poor or near-poor with incomes below $30,040 and $36,200 respectively for 3 and 4 person families.

Children Under 18 in Poverty in 1999

Percent of Poverty	Total		White		African American & Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 50%	792	14.4%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 100%	1,455	26.5%	201	9.7%	1,254	36.6%
Under 125%	1,908	34.8%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 150%	2,292	41.7%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 175%	2,745	50.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 185%	2,899	52.8%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 200%	3,102	56.5%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total Children	5,541		1,996		3,545	

Note: Missing data will be released by the Census Bureau later in 2003, and will be posted on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

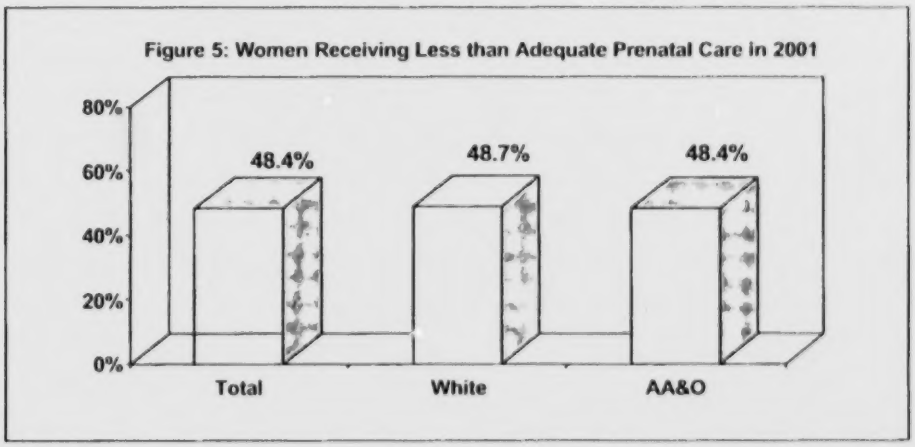
Income: The mean income of families with children in 1999 was $39,953. In 1989 it was $34,932, and 1979, it was $34,046, adjusted for inflation (i.e., in 1999 dollars). The mean income of single-parent families with children was $21,838 for single parents in 1999, as compared with $48,562 in married-couple families with children. From 1999 to 2000, Jasper County real dollar per capita income (eliminating inflation) increased by 3.0%.

Child Support Payments: There were 217[7] families receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families in fiscal year 2002, but only 25.3 % had child support court orders. Their average monthly payment of child support was $ 332, including child support receipts and tax refund intercepts. In addition, during fiscal year 2002, an estimated 458 parents in non-TANF families were obligated to pay a monthly average of $ 226. Information is not available regarding the amount actually paid.

HEALTH

Good health during a child's formative years helps children to reach their maximum potential. Good health requires healthy lifestyles and effective primary care, starting during the prenatal period and continuing through adolescence into adulthood. Children's health reflects the well-being of the community, as well as how adequately they are protected.

Prenatal Care: Early and continuous prenatal care can make a significant difference in assuring births of healthy babies. Delayed or insufficient prenatal care is associated with low birthweight and other health risks for infants. In 2001, 127, or 37.5% of pregnant women received no prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy. In 2001, 164, or 48.4% of pregnant women received less than adequate prenatal care: 74 or 48.7% of Whites and 90 or 48.4% of African-Americans and Others. In that same year, 4 women received no prenatal care at all.



Low Birthweight: Low birthweight of less than 5.5 pounds and very low birthweight of less than 3.3 pounds are associated with health risks and growth and development problems. In 2001, 37 or 10.9% of all babies in the county were born with low birthweight: 11.3% of African-American and Other babies and 10.5% of White babies. During 1999-2001, approximately 10 or 1.1% of all babies were born with very low birthweight and had the most serious complications: 1.4% of White babies and 0.9% of African-American and Other babies. The cost of hospitalization for each newborn low birthweight baby in the county in 1999 - 2001 was $11,260 and $36,079 for each very low birthweight baby, compared with $ 975 for a baby of normal birthweight. The result was excess cost in the county of $121,634 for all low birthweight babies, of which $70,209 was for very low birthweight babies.

Infant Mortality: During the decade since 1989-91, the overall infant mortality rate decreased by 19.5% from 12.6 to 10.1 per 1000 live births. For Whites, the rate increased 545.3% from 3.0 to 19.1 per 1000 live births, while for African-Americans and Others the rate decreased 88.1% from 17.8 to 2.1 per 1000 live births. Over the three-year period 1999-2001, 8 White and 1 African-American and Other infants died before age one. By comparison, 1 White and 11 African-American and Other infants died during 1989-91.

[7] Number is an unduplicated count for the entire fiscal year.

Child Injuries and Deaths: Childhood deaths and injuries reflect whether communities are safe for children. In 2001, children in the Jasper County went to the emergency room 364 times because of injuries. Boys are injured more often than girls. Children visit the emergency room at comparable rates for each age from 0 to 17.

In South Carolina, the major causes of death among young children are unintentional injuries, cancer, homicide, and congenital anomalies. Over the three year period 1999-2001, White and 4 African-American and Other children ages 1-14 died in the county. During 1989-91, 2 White and 7 African-American and Other children died.

Immunization: Immunization rates are an important indication of whether young children are receiving adequate preventive health care. During FY 1989-90, 56.9% of children less than two years old seen in public health clinics were not fully immunized against such preventable diseases as Polio, Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Haemophilus Influenza B and Whooping Cough. After a concerted statewide campaign to increase immunizations, the percentage of children seen in public health clinics who were not fully immunized in January 2001 had declined in the county to 14.8%. The DHEC statewide birth registry survey of all two year old children found that 88.1% were fully immunized in 2001. This success demonstrates the potential to improve the status of children when the leadership of the state and its communities act decisively together.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Children and youth are infected with sexually transmitted diseases through sexual abuse or irresponsible sexual activity. National prevalence rates indicate: a 1 in 8 chance that sexually active 15 year-old girls will develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), the most rapidly increasing cause of infertility; 10% of sexually active adolescent girls and boys are infected with chlamydia, the most common cause of PID; and as many as 15% of teen girls are infected with human papilloma virus, often with strains linked to cervical cancer. Furthermore, research evidence indicates that susceptibility to HIV/AIDS increases by 3 to 8 times through prior infection with various STDs.

According to national studies, approximately 1 in 4 sexually experienced youth aged 13-19 acquires a STD ever year; since two-thirds of all high school students have had sexual intercourse and half engage in intercourse over a three month period, this would suggest that 10-15% of teens are infected with STDs annually. For 2000, this would indicate that an estimated 209 to 314 youth ages 13-19 in the county were infected with a STD. Many infections are either not identified for treatment or not reported. In the county, there were reported cases of children under age 15 and 9 youth ages 15 - infected with gonorrhea; youth under 15 and 27 ages 15 - 19 were reported infected with chlamydia. Youth with undiagnosed and untreated STDs often spread their infections.

Healthy Lifestyles: Although no county data is available, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2001 found that many high school students are not following good health habits. The YRBS revealed that 26% felt that they were overweight; 42 were trying to lose weight: 27% of boys and 57% of girls. Although during a week 79% of high school students ate fruit, 59% ate salad, and over 83% ate vegetables, only 17% ate the recommended five or more servings of fruit and vegetables per day. During a week, 49% did stretching or muscle strengthening exercises, and 59% exercised three or more times for 20 minutes in sports that made them sweat or breathe hard. However, 11% of students engaged in no vigorous or moderate activity at all during a week: 8% of boys and 13% of girls.

Tobacco Use:* Cigarette smoking starts at a young age and often becomes habitual. In the county during 2002 among all students 15 and older, 12.1% first smoked by age 11, 19.2% by age 13, and 31.2% by age 15. In a typical month, 13.9% of 7th and 8th graders and 11.4% of high school students smoked cigarettes. White youths were much more likely than African-Americans to smoke: 27.3% of White male and 37.0% of White female 7th to 12th graders used cigarettes, as compared with 12.0% of African-American males and 8.9% of African American females. A smaller but significant group of high school students (1.5%) used smokeless tobacco monthly; it was used primarily by White males (13.7% compared with 1.0% of all other race and sex groups).

* County participation in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking was not complete but county data is presented to provide the best available picture of teen risk-taking attitudes and behavior in Jasper County. Respondents were disproportionately female (55%) and from middle schools.

Disabilities: No data are collected on the true prevalence of disabilities within the county. According to national reported estimates, over 10% of children and youth have developmental disabilities at any point in time, and more than 17 are affected at some time before age 18 by deafness, blindness, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, speech defects, development delays, learning disabilities, and emotional or behavioral problems. For 2000 this suggests that at least 554 children ar youth under age 18 in the county are currently affected by disabilities.

Approximately 5% of children and youth nationally have serious disabilities which have lifelong implications fo work, social life and community living. Typically among children and youth, there are 1 - 2% who are mentally retarded, - 3% with serious emotional disturbances, over 1% with orthopedic or multiple disabilities, including cerebral palsy an many hereditary conditions, and under 1% with visual or hearing impairments.

Other chronic health problems also affect the lives of many children. Over 3% of children have one or more these limitations. Such serious chronic conditions affect 1 - 2% who have respiratory problems (asthma and chron bronchitis), 0.5 - 1.0% with neurological problems (epilepsy and seizures), and less than 1% with circulatory problen (congenital heart defects and acquired diseases).

Other disabilities are identified primarily in school performance. These would include 134 students in grades 1- with learning disabilities and 55 students in grades 1-12 with speech/language deficits.

Disabilities are caused by genetics, disease, poor prenatal conditions, injuries, and environmental factors. For example, lead exposure, primarily from paint dust, was detected in over 1% of all children screened, including 2 in Jasper County.

Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: While over 20% of 9-17 year olds meet diagnostic criteria for some form of mental disorder, the number with serious emotional disturbance and impaired functioning in family, school, or community activities is: 9-13% for substantial functional impairment and 5-9% for extreme functional impairment. The rates among poor children are at the higher end of these ranges. Based on a federal formula for estimating prevalence, in the county there are 12% or 331 seriously emotionally disturbed 9-17 year olds with substantial functional impairment and 8% or 221 with extreme functional impairment during the course of a year. Conduct disorders, attention deficit, depression, and anxiety disorders are the most prevalent, each affecting 3% or more of school-aged children. These disorders may occur simultaneously in a child. The prevalence rates are highest among males, adolescents, and disadvantaged persons in communities under stress and lacking social cohesion; depression, however, is more prevalent among females. On the YRBS, 20% of boys and 33% of girls in high school reported that during the past year they felt so sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that they stopped doing some usual activities. Another indicator of emotional problems is the 8% of high school students in South Carolina who reported that they had "attempted suicide" in the past year: 5% of boys and 10% of girls. Suicide attempts resulted in 4% of high school students reporting that they required treatment by a doctor or nurse for injury, poisoning, or overdose.

Inadequate Healthcare: No county level data is routinely collected regarding the number of children and youth with inadequate healthcare. According to estimates for 2000-02 by the Bureau of the Census through the annual Current Population Survey, the statewide average rate of uninsured children and youth under age 18 in families with incomes under 200% of poverty in South Carolina was 16.6%, and 9.9% above 200% of poverty. If these rates are applied to the county, there are 516 children in the county below 200% of poverty with no health insurance, and 242 children above 200% of poverty with no health insurance, for a total of 758 uninsured children in Jasper County. The number lacking basic accessible primary care is at least double the number lacking insurance. Those lacking primary care are often dependent on health services at school. The ratio of students to nurses recommended nationally is 750:1. In the county, this would suggest the need for 4 nurses, compared with 2 currently working in the schools.

Medicaid: For several years, the State of South Carolina has emphasized enrolling eligible children into Medicaid. In late 1997, South Carolina implemented its version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, Partners for Healthy Children (PHC), and aggressively pursued outreach enrollment for PHC and Medicaid. As a result, enrollment of children ages 0 through 18 in Jasper County has increased by 80.8% from June 1997 to June 2001; thus Medicaid and PHC were serving 57.2% of all children in that age range. The total Medicaid expenditures in South Carolina for services provided to children ages 0 through 18 for state fiscal year 2002 were $991 million, at an average statewide expenditure of $2,343 per child enrolled, approximate Medicaid expenditure for children in the county would be $7.4 million.

In June 2001, the total number of Jasper County children, birth through 18, enrolled in Medicaid was 3,167. The total can be broken down into the following age and race groupings:

	White	African American	Hispanic	Other	Total
Children under 1	72	156	12	20	260
Children 1 - 5	228	636	48	43	955
Children 6 - 14	253	1,125	15	65	1,458
Children 15 - 18	82	401	2	9	494
Total	635	2,318	77	137	3,167

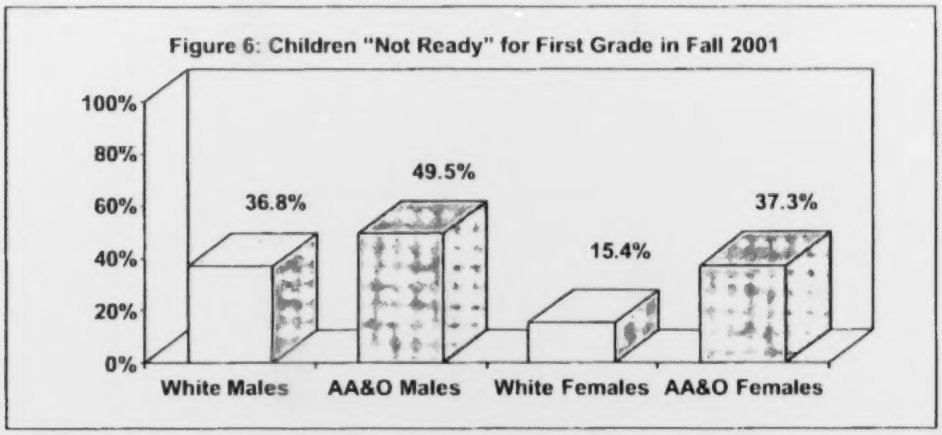
Ambulatory Care: When children lack adequate primary care, whether through lack of insurance, through limite access, or through failing to utilize available care, preventable and treatable conditions become serious and requi hospitalization. A useful indicator of inadequate primary care is the percentage of all hospitalizations that could typicall have been avoided through ambulatory care, especially for pneumonia, asthma, diarrhea and vomiting, dehydration, a severe ear, nose, and throat infections. The share of hospitalizations for these types of conditions could normally be ke below 20%; for children in the county under the age of 18 during 2001, the share was 26.7% for Whites and 22.9% f African-Americans and Others.

READINESS AND EARLY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Too many children reach school without the readiness skills needed for success in learning, such as language, soci skills, visual and auditory discrimination, memory recall, and knowledge of colors, letters, numbers, names of objects, et Likewise, some schools are not ready to respond appropriately to the varying developmental levels of children in the ear grades. As a result, too many students do not experience the success needed to create the motivation and engagement th sustain learning.

1st Grade "Readiness" on 2001-02 Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB):

96 children not ready 41.4% children not ready

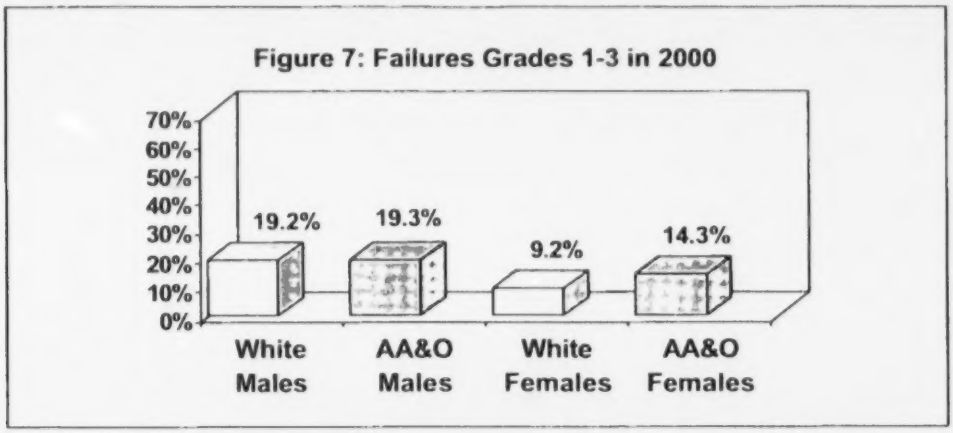


1st Grade Failures in 2002:

21 children failing 9.0% children failing

Failures Grades 1-3 in 2002 (approximate cumulative percentage of grades one, two and three):

42 children failing 17.3% children failing



Over-age for Grade 3 in 2001

42 children over-age 20.7% children over-age

Special Education: Large numbers of children are placed in special education classes. In elementary school, 37 six and seven year olds and 64 eight and nine year-olds were enrolled in special education classes during 2001-02, approximately 8.2% and 12.7% of their age groups respectively: 12.8% of White 8 – 9 year olds were in special education and 12.7% of African American and Others.

Readiness Summary: A serious problem exists in terms of student readiness and school success in the early grades. With 41.4% assessed not ready for the 1st grade, 20.7% over age in grade 3, and 12.7% of eight and nine year-olds placed in special education, unacceptably large numbers of students still begin school without good prospects of success in future school achievement and graduation; however, great improvement has occurred since the mid 1990s.

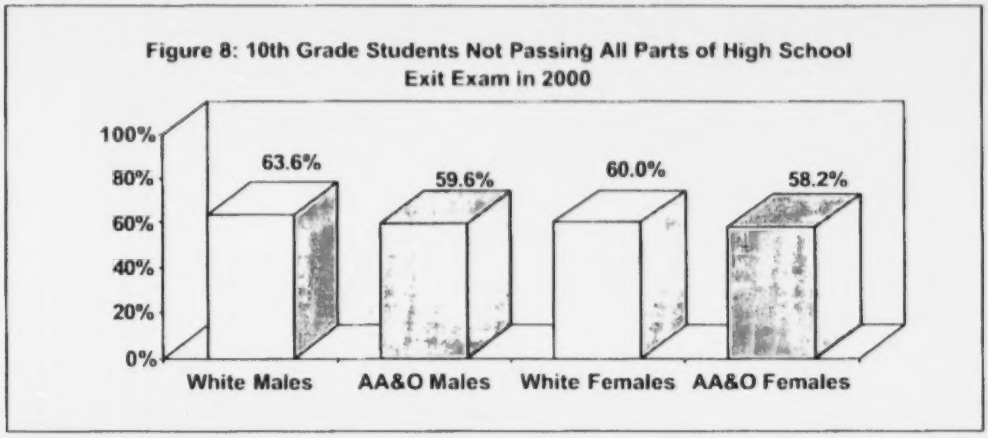
SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

By the end of elementary school, significant numbers of students perform below minimum standards. The following standardized test measures, comparing student performance to state minimum standards, should be used in combination with routine classroom assessments more reflective of real-world performance skills.

Special Education: Special education placements reflect both the significant number of children with serious handicapping conditions and a large number of students with mild learning and behavioral problems that have not been accommodated successfully by the regular educational program. The result is a large system of self-contained, resource, and itinerant services to meet the needs of 55 speech and language impaired, 134 learning disabled, 23 emotionally disabled, 129 mentally impaired, and 19 physically handicapped, deaf, blind, and other handicapped students. Special education classes served approximately 12.7% of all students in grades 1 - 12 during 2001-2002.

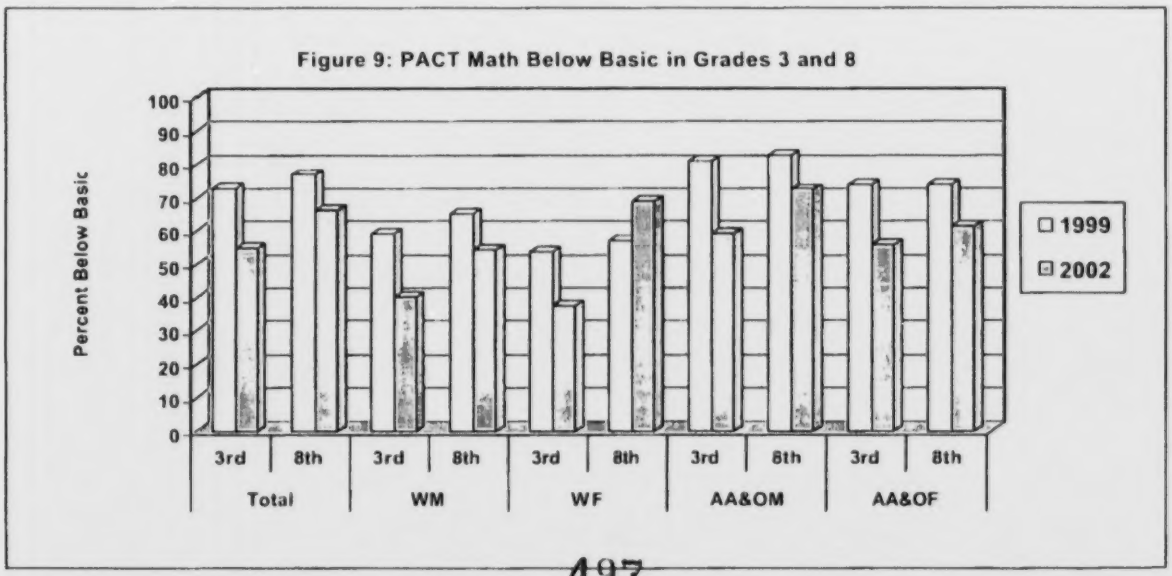
Exit Exam - not passing all parts of Exit Exam on first attempt in the 10th grade in 2002

83 students did not pass all parts | 59.3% of students did not pass all parts



Achievement Trends: How has performance on standardized achievement tests changed over the past 20 years? During the 1980s, student performance on the BSAP tests improved dramatically. Between 1981 and 1990, the percentage of 8th grade students in Jasper County who did not meet standards declined from 83.3% to 40.2% in math and from 78.8% to 37.4% in reading. During the 1990's the BSAP trend changed, with 49.7% not meeting 8th grade math standards in 1998 and 53.5% in reading. On standardized tests, the first year when South Carolina students take the exam is comparable to the challenge encountered by the national norm group which took the test only once. Looking at first year data, the percentage of 4th grade students at or below the 25th percentile of national norms was 43.8% in 1983 on the CTBS, 51.9% in 1990 on the Stanford, and 59.5% in 1995 on the Metropolitan; for 9th graders, the percentage in the bottom quarter was 43.3% in 1990 and 48.7% in 1995. Although not comparable, the percent below basic on the 4th grade PACT in 1999, the first year of administration, was 72.2%, but in 2002 48.6% of 4th graders were below basic in reading and math; the percentage of 8th graders below basic in reading and math averaged 74.5% in 1999 and 65.7% in 2002.

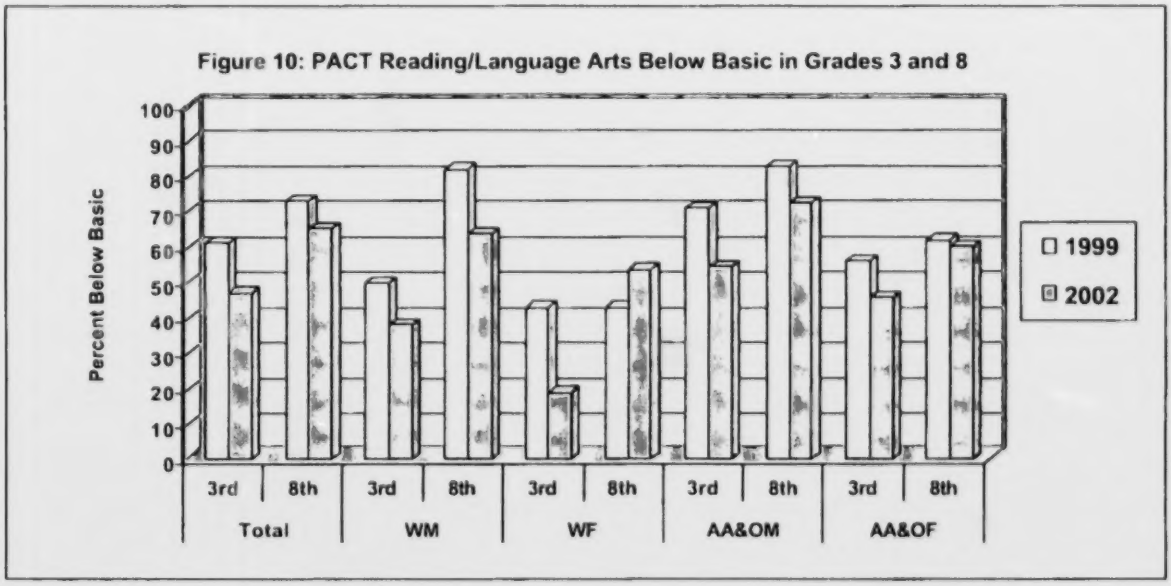
PACT: The Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) was first administered in 1999 for grades 3 - 8 in math and reading/language arts. Math assesses skills in numbers, numerical and algebraic concepts, patterns and functions, geometry, measurement, probability and statistics. The percentage of students scoring below basic in math has decreased by 15.3% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 596 students below basic in grades 3-8 but there would have been an additional 108 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
		Math (%)				
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	54.8	40.0	37.5	59.6	55.8
	4	54.1	56.3	43.8	62.2	48.4
	5	66.0	63.2	70.0	71.6	61.5
	6	69.2	38.5	50.0	76.7	67.5
	7	77.9	70.6	52.9	81.7	79.6
	8	66.3	54.5	69.2	72.7	61.6
Basic	3	33.0	40.0	50.0	30.3	31.4
	4	34.8	12.5	50.0	29.3	40.9
	5	27.7	31.6	10.0	22.2	33.3
	6	25.0	61.5	41.7	20.4	22.5
	7	17.1	23.5	41.2	11.8	16.8
	8	27.3	45.5	23.1	20.8	31.4
Proficient	3	8.6	10.0	6.3	8.1	9.3
	4	8.7	25.0	6.3	6.1	8.6
	5	6.3	5.3	20.0	6.2	5.2
	6	5.3	0.0	8.3	1.9	10.0
	7	4.6	5.9	5.9	5.4	3.5
	8	4.8	0.0	7.7	5.2	4.7
Advanced	3	3.6	10.0	6.3	2.0	3.5
	4	2.4	6.3	0.0	2.4	2.2
	5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	6	0.5	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0
	7	0.4	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.0
	8	1.6	0.0	0.0	1.3	2.3

Reading/Language Arts assesses reading, listening, speaking, writing, research, and communication with technology. The first PACT assessment found a high percentage of elementary and middle grades students performing below standards and only a modest number above basic. The percentage of students scoring below basic in reading/language arts has decreased by 18.4% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 506 students below basic in grades 3 - 8 but there would have been an additional 114 at 1999 performance rates.

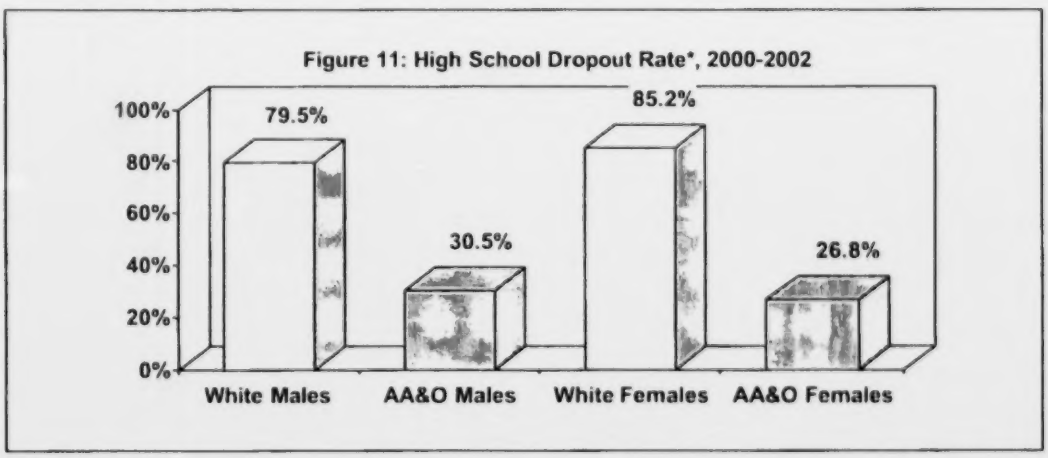
Figure 10: PACT Reading/Language Arts Below Basic in Grades 3 and 8



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
	Reading/Language Arts (%)					
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	47.1	38.1	18.8	54.5	45.9
	4	43.1	43.8	18.8	48.2	42.6
	5	50.7	57.1	20.0	62.2	42.6
	6	70.5	66.7	33.3	82.4	61.7
	7	65.0	70.6	41.2	73.4	60.7
	8	65.1	63.6	53.8	72.7	60.0
Basic	3	35.7	42.9	56.3	32.3	34.1
	4	41.6	50.0	62.5	42.2	36.2
	5	43.0	33.3	80.0	34.1	48.9
	6	20.3	25.0	41.7	13.7	24.7
	7	27.9	23.5	35.3	21.3	33.0
	8	28.0	36.4	38.5	20.8	31.8
Proficient	3	15.4	19.0	18.8	12.1	17.6
	4	15.3	6.3	18.8	9.6	21.3
	5	6.3	9.5	0.0	3.7	8.5
	6	7.7	8.3	25.0	3.9	9.9
	7	6.7	5.9	23.5	4.3	6.3
	8	6.5	0.0	0.0	6.5	8.2
Advanced	3	1.8	0.0	6.3	1.0	2.4
	4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	6	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.7
	7	0.4	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.0
	8	0.5	0.0	7.7	0.0	0.0

Dropout Rate - 8th grade students no longer enrolled in grade 12
(average of students for the three years ending 2000-2002)

93 students drop out annually **37.8% students drop out?**



Dropouts: Distressing numbers of students drop out and fail to graduate. An average of 29.9% of 8th graders failed to graduate** from county schools five years later during the period 1980-84, 47.1% during 1985-89, and 37.3% during 1990-94, 39.0% during 1995-97 and 33.1% during 1998-2000***.

During 2001-02, 80.2% of all who did graduate received the State High School Diploma, while the remaining 19.8% received a State Certificate for meeting the required Carnegie units but not passing the Exit Exam.

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*12th grade enrollment compared to 8th grade enrollment four years earlier

** This is calculated by using 8th grade enrollment to graduation data.

*** 2001 data will be available soon and will be posted on the website.

Fortunately, many dropouts enroll in adult education programs and either earn a high school diploma or obtain a GED. During 2001-02, 0 Adult Education high school diplomas were awarded to school completers and in 2001 20 GEDs were awarded in the county. Over time, adult education high school diplomas and GEDs increase the effective school completion rate substantially. In the 2000 Census, 31.9% of county resident 25 - 34 year-olds said they had not completed either high school or a GED.

Achievement Summary: The numbers of students testing below basic on the PACT and dropping out range from 33.1% to 77.9%. Thus, far too many students fail to acquire the knowledge, skills, learning habits, and motivation necessary to compete in the economy or contribute to society in the 21st Century.

ADOLESCENT RISK BEHAVIORS

Academic achievement is greatly influenced by the prevailing youth culture which often promotes popularity with peers and partying rather than studying and doing well in school. The prevalence of adolescent risk-taking and under-achievement is illustrated by the poor grades of substance-abusing teens.

Substance Abuser Rates at Levels of Academic Performance

	Usual School Grades in Past Year					Total
	A Range	B Range	C Range	D Range	F Range	
Smoked Cigarettes (in past 30 days)	6.2%	9.2%	14.7%	8.3%	100.0%	11.0%
Drank 5 or More Drinks on One Occasion (in past 30 days)	6.3%	9.9%	23.6%	14.0%	47.2%	14.0%
Used Any Illicit Drug (in past 30 days)	6.2%	12.5%	19.7%	15.8%	64.1%	14.4%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

As influence from parents and other adults declines during adolescence, significant numbers of students engage in violence, crime, school offenses, depressive emotions and attempted suicide:

Risk Behaviors Participated in During Past 12 Months	White Male		White Female		African American Male		African American Female		Total		Total (Grade 7-12)
	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	
Carried a handgun or knife for self-defense?	33.2%	13.7%	11.0%	9.8%	19.6%	22.7%	4.5%	10.2%	13.1%	14.8%	13.9%
Carried a handgun or knife as a weapon?	13.2%	6.9%	NA%	9.8%	10.1%	17.8%	3.2%	6.6%	0.0%	10.7%	5.2%
Been in a fight with someone?	47.9%	19.8%	27.5%	47.8%	37.3%	36.4%	24.5%	19.3%	31.4%	26.2%	28.9%
Hit your boyfriend or girlfriend?	2.7%	%	11.1%	20.2%	9.9%	6.0%	18.5%	27.7%	13.4%	0.0%	6.8%
Been hit by your boyfriend or girlfriend?	14.1%	6.9%	16.4%	9.8%	10.3%	11.0%	6.8%	11.4%	9.4%	11.0%	10.2%
Rec'd detention or in-school suspension?	32.6%	27.8%	24.8%	NA%	28.3%	13.9%	25.4%	7.9%	27.0%	0.0%	13.7%
Been suspended from school?	27.2%	13.0%	21.8%	9.8%	27.6%	24.1%	19.2%	15.3%	23.2%	18.1%	20.7%
Stolen anything worth > $5?	24.1%	19.8%	5.4%	19.7%	21.7%	12.2%	6.7%	9.7%	13.6%	11.4%	12.5%
Had an accident while driving?	NA	NA%	NA	15.7%	NA	6.9%	NA	8.9%	NA	0.0%	NA
Been arrested and booked?	5.2%	6.9%	NA%	9.8%	8.5%	11.8%	1.9%	4.5%	0.0%	7.4%	3.7%
Felt hopeless for two weeks or more?	13.4%	27.4%	27.2%	8.8%	13.2%	14.0%	18.9%	22.8%	17.0%	19.5%	18.3%
Seriously considered attempting suicide?	8.1%	NA%	11.1%	9.8%	4.0%	6.8%	7.6%	3.1%	6.6%	0.0%	3.3%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

Adolescence is often a time of taking risks and asserting independence from adults. When asked whether they would tell an adult about a problem, the following percentages of county students said they would be "not likely" or "very unlikely" to tell if they:

-heard a student threaten to harm someone: 45.0% middle school, 51.6% high school;
-saw a student with a handgun at school: 48.7% middle school, 40.7% high school;
-saw a student with a knife at school: 45.8% middle school, 45.4% high school;
-saw a student with drugs at school: 53.2% middle school, 68.3% high school;

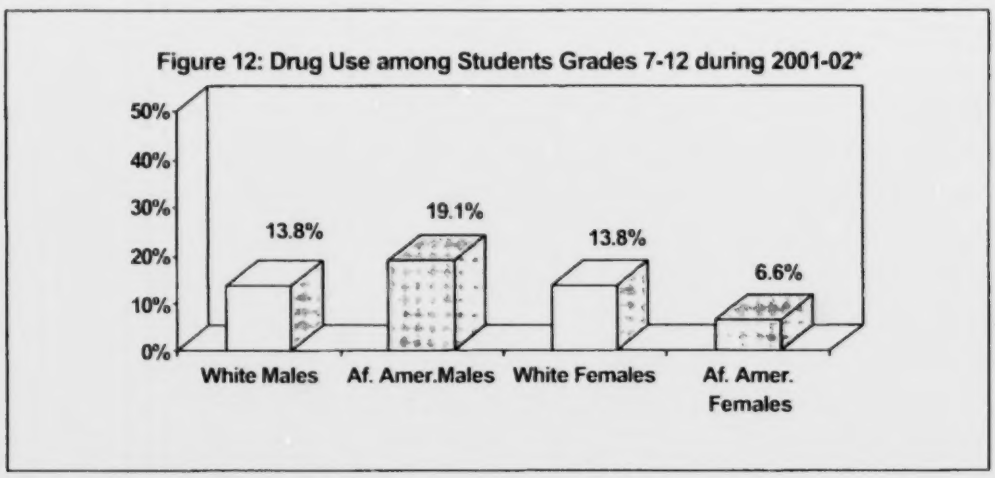
Alcohol Use:* In the county during 2001-02, 19.9% of 7th and 8th graders and 32.4% of high schoolers said they had used alcohol in the past month. Of White males in grades 7 - 12, 27.9% had used it in the past month, compared with 22.0% of African-American males; likewise, 35.5% of White females said they had used alcohol, compared with 29.9% of African-American females. Many youth first used alcohol at an early age: 13.9% had used alcohol by age 11 or younger, 24.5% by age 13, and 50.4% by age 15.

During the previous year, 20.1% of 7th and 8th graders and 22.4% of high schoolers said they had ridden with a drinking driver. Of seniors who drive, 6.5% said they had driven after drinking. Widespread use is encouraged by the ready availability and perceived low risk of alcohol use. Among students who expressed an opinion, 36.4% of eighth graders and 64.1% of seniors felt that beer was easy to get. Also, 58.7% of eighth graders and 67.5% of seniors felt there was not a great risk in drinking two drinks a day, and 47.0% of eighth graders and 51.8% of high schoolers felt there was not a great risk in drinking 5 drinks every weekend.

Heavy Drinking:* In 2001-02, 6.4% of 7th and 8th graders and 13.8% of high school students in the county repor drinking 5 or more drinks in a day during the past month. When asked how many drinks, if any, they usually consume, 6. of all county students in grades 7 - 12 in 2001-02 responded 3 or more drinks at a time and 2.6% reported usually 5 or m drinks. Among high school students, 9.3% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 3.5% 5 or more. Amc seniors, 5.6% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 2.2% 5 or more; however 10.2% of seniors said t they drank 5 or more drinks in a day once or more during the past month.

Drugs:* In 2001-02, 7.4% of 7th and 8th graders and 15.2% of high schoolers in the county reported using ille drugs during the previous month. Among students in grades 7 - 12, use was reported by 13.8% of White males, 13.8% Wh females, 19.1% of African-American males, and 6.6% of African-American females. Some young people initiated drug u at an early age: 3.0% had experienced their first use by age 11 or sooner; 9.2% had used a drug by age 13, and 21.0% by a 15.

In the past year, 5.4% of all high school students in the county who drive and 3.9% of seniors who drive said that they had driven after using drugs. Such use is encouraged by the ready availability of drugs: 18.4% of 8th graders who had an opinion said it is easy to get marijuana and 8.5% said it is easy to get cocaine or crack; 56.5% of seniors said it is easy to get marijuana and 23.9% said it was easy to get cocaine or crack.



* County participation in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking was not complete but county data is presented to provide the best available picture of teen risk-taking attitudes and behavior in Jasper County. Respondents were disproportionately female (55%) and from middle schools.

Sexual Activity and Pregnancy: Many teenagers now engage in sexual activity. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) administered to a representative sample of high school students throughout South Carolina in 2001 showed that sexual activity begins at an early age: 7% of female and 21% of male students have engaged in intercourse before age 13; by age 15, 38% the females and 49% of males have engaged in sexual intercourse. Statewide, 48% of females and 50% of males in the 11th and 12th grades reported engaging in intercourse during the past three months. Furthermore, 27% of female and 33% of male 12th graders have had intercourse with four or more partners during their lifetimes.

Premature sexual activity often results in pregnancy. In the county, 23 girls between the ages of 14 and 17 became pregnant in 1999, 27 in 2000 and 35 in 2001. This represented 6.1% of all girls ages 14 – 17 in 2001; several times this percentage become pregnant at least once by age 18. The 2001 pregnancy rate for ages 14 - 17 was 5.3% for Whites and 6.6% for African-Americans and Others. Of all pregnancies of 14-17 year olds, 85.7% resulted in live births, with almost all other pregnancies ending in abortions.

Teen pregnancy rates increased substantially across the state during the 1980s; as a result, greater emphasis v devoted to preventing teen pregnancy. Since 1989, the teen pregnancy rate in Jasper County has decreased by 6.6%. Over it has decreased by 19.7% for Whites, and increased by 1.5% for African Americans and Others.

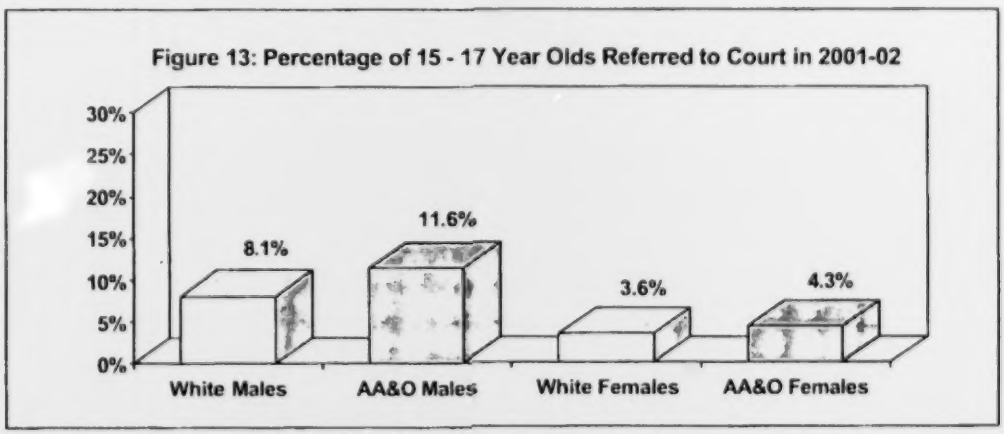
Juvenile Delinquency: In 2001-02, 112 individual juvenile offenders in the county were referred to the Solicitor for delinquency; of these, 9.8% were age 12 or younger, 28.6% were 13 or 14, and 61.6% were 15 or older.

Of the referrals to the family court, 5.5% of all referrals were for violent and serious crimes which include drug trafficking, acts against persons for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and serious property offenses for arson and burglary. Also, 29 juvenile cases constituting 20.0% of all referrals were for status offenses. Status offenses include truancy, running away, incorrigibility, and other offenses that would not be crimes for adults.

Delinquents are likely to live in families with low income: 16.9% lived in families with income under $10,000, 69.2% with $10,000-$19,999 and 13.8% with $20,000 or more. Furthermore, only 17.6% of delinquents lived with both natural parents, while 52.9% lived in a single parent household, 25.0% lived with other relatives, and 4.4% in other situations including parent plus step-parent. Delinquency or criminal activity occurs among many related family members: 84.8% had at least one family member who was delinquent or had some criminal record.

Youth referred to the family courts are likely to have been there before. In 2001-02, 59.8% had at least one prior referral and 22.3% had been referred to court 3 times or more. Many were referred at an early age. For delinquents 15 - 17 years old, 1.9% had been referred by the age of 10, 9.6% by the age of 12, and 24.0% by the age of 14.

During 2001-02, 67 youth ages 15 to 17 were referred to the family courts. In the county, 7.4% of all youth 15 to 17 were referred to court in one year and roughly double that percentage are referred at least once by age 18. Furthermore, the National Youth Survey indicates that typically across the United States the proportion of youth engaging in crime is two or three times the number ever apprehended. In 2001-02, there were 27 juveniles committed from the county to DJJ custody and placed in residential programs.



Not in School or Employed: During 2000, 182 teenagers ages 16-19 were idle, meaning they neither worked any hours nor were enrolled in school, even part-time. Idle teens comprised 14.8% of their age group: 11.6% for White and 16.1% African-American & Other teens. A much larger number, perhaps twice as many, were not engaged in either school full time or work full time. The data reflect a serious failure in both school completion and the critical transition from school to work, significantly affecting their development as future workers. For an in-depth description of the problems of young adults seeking to enter the labor force, visit our website at www.scyoungadults.org for our state and county reports on 18-29 year olds.

Deaths: During 1997-2001, 8 youth ages 15 to 19 died. Historically, automobile accidents have been the major cause, resulting in 3 deaths between 1996 and 2000; homicides killed youth 15 to 19 years old during the five-year period, and 0 youth committed suicide. Alcohol use is often a significant factor in deaths among teenagers.

Summary

Facing the Scope of Problems: The data on families, economic status, health, readiness, school achievement, and adolescent risk behaviors provide a troublesome picture of the condition of children in Jasper County. The 36.3% of children in single-parent families, 26.5% in poverty, 33.1% not graduating from school, 32.4% of high school students using alcohol and 15.2% using drugs each month, and other data profiled in this report suggest that too many children are at risk of not growing up to become self-supporting adults, good family members, and responsible community citizens.

Emphasizing the Positive: South Carolina Kids Count reports have been developed to describe the problems of children in each of the counties. Fortunately, the majority of children and youth are doing well, and some very well. One simple description is the percentage of children who do not fall into the problem categories reported. For the county, 77.6% of children are born to non-teen mothers ages 20 or older, 46.3% are born to married parents, and 63.7% lived in two-parent families; 73.5% were not poor and 43.5% lived in families with incomes above twice the poverty level for a family of three, $30,040 in 2002; 89.1% of babies were born with normal birthweights; 58.6% were assessed as ready for the first grade, 33.7% scored basic or better on PACT for 8th grade math and 34.9% for 8th grade reading, 40.7% passed all parts of the Exit Exam in the 10th grade, and 66.9% graduated with their class. In a typical month, 67.6% of high school students do not drink alcohol, 84.8% do not use drugs, and 88.6% do not smoke. Unfortunately, the absence of a problem is not always an indicator of success. Some data is available for exemplary performance: for example, 17.2% of 3rd graders and 7.0% of 8th graders scored proficient or advanced on PACT in reading and 12.2% of 3rd graders and 6.4% of 8th graders in math. Unfortunately, data on success is not generally available.

Despite the limitations of success data, we must emphasize the positive in providing good support and appropriate influences for children and youth. Recent philosophy and publications such as those of the Search Institute (700 South Third Street, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN, 55415-1138, tel. 1-800-888-7828, www.search-institute.org), emphasize the critical importance of "developmental assets" to promote and support positive development. One short book from the Search Institute, (What Kids Need to Succeed, by Peter J. Benson, Judy Gailbraith, and Pamela Espeland, 1995) presents an excellent array of suggestions for promoting developmental assets through families, community, faith congregations, and schools. If each family, school, religious congregation and community organization assertively worked to build such assets, the problems described in this report would be reduced dramatically. Such positive family-school-community efforts could improve South Carolina's national Kids Count ranking from the bottom 10 to the average or even into the top 10 by prevention of unnecessary problems affecting children and youth, as shown on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

All data presented in this report is the most recent available at the date it goes to the printer. This version of the Kids Count report will be revised as more recent and additional data become available. Please send us your corrections and suggestions for improvement. We welcome your ideas for ways to make the state and county reports more useful and accurate. Please utilize local data sources whenever possible to supplement the profile provided through our report.

Data related inquiries should be directed to:

Anne Wilson, Data Manager (awilson@drss.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-4810

Calls for **copies of reports** for other counties and inquiries regarding more recent reports should be made to:

Kim Hazel-Lohr, Project Manager (khazel@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-1295

For **policy questions and general comments**, please contact:

Dr. A. Baron Holmes, Project Director (bholmes@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-2291

Comparable reports for all 46 counties and for the state can also be found on the World Wide Web at

www.sckidscount.org

Our website also provides: links to other websites for indicators in our report; high to low rankings for individual indicators; information on how to improve SC's national rank; and a glossary of definitions.

The national Kids Count Report can be found on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website at

www.aecf.org

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Jasper County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Indicators	Most Recent Year	Number					Percent					R	
		1980*	1990*	Most Recent Data	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980 Rank	199
Health													
Low Birth Weight	2001	34	35	37	+8.8%	+5.7%	11.0	11.3	10.9	-1.3%	-3.5%	42	
White babies	*2001*	*4*	*9*	*16*	*+300.0%*	*+77.8%*	*4.7*	*8.0*	*10.5*	*123.4%*	*30.7%*	*9*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*30*	*26*	*21*	*-30.0%*	*-19.2%*	*13.5*	*13.1*	*11.3*	*-16.5%*	*-14.0%*	*35*	
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	2001	96	127	164	-70.8%	+29.1%	31.2	41.0	48.4	55.1%	18.1%	8	
White babies	*2001*	*21*	*23*	*74*	*+252.4%*	*+221.7%*	*24.4*	*20.5*	*48.7*	*99.6%*	*137.1%*	*16*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*75*	*104*	*90*	*+20.0%*	*-13.5%*	*33.8*	*52.5*	*48.4*	*43.2%*	*-7.9%*	*2*	
Infant Mortality	2001	21	12	9	-57.1%	-25.0%	2.3	1.3	1.0	-55.8%	-19.5%	38	
White babies	*2001*	*8*	*1*	*8*	*+0.0%*	*+700.0%*	*2.6*	*0.3*	*1.9*	*-25.5%*	*545.3%*	*44*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*13*	*11*	*1*	*-92.3%*	*-90.9%*	*2.1*	*1.8*	*0.2*	*-90.1%*	*-88.1%*	*19*	
Family													
Births to mothers under 18	2001	39	30	30	-23.1%	+0.0%	12.7	9.7	8.8	-30.5%	-9.1%	44	
White babies	*2001*	*9*	*5*	*10*	*+11.1%*	*+100.0%*	*10.5*	*4.5*	*6.6*	*-36.9%*	*47.8%*	*45*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*30*	*25*	*20*	*-33.3%*	*-20.0%*	*13.5*	*12.6*	*10.8*	*-20.4%*	*-14.8%*	*29*	
Births to mothers under 20	2001	83	74	76	-8.4%	+2.7%	26.9	23.9	22.4	-16.9%	-6.2%	45	
White babies	*2001*	*19*	*16*	*34*	*+78.9%*	*-112.5%*	*22.1*	*14.3*	*22.4*	*1.4%*	*56.8%*	*44*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*64*	*58*	*42*	*-34.4%*	*+27.6%*	*28.8*	*29.3*	*22.6*	*-21.7%*	*-22.9%*	*31*	
Births to mothers with less than a high school education	2001	111	74	107	-3.6%	+44.6%	36.0	23.9	31.6	-12.3%	32.4%	28	
White babies	*2001*	*37*	*26*	*64*	*+73.0%*	*+146.2%*	*43.0*	*23.2*	*42.1*	*-2.1%*	*81.4%*	*46*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*74*	*48*	*43*	*-41.9%*	*-10.4%*	*33.3*	*24.2*	*23.1*	*-30.6%*	*-4.6%*	*8*	
Births to single mothers****	2001	119	139	182	+52.9%	+30.9%	38.6	44.8	53.7	39.0%	19.8%	45	
White babies	*2001*	*8*	*16*	*46*	*+475.0%*	*+187.5%*	*9.3*	*14.3*	*30.3*	*225.7%*	*112.1%*	*42*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*111*	*123*	*136*	*+22.5%*	*+10.6%*	*50.0*	*62.1*	*73.1*	*46.2%*	*17.7%*	*34*	
Children in single parent families	2000	1,036	1,386	1,620	+56.4%	+16.9%	22.8	34.8	36.3	59.4%	4.4%	38	
White	*2000*	*179*	*210*	*350*	*+95.5%*	*+66.7%*	*9.7*	*13.8*	*19.7*	*102.8%*	*42.6%*	*19*	
African American and Other	*2000*	*856*	*1,173*	*1,270*	*+48.4%*	*+8.3%*	*30.8*	*47.8*	*47.4*	*53.9%*	*-0.8%*	*10*	
Education													
Not Ready for Grade 1	2001	178	131	96	-46.1%	-26.7%	62.5	42.4	41.4	-33.8%	-2.4%	46	
White males	*2001*	*8*	*12*	*7*	*-12.5%*	*-41.7%*	*36.4*	*36.4*	*36.8*	*1.1%*	*1.1%*	*35*	
White females	*2001*	*11*	*7*	*2*	*-81.8%*	*-71.4%*	*45.8*	*26.9*	*15.4*	*-66.4%*	*-42.8%*	*45*	
African American and Other males	*2001*	*98*	*72*	*48*	*-51.0%*	*-33.3%*	*68.1*	*52.9*	*49.5*	*-27.3%*	*-6.4%*	*42*	
African American and Other females	*2001*	*61*	*39*	*38*	*-37.7%*	*-2.6%*	*64.2*	*34.8*	*37.3*	*-41.9%*	*7.2%*	*45*	
Repeating Grades 1-3	2000	88	69	39	-55.7%	-43.5%	33.4	25.2	16.5	-50.6%	-34.5%	44	
White males	*2000*	*8*	*6*	*5*	*-37.5%*	*-16.7%*	*30.9*	*18.4*	*19.2*	*-37.9%*	*4.3%*	*41*	
White females	*2000*	*11*	*5*	*2*	*-81.8%*	*-60.0%*	*44.5*	*22.5*	*9.2*	*-79.3%*	*-59.1%*	*46*	
African American and Other males	*2000*	*54*	*39*	*18*	*-66.7%*	*-53.8%*	*46.3*	*35.4*	*19.3*	*-58.3%*	*-45.5%*	*42*	
African American and Other females	*2000*	*13*	*19*	*14*	*+7.7%*	*-26.3%*	*13.5*	*17.8*	*14.3*	*5.9%*	*-19.7%*	*16*	
Grade 3 Math below standards****	2002	165	66	121	-26.7%	+83.3%	63.7	28.7	54.8	-14.0%	90.9%	46	
White males	*2002*	*17*	*7*	*8*	*-52.9%*	*+14.3%*	*48.6*	*23.3*	*40.0*	*-17.7%*	*71.7%*	*43*	
White females	*2002*	*14*	*3*	*6*	*-57.1%*	*+100.0%*	*46.7*	*16.7*	*37.5*	*-19.7%*	*124.6%*	*46*	
African American and Other males	*2002*	*70*	*32*	*59*	*-15.7%*	*+84.4%*	*73.7*	*35.6*	*59.6*	*-19.1%*	*67.4%*	*45*	
African American and Other females	*2002*	*62*	*23*	*48*	*-22.6%*	*+108.7%*	*66.7*	*25.6*	*55.8*	*-16.3%*	*118.0%*	*46*	
Grade 3 Reading below standards****	2002	160	84	104	-35.0%	+23.8%	61.5	36.5	47.1	-23.4%	29.0%	46	
White males	*2002*	*22*	*12*	*8*	*-63.6%*	*-33.3%*	*62.9*	*40.0*	*38.1*	*-39.4%*	*-4.8%*	*46*	
White females	*2002*	*9*	*4*	*3*	*-66.7%*	*-25.0%*	*30.0*	*22.2*	*18.8*	*-37.3%*	*-15.3%*	*43*	
African American and Other males	*2002*	*71*	*34*	*54*	*-23.9%*	*+58.8%*	*74.7*	*37.8*	*54.5*	*-27.0%*	*44.2%*	*46*	
African American and Other females	*2002*	*53*	*32*	*39*	*-26.4%*	*+21.9%*	*56.4*	*35.6*	*45.9*	*-18.6%*	*28.9%*	*45*	
Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT Grade 4	1998	81	134	101	+24.7%	-24.6%	43.8	51.9	49.5	13.0%	-4.6%	40	
White males	*1998*	*7*	*7*	*9*	*+28.6%*	*+28.6%*	*28.0*	*43.7*	*64.3*	*129.6%*	*47.1%*	*33*	
White females	*1998*	*9*	*4*	*1*	*-88.9%*	*-75.0%*	*42.9*	*18.2*	*8.3*	*-80.7%*	*-54.4%*	*46*	
African American and Other males	*1998*	*36*	*71*	*48*	*+33.3%*	*-32.4%*	*60.0*	*62.3*	*53.4*	*-11.0%*	*-14.3%*	*41*	
African American and Other females	*1998*	*29*	*51*	*39*	*+34.5%*	*-23.5%*	*37.7*	*48.6*	*45.7*	*21.2%*	*-6.0%*	*26*	

*Year of data is approximate in many cases.
**1 is best, 46 is worst.
*** Data include paternity acknowledgements.
**** BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Jasper County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Education (continued)

Indicators		Number					Percent				
	Most Recent Year	1980*	1990*	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres
Grade 8 Math below state standards**	2002	214	72	124	-42.1%	+72.2%	83.3	40.2	66.3	-20.4%	64.9%
White males	*2002*	*15*	*1*	*6*	*-60.0%*	*+500.0%*	*57.7*	*7.1*	*54.5*	*-5.5%*	*667.6%*
White females	*2002*	*17*	*9*	*9*	*-47.1%*	*+0.0%*	*65.4*	*56.2*	*69.2*	*5.8%*	*23.1%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*88*	*26*	*56*	*-36.4%*	*+115.4%*	*88.9*	*38.8*	*72.7*	*-18.2%*	*87.4%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*94*	*36*	*53*	*-43.6%*	*+47.2%*	*88.7*	*43.9*	*61.6*	*-30.6%*	*40.3%*
Grade 8 Reading below state standards**	2002	204	67	121	-40.7%	+80.6%	78.8	37.4	65.1	-17.4%	74.1%
White males	*2002*	*15*	*3*	*7*	*-53.3%*	*+133.3%*	*57.7*	*21.4*	*63.6*	*10.2%*	*197.2%*
White females	*2002*	*21*	*9*	*7*	*-66.7%*	*-22.2%*	*72.4*	*56.2*	*53.8*	*-25.7%*	*-4.3%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*84*	*27*	*56*	*-33.3%*	*+107.4%*	*85.7*	*40.3*	*72.7*	*-15.2%*	*80.4%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*84*	*28*	*51*	*-39.3%*	*+82.1%*	*79.2*	*34.1*	*60.0*	*-24.2%*	*76.0%*
Grade 9 Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT	1998	NA	106	104	NA	-1.9%	NA	43.3	47.5	NA	9.7%
White males	*1998*	*NA*	*7*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*35*	*40.0*	*NA*	*14.3%*
White females	*1998*	*NA*	*2*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*12.5*	*28.6*	*NA*	*128.8%*
African American and Other males	*1998*	*NA*	*60*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*51.3*	*53.5*	*NA*	*4.3%*
African American and Other females	*1998*	*NA*	*37*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*40.7*	*44.4*	*NA*	*9.1%*
Exit Exam (not passing all parts on 1st attempt)	2002	119	70	83	-30.3%	+18.6%	68.0	58.3	59.3	-12.8%	1.7%
White males	*2002*	*5*	*2*	*7*	*+40.0%*	*+250.0%*	*62.5*	*100.0*	*63.6*	*1.8%*	*-36.4%*
White females	*2002*	*3*	*2*	*3*	*+0.0%*	*+50.0%*	*21.4*	*40.0*	*60.0*	*180.4%*	*50.0%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*58*	*30*	*34*	*-41.4%*	*+13.3%*	*73.4*	*58.8*	*59.6*	*-18.8%*	*1.4%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*53*	*36*	*39*	*-26.4%*	*+8.3%*	*71.6*	*59.0*	*58.2*	*-18.7%*	*-1.4%*
Dropout Rate (8th graders no longer enrolled in 12th grade 4 years later)	2000-02	84	103	93	+10.3%	-9.6%	34.9	44.6	37.8	8.2%	-15.2%
White males	*2000-02*	*24*	*15*	*19*	*-17.7%*	*+33.3%*	*74.6*	*67.4*	*79.5*	*6.5%*	*17.8%*
White females	*2000-02*	*19*	*25*	*15*	*-17.1%*	*-37.4%*	*84.1*	*77.8*	*85.2*	*1.3%*	*9.5%*
African American and Other males	*2000-02*	*24*	*37*	*30*	*+23.6%*	*-18.7%*	*24.9*	*41.5*	*30.5*	*22.6%*	*-26.5%*
African American and Other females	*2000-02*	*18*	*27*	*28*	*+57.4%*	*+4.9%*	*19.8*	*30.3*	*26.8*	*35.6%*	*-11.6%*
Young Adults Not Completing High School (18-24)	2000	651	559	976	+49.9%	+74.6%	37.0	41.5	31.9	-13.9%	-23.2%
White males	*NA*	*161*	*185*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*45.2*	*66.1*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
White females	*NA*	*127*	*81*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*31.8*	*33.2*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other males	*NA*	*176*	*138*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*38.4*	*39.3*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other females	*NA*	*187*	*155*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*34.3*	*32.8*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*

Economics

Poverty Rate	2000	1,798	1,654	1,455	-19.1%	-12.0%	35.6	33.5	26.5	-25.6%	-20.9%
White children	*2000*	*309*	*324*	*201*	*-35.0%*	*-38.0%*	*17.3*	*19.9*	*9.7*	*-43.9%*	*-51.3%*
African American and Other children	*2000*	*1,489*	*1,330*	*1,254*	*-15.8%*	*-5.7%*	*45.7*	*40.3*	*36.6*	*-19.9%*	*-9.1%*
Income of Families w/children (1999 $)	2000	$ 34,046	$ 34,932	$ 39,953	+17.3%	+14.4%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
White families	*2000*	*$ 44,396*	*$ 39,777*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other families	*2000*	*$ 25,248*	*$ 30,925*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*

Adolescent Risk Factors

Teenage Pregnancy (ages 14-17)	2001	42	42	35	-16.7%	-16.7%	6.8	8.4	6.1	-9.9%	-27.4%
White	*2001*	*10*	*8*	*10*	*+0.0%*	*+25.0%*	*4.8*	*4.7*	*5.3*	*11.3%*	*12.8%*
African American and Other	*2001*	*410*	*34*	*25*	*-93.9%*	*-26.5%*	*7.8*	*10.3*	*6.6*	*-15.4%*	*-35.9%*
Delinquency	2002	42	28	67	+59.5%	+139.3%	4.8	3.8	7.4	55.1%	95.9%
White males	*2002*	*17*	*4*	*13*	*-23.5%*	*+225.0%*	*10.7*	*2.9*	*8.1*	*-24.1%*	*180.2%*
White females	*2002*	*9*	*4*	*5*	*-44.4%*	*+25.0%*	*6.1*	*3.1*	*3.6*	*-41.5%*	*15.2%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*10*	*15*	*37*	*+270.0%*	*+146.7%*	*3.7*	*6.4*	*11.6*	*212.5%*	*80.7%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*6*	*5*	*12*	*+100.0%*	*+140.0%*	*2.0*	*2.1*	*4.3*	*114.3%*	*104.1%*

*Closest available data to this year was used in many cases.
**BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Kids Count 2003

Kershaw County

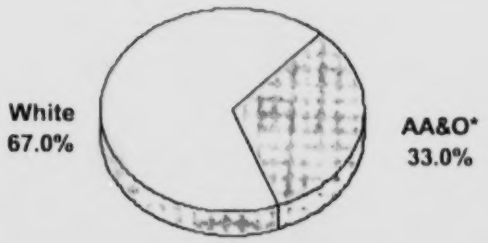
DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2000 there were an estimated 13,750 children under age 18 in the county. Of these, 9,209 were White, 4,144 were African-American, and 397 were other races. There were 11,811 children under age 18 in 1990, 12,260 in 1980, 13,377 in 1970, and 15,024 in 1960.

Children represent a shrinking portion of the county's population. Those under 18 constituted 26.1% of the population in 2000, down from 44.7% in 1960, 38.5% in 1970, and 31.4% in 1980.

In 2000 the 4,134 pre-schoolers under age 6 were 7.9% of the overall population: 7.5% of Whites and 8.2% of African Americans.

Figure 1: Population Ages 0-17 in 2000



* In all charts African-American is combined with other races, and often abbreviated as AA&O. Other races comprise 2.9% of children in the county, with "two or more races" at 1.4% and "some other race alone" at 0.9% as the largest Other groups.

FAMILY

Families have always been the most important influence in a child's life. Children depend on their families for material needs, stimulation and guidance. Family life is different in numerous ways from previous generations, and many families now face exceptional challenges.

Families with children now make up a smaller share of all households. Only 33.7% of all households in 2000, as compared with 50.0% of households in 1960, had children below the age of 18.

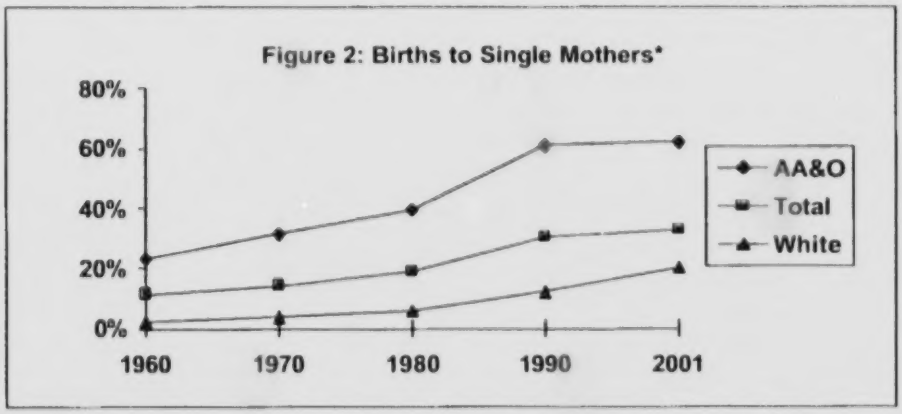
Births to Teen Mothers: In 2001, 43 babies were born to mothers younger than age 18. They were 6.2% of all babies born in the county; 5.2% of all White and 8.6% of all African-American and Other babies were born to teen mothers under the age of 18. Of the babies born to these teens in 2001, 76.7% were born to single mothers, including babies whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers.

In 2001, 112 babies were born to mothers younger than age 20. These babies were 16.1% of all born in the county; 13.0% of all White and 23.3% of all African-American and Other babies were born to mothers under the age of 20. Of the babies born to these mothers in 2001, 63.4% were born to single mothers, including paternity acknowledeged babies.

Education of Mothers Giving Birth: Children's success is strongly influenced by the education of their parents. In 2001, 146 babies, 21.1% of all babies, were born to mothers of all ages who had not completed the 12th grade. In 2001, 20.1% of White and 23.3% of African-American and Other babies were born to mothers who had completed less than the 12th grade. This is a substantial improvement from 43.9% in 1970. In addition, during 2001, 36.4% had completed 12 grades (35.4% of Whites and 38.6% of African Americans and Others) and 42.6% had more than a high school degree (44.5% of Whites and 38.1% of African American and Others).

Births to Single Mothers: Births to single mothers have increased steadily over four decades. In 2001, 152 babies, 21.9% of all babies, were recorded as born to single mothers. A decade earlier in 1990, the percentage was 28.6% and in 1960 it was 11.4%. In 2001, 11.8% of White children and 45.2% of African-American and Other children were born to single mothers. These numbers, however, do not include paternity acknowlegement births.

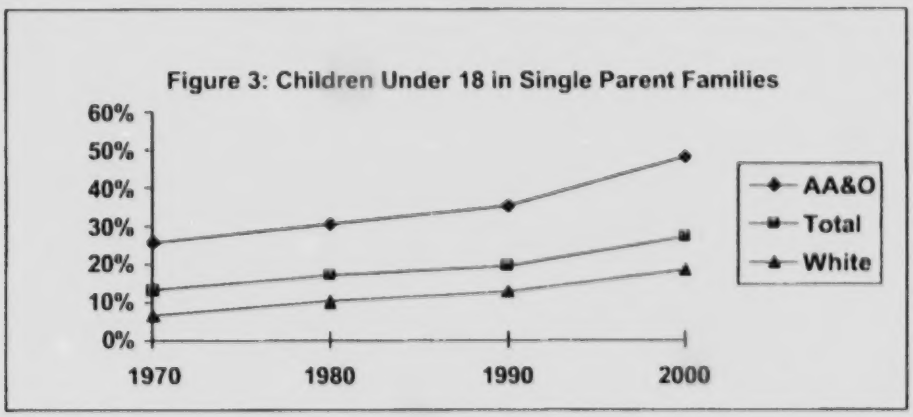
Thus, to these numbers should be added an additional group of 75 babies, 10.8% of all born in 2001, whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers. When the paternity-acknowledged babies are added, the total number born to single mothers in 2001 was 227, constituting 32.7% of all babies, 20.0% of White babies, and 61.9% of African-American and Others.



*Includes paternity acknowleged babies in 1980, 1990 and 2001. Prior to 1979, paternity acknowleged cases were not a statistical category, and thus were included in births to single mothers.

Divorce Rate: In 2001, 406 marriage licenses were issued, while 239 divorce decrees involving 205 children were filed. In 1970, only 99 children were in families involved in divorce.

Single-Parent Family: Increasing numbers of children live in single-parent families. In 2000, 3,238 children lived with only one parent. This was 27.2% of all children, up from 19.5% in 1990, 17.1% in 1980, and 13.0% in 1970. In 2000, 18.5% of White and 48.2% of African-American and Other children lived in single-parent families. Also in 2000, 803 or 25.1% of children under age 6 lived in single parent families: 15.9% of White and 50.7% of African American and Other pre-schoolers.



Parents Working and Child Care: Increasingly, parents must divide their time between children and employers. In order to meet family financial needs, most parents must work and thus have less time for family life. In 2000, 70.6% of mothers with children under 6 and 76.5% with children 6 - 17 were in the labor force. This has increased substantially from 1960 when 36.5% of mothers with children under 6 were in the labor force. Most fathers also work: 68.9% of children under 6 are in families where the single parent or both parents work. Caring for children is a problem for parents unable to obtain quality, affordable daycare while they are at work.

Overall, there are 960 spaces in state-regulated childcare facilities* in the county, 84.8% of these are in licensed programs and 15.2% are in registered programs. Of the spaces, 84.8% are in licensed childcare centers serving more than 12 children, 10.0% are in registered or licensed family childcare homes serving six or fewer children, 0.0% are in licensed group childcare homes serving 7-12 children, and 5.2% are in registered or licensed church programs.

The homes and centers are severely constrained by the limited ability of parents to pay. In the county, the average weekly charge is $ 75.69 for centers and $ 62.25 for homes. Consequently, center wages are low: 25% of centers with pre-school staff and 40% of centers with assistant pre-school staff report paying these staff under $6 per hour. Paying $6-$8 per hour are 66.7% of centers with pre-school staff and 60% of centers with assistants. Low wages attract workers with limited education. In 33.3% of centers, most pre-school staff and in 100% of centers most assistants have only a high school degree. In 58.3% of centers few to none of the pre-school staff have early childhood credentials. In childcare homes, 60% of lead providers have no more education than a high school degree or GED; 20% have less than a high school degree.

Family Violence: In 2000, 451 domestic assaults were recorded by law enforcement officials. These domestic assaults comprised 39.2% of all assaults, which include aggravated assaults, simple assaults, and intimidation. Overall, 57.0% of all domestic assaults involve spouse abuse which constitutes 22.3% of all assaults. Since most family violence is not reported, the true incidence of family disruption is much more widespread than even the large number of reported cases would indicate.

Separation from Parents: Some children do not live with their natural parents. In 2000, 5.8% of all children did not live with their natural parents. Approximately 519 or 3.8% of all children lived with relatives, 225 or 1.6% lived with non-relatives, 22 or 0.2% were householders or spouses, and 25 or 0.2% were in institutional facilities.

Abuse and Neglect: In 2000-01, there were 329 investigations into reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children. Through its investigations, the Department of Social Services (DSS) determined that 58 of the investigations were indicated for abuse or neglect: 9.3% for physical abuse, 11.1% for sexual abuse, 1.9% for mental injury, 11.1% for physical neglect, 0.0% for educational neglect, 5.6% for medical neglect, 59.3% for threat of harm for physical/sexual abuse, and 1.9% for other types of abuse.

In the indicated cases of abuse and neglect, DSS determined there were 96 children who were victims of abuse or neglect. Of these, 51.0% were male, 49.0% were female; 62.5% were White, 37.5% were African-American and Other. By age, 30.1% were ages 0 - 5, 45.2% were ages 6 - 12, and 24.7% were ages 13 - 17. In the indicated cases, 46.9% of the children lived in two-parent families, 38.5% in single parent families, 13.5% with unmarried couples, and 1.0% in other circumstances.

Out of Home Placements: As of June 2001, 53 children lived in foster care. The median age at first placement in the county is 7.3 years. The ages of children in foster care were 15.1% 0-2, 20.8% 3-5, 15.1% 6-10, 9.4% 11-13, and 39.6% 14 and above. The foster care population is 52.8% males and 47.2% females. Regarding their future, 9.4% were under a plan for placement in adoptive homes, 43.4% for return to a parent or guardian, 18.9% for placement with a relative, 18.9% for independent living, 9.4% for permanent foster care, and 0.0% for other circumstances.

Adult/Child Ratio: A measure of potential adult attention for children from family and community is the ratio of adults to children and youth. In 2000 there were 2.83 adults for every person below age 18. This was up substantially from 1960, when there were only 1.24 adults for every person under the age 18. This indicates that today there are more adults potentially available to provide attention and care for each child than in the past.

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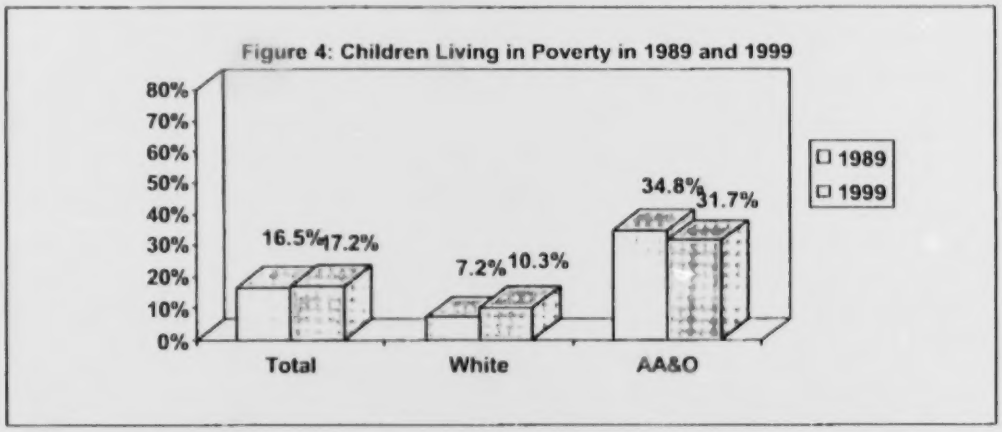
* This data is the best currently available; however, an effort is being made to check the coverage and improve the accuracy. As soon as more recent and complete data becomes available, it will be posted on the website.

ECONOMIC STATUS

Low income makes it difficult for many families to provide the material and environmental enrichment necessary for healthy child development.

Poverty: In 1999, 2,337 children and youth under the age of 18 lved in 1,047 families with incomes below poverty, comprising 17.2% of all children and youth: 10.3% of Whites and 31.7% of African-Americans and Others. A rough estimate of child poverty in 2001 calculated by the Census Bureau was 23.0%.



Poverty has always been a serious problem. While the rate among children under age 18 in 1989 was 16.5%, it was 19.3% in 1979 and 27.1% in 1969.

Children and the elderly are the age groups most seriously affected by poverty. In 1999, 19.3% of children 0 - 5 (12.5% White, 36.2% African-American and Other), and 16.2% of children 6 - 17 (8.9% White, 30.3% African-American and Other), lived in poverty; 14.1% of persons 65 years and older lived in poverty. Historically, the poverty rate among the elderly was much higher. During the last three decades, federal policy actions have substantially improved the economic status of older persons but have not done so for children.

Single-parent families are most likely to be poor. In 1999, 39.4% of children in single-parent families lived in poverty, but only 7.2% of children in married-couple families were poor. Children in single-parent families made up 50.0% of all the county's children living in poverty.

In 2002, the poverty level was $15,020 for a family of three and $18,100 for a family of four. The poverty threshold is often criticized as an arbitrary number. People can still be poor but may be just above the poverty level. Federal programs utilize varying thresholds. For example, in 1999 there were 5,509 children ages 0-17 who were less than 200 percent of poverty; thus an additional 3,172 children were above the poverty level but could still be considered poor or near-poor with incomes below $30,040 and $36,200 respectively for 3 and 4 person families.

Children Under 18 in Poverty in 1999

Percent of Poverty	Total		White		African American & Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 50%	856	6.3%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 100%	2,337	17.2%	947	10.3%	1,390	31.7%
Under 125%	3,021	22.2%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 150%	3,997	29.4%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 175%	4,595	33.8%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 185%	4,958	36.5%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 200%	5,509	40.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total Children	13,750		9,209		4,541	

Note: Missing data will be released by the Census Bureau later in 2003, and will be posted on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

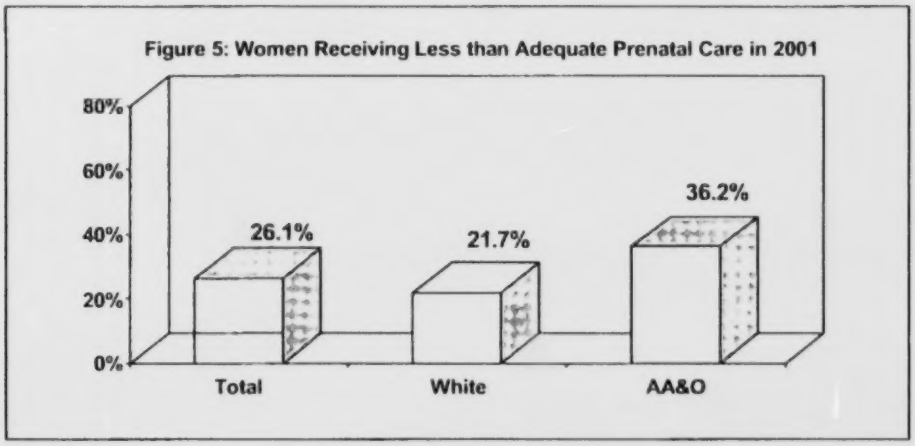
Income: The mean income of families with children in 1999 was $48,920. In 1989 it was $45,606, and 1979, it was $43,682, adjusted for inflation (i.e., in 1999 dollars). The mean income of single-parent families with children was $23,854 for single parents in 1999, as compared with $59,239 in married-couple families with children. From 1999 to 2000, Kershaw County real dollar per capita income (eliminating inflation) increased by 0.1%.

Child Support Payments: There were 85[7] families receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families in fiscal year 2002, but only 30.6 % had child support court orders. Their average monthly payment of child support was $ 282, including child support receipts and tax refund intercepts. In addition, during fiscal year 2002, an estimated 921 parents in non-TANF families were obligated to pay a monthly average of $ 237. Information is not available regarding the amount actually paid.

HEALTH

Good health during a child's formative years helps children to reach their maximum potential. Good health requires healthy lifestyles and effective primary care, starting during the prenatal period and continuing through adolescence into adulthood. Children's health reflects the well-being of the community, as well as how adequately they are protected.

Prenatal Care: Early and continuous prenatal care can make a significant difference in assuring births of healthy babies. Delayed or insufficient prenatal care is associated with low birthweight and other health risks for infants. In 2001, 142, or 20.5% of pregnant women received no prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy. In 2001, 181, or 26.1% of pregnant women received less than adequate prenatal care: 105 or 21.7% of Whites and 76 or 36.2% of African-Americans and Others. In that same year, 7 women received no prenatal care at all.



Low Birthweight: Low birthweight of less than 5.5 pounds and very low birthweight of less than 3.3 pounds are associated with health risks and growth and development problems. In 2001, 77 or 11.1% of all babies in the county were born with low birthweight: 13.3% of African-American and Other babies and 10.1% of White babies. During 1999-2001, approximately 53 or 2.5% of all babies were born with very low birthweight and had the most serious complications: 2.0% of White babies and 3.7% of African-American and Other babies. The cost of hospitalization for each newborn low birthweight baby in the county in 1999 - 2001 was $16,541 and $93,695 for each very low birthweight baby, compared with $1,504 for a baby of normal birthweight. The result was excess cost in the county of $1,862,709 for all low birthweight babies, of which $1,321,400 was for very low birthweight babies.

Infant Mortality: During the decade since 1989-91, the overall infant mortality rate decreased by 36.8% from 11.1 to 7.0 per 1000 live births. For Whites, the rate increased 2.6% from 7.1 to 7.3 per 1000 live births, while for African-Americans and Others the rate decreased 65.0% from 18.3 to 6.4 per 1000 live births. Over the three-year period 1999-2001, 11 White and 4 African-American and Other infants died before age one. By comparison, 9 White and 13 African-American and Other infants died during 1989-91.

[7] Number is an unduplicated count for the entire fiscal year.

Child Injuries and Deaths: Childhood deaths and injuries reflect whether communities are safe for children. In 2001, children in the Kershaw County went to the emergency room 1,671 times because of injuries. Boys are injured more often than girls. Children visit the emergency room at comparable rates for each age from 0 to 17.

In South Carolina, the major causes of death among young children are unintentional injuries, cancer, homicide, and congenital anomalies. Over the three year period 1999-2001, 6 White and 2 African-American and Other children ages 1-14 died in the county. During 1989-91, 5 White and 9 African-American and Other children died.

Immunization: Immunization rates are an important indication of whether young children are receiving adequate preventive health care. During FY 1989-90, 40.6% of children less than two years old seen in public health clinics were not fully immunized against such preventable diseases as Polio, Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Haemophilus Influenza B and Whooping Cough. After a concerted statewide campaign to increase immunizations, the percentage of children seen in public health clinics who were not fully immunized in January 2001 had declined in the county to 8.3%. The DHEC statewide birth registry survey of all two year old children found that 88.1% were fully immunized in 2001. This success demonstrates the potential to improve the status of children when the leadership of the state and its communities act decisively together.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Children and youth are infected with sexually transmitted diseases through sexual abuse or irresponsible sexual activity. National prevalence rates indicate: a 1 in 8 chance that sexually active 15 year-old girls will develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), the most rapidly increasing cause of infertility; 10% of sexually active adolescent girls and boys are infected with chlamydia, the most common cause of PID; and as many as 15% of teen girls are infected with human papilloma virus, often with strains linked to cervical cancer. Furthermore, research evidence indicates that susceptibility to HIV/AIDS increases by 3 to 8 times through prior infection with various STDs.

According to national studies, approximately 1 in 4 sexually experienced youth aged 13-19 acquires a STD ever year; since two-thirds of all high school students have had sexual intercourse and half engage in intercourse over a three month period, this would suggest that 10-15% of teens are infected with STDs annually. For 2000, this would indicate that an estimated 526 to 788 youth ages 13-19 in the county were infected with a STD. Many infections are either not identified for treatment or not reported. In the county, there were reported cases of children under age 15 and 18 youth ages 15 - 19 infected with gonorrhea; 2 youth under 15 and 85 ages 15 - 19 were reported infected with chlamydia. Youth with undiagnosed and untreated STDs often spread their infections.

Healthy Lifestyles: Although no county data is available, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2001 found that many high school students are not following good health habits. The YRBS revealed that 26% felt that they were overweight; 42% were trying to lose weight: 27% of boys and 57% of girls. Although during a week 79% of high school students ate fruit, 59% ate salad, and over 83% ate vegetables, only 17% ate the recommended five or more servings of fruit and vegetables per day. During a week, 49% did stretching or muscle strengthening exercises, and 59% exercised three or more times for 20 minutes in sports that made them sweat or breathe hard. However, 11% of students engaged in no vigorous or moderate activity at all during a week: 8% of boys and 13% of girls.

Tobacco Use:* Cigarette smoking starts at a young age and often becomes habitual. In the state during 2002 among all students 15 and older, 16.7% first smoked by age 11, 36.3% by age 13, and 51.4% by age 15. In a typical month, 17.1% of 7th and 8th graders and 25.3% of high school students smoked cigarettes. White youths were much more likely than African-Americans to smoke: 26.4% of White male and 27.2% of White female 7th to 12th graders used cigarettes, as compared with 18.9% of African-American males and 12.2% of African American females. A smaller but significant group of high school students (5.4%) used smokeless tobacco monthly; it was used primarily by White males (15.9% compared with 1.1% of all other race and sex groups).

* Schools in the county elected not to participate in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking. Therefore, data for all of South Carolina is presented here.

Disabilities: No data are collected on the true prevalence of disabilities within the county. According to national reported estimates, over 10% of children and youth have developmental disabilities at any point in time, and more than 17 are affected at some time before age 18 by deafness, blindness, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, speech defects, developmental delays, learning disabilities, and emotional or behavioral problems. For 2000 this suggests that at least 1,375 children and youth under age 18 in the county are currently affected by disabilities.

Approximately 5% of children and youth nationally have serious disabilities which have lifelong implications for work, social life and community living. Typically among children and youth, there are 1 - 2% who are mentally retarded, 2 - 3% with serious emotional disturbances, over 1% with orthopedic or multiple disabilities, including cerebral palsy and many hereditary conditions, and under 1% with visual or hearing impairments.

Other chronic health problems also affect the lives of many children. Over 3% of children have one or more of these limitations. Such serious chronic conditions affect 1 - 2% who have respiratory problems (asthma and chronic bronchitis), 0.5 - 1.0% with neurological problems (epilepsy and seizures), and less than 1% with circulatory problems (congenital heart defects and acquired diseases).

Other disabilities are identified primarily in school performance. These would include 612 students in grades 1-12 with learning disabilities and 265 students in grades 1-12 with speech/language deficits.

Disabilities are caused by genetics, disease, poor prenatal conditions, injuries, and environmental factors. For example, lead exposure, primarily from paint dust, was detected in over 1% of all children screened, including 14 in Kershaw County.

Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: While over 20% of 9-17 year olds meet diagnostic criteria for some form of mental disorder, the number with serious emotional disturbance and impaired functioning in family, school, or community activities is: 9-13% for substantial functional impairment and 5-9% for extreme functional impairment. The rates among poor children are at the higher end of these ranges. Based on a federal formula for estimating prevalence, in the county there are 12% or 873 seriously emotionally disturbed 9-17 year olds with substantial functional impairment and 8% or 582 with extreme functional impairment during the course of a year. Conduct disorders, attention deficit, depression, and anxiety disorders are the most prevalent, each affecting 3% or more of school-aged children. These disorders may occur simultaneously in a child. The prevalence rates are highest among males, adolescents, and disadvantaged persons in communities under stress and lacking social cohesion; depression, however, is more prevalent among females. On the YRBS, 20% of boys and 33% of girls in high school reported that during the past year they felt so sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that they stopped doing some usual activities. Another indicator of emotional problems is the 8% of high school students in South Carolina who reported that they had "attempted suicide" in the past year: 5% of boys and 10% of girls. Suicide attempts resulted in 4% of high school students reporting that they required treatment by a doctor or nurse for injury, poisoning, or overdose.

Inadequate Healthcare: No county level data is routinely collected regarding the number of children and youth with inadequate healthcare. According to estimates for 2000-02 by the Bureau of the Census through the annual Current Population Survey, the statewide average rate of uninsured children and youth under age 18 in families with incomes under 200% of poverty in South Carolina was 16.6%, and 9.9% above 200% of poverty. If these rates are applied to the county, there are 916 children in the county below 200% of poverty with no health insurance, and 818 children above 200% of poverty with no health insurance, for a total of 1,734 uninsured children in Kershaw County. The number lacking basic accessible primary care is at least double the number lacking insurance. Those lacking primary care are often dependent on health services at school. The ratio of students to nurses recommended nationally is 750:1. In the county, this would suggest the need for 13 nurses, compared with 7 currently working in the schools.

Medicaid: For several years, the State of South Carolina has emphasized enrolling eligible children into Medicaid. In late 1997, South Carolina implemented its version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, Partners for Healthy Children (PHC), and aggressively pursued outreach enrollment for PHC and Medicaid. As a result, enrollment of children ages 0 through 18 in Kershaw County has increased by 84.7% from June 1997 to June 2001; thus Medicaid and PHC were serving 36.0% of all children in that age range. The total Medicaid expenditures in South Carolina for services provided to children ages 0 through 18 for state fiscal year 2002 were $991 million, at an average statewide expenditure of $2,343 per child enrolled, approximate Medicaid expenditure for children in the county would be $11.6 million.

In June 2001, the total number of Kershaw County children, birth through 18, enrolled in Medicaid was 4,952. The total can be broken down into the following age and race groupings:

	White	African American	Hispanic	Other	Total
Children under 1	212	171	17	6	406
Children 1 - 5	750	577	22	58	1,407
Children 6 - 14	1,060	1,146	20	85	2,311
Children 15 - 18	355	456	5	12	828
Total	2,377	2,350	64	161	4,952

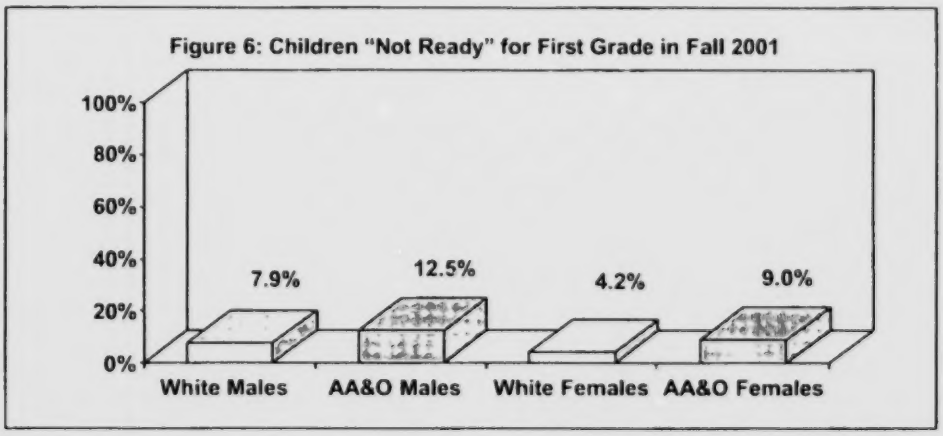
Ambulatory Care: When children lack adequate primary care, whether through lack of insurance, through limite access, or through failing to utilize available care, preventable and treatable conditions become serious and requi hospitalization. A useful indicator of inadequate primary care is the percentage of all hospitalizations that could typicall have been avoided through ambulatory care, especially for pneumonia, asthma, diarrhea and vomiting, dehydration, an severe ear, nose, and throat infections. The share of hospitalizations for these types of conditions could normally be ke below 20%; for children in the county under the age of 18 during 2001, the share was 38.0% for Whites and 43.1% f African-Americans and Others.

READINESS AND EARLY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Too many children reach school without the readiness skills needed for success in learning, such as language, soci skills, visual and auditory discrimination, memory recall, and knowledge of colors, letters, numbers, names of objects, et Likewise, some schools are not ready to respond appropriately to the varying developmental levels of children in the ear grades. As a result, too many students do not experience the success needed to create the motivation and engagement th sustain learning.

1st Grade "Readiness" on 2001-02 Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB):

53 children not ready 7.8% children not ready

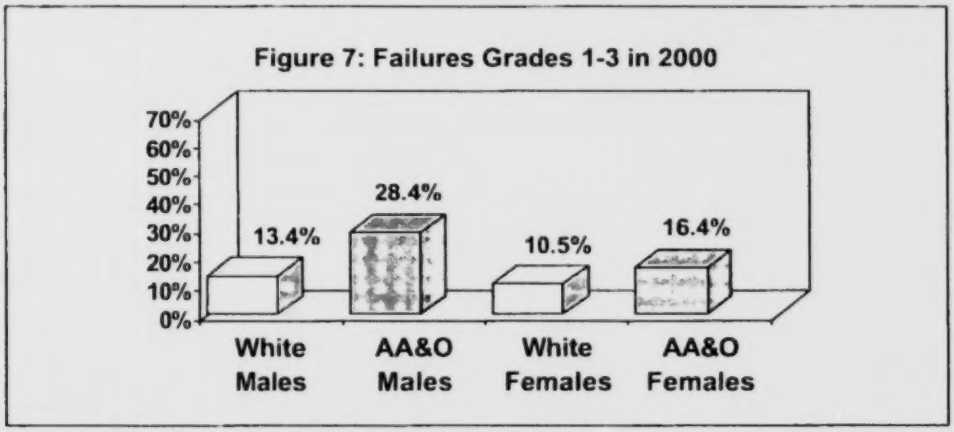


1st Grade Failures in 2002:

53 children failing 7.3% children failing

Failures Grades 1-3 in 2002 (approximate cumulative percentage of grades one, two and three):

117 children failing 15.7% children failing



Over-age for Grade 3 in 2001

102 children over-age 15.1% children over-age

Special Education: Large numbers of children are placed in special education classes. In elementary school, 170 six and seven year olds and 188 eight and nine year-olds were enrolled in special education classes during 2001-02, approximately 11.5% and 12.3% of their age groups respectively: 12.5% of White 8 – 9 year olds were in special education and 11.9% of African American and Others.

Readiness Summary: A serious problem exists in terms of student readiness and school success in the early grades. With 7.8% assessed not ready for the 1st grade, 15.1% over age in grade 3, and 12.3% of eight and nine year-olds placed in special education, unacceptably large numbers of students still begin school without good prospects of success in future school achievement and graduation; however, great improvement has occurred since the mid 1990s.

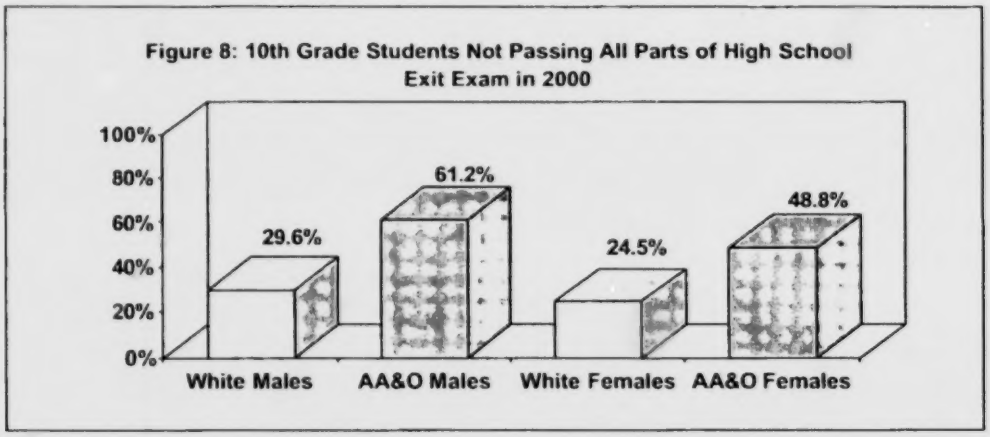
SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

By the end of elementary school, significant numbers of students perform below minimum standards. The following standardized test measures, comparing student performance to state minimum standards, should be used in combination with routine classroom assessments more reflective of real-world performance skills.

Special Education: Special education placements reflect both the significant number of children with serious handicapping conditions and a large number of students with mild learning and behavioral problems that have not been accommodated successfully by the regular educational program. The result is a large system of self-contained, resource, and itinerant services to meet the needs of 265 speech and language impaired, 612 learning disabled, 62 emotionally disabled, 147 mentally impaired, and 77 physically handicapped, deaf, blind, and other handicapped students. Special education classes served approximately 12.0% of all students in grades 1 - 12 during 2001-2002.

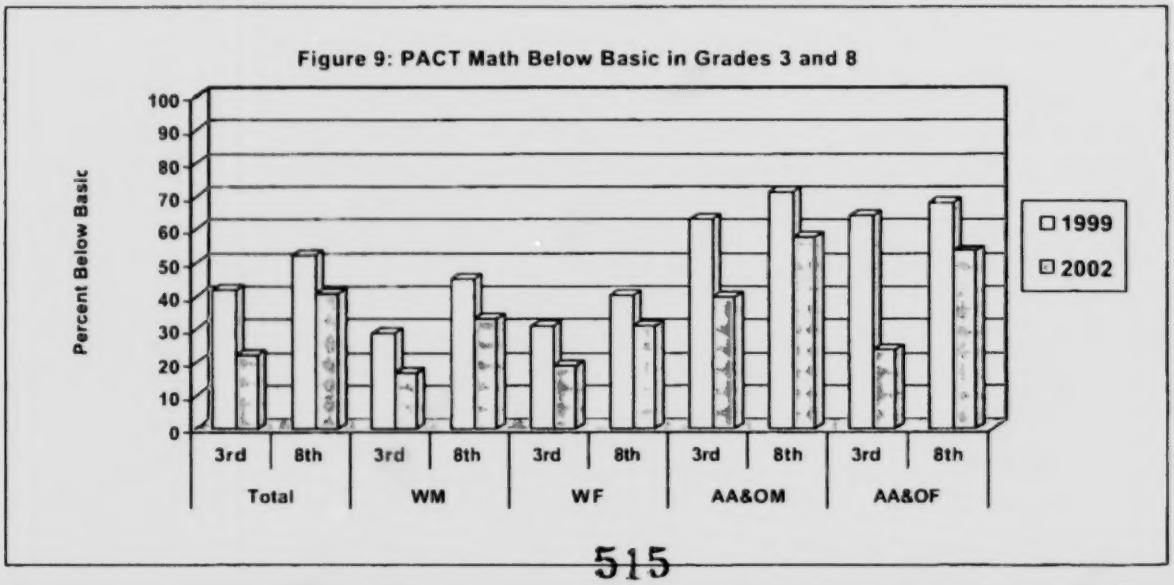
Exit Exam - not passing all parts of Exit Exam on first attempt in the 10th grade in 2002

242 students did not pass all parts — 38.7% of students did not pass all parts



Achievement Trends: How has performance on standardized achievement tests changed over the past 20 years? During the 1980s, student performance on the BSAP tests improved dramatically. Between 1981 and 1990, the percentage of 8th grade students in Kershaw County who did not meet standards declined from 45% to 22.4% in math and from 44.1% to 21.2% in reading. During the 1990's the BSAP trend changed, with 33.5% not meeting 8th grade math standards in 1998 and 31.7% in reading. On standardized tests, the first year when South Carolina students take the exam is comparable to the challenge encountered by the national norm group which took the test only once. Looking at first year data, the percentage of 4th grade students at or below the 25th percentile of national norms was 20.9% in 1983 on the CTBS, 29.7% in 1990 on the Stanford, and 31.9% in 1995 on the Metropolitan; for 9th graders, the percentage in the bottom quarter was 29.8% in 1990 and 28.4% in 1995. Although not comparable, the percent below basic on the 4th grade PACT in 1999, the first year of administration, was 39.6%, but in 2002 19.2% of 4th graders were below basic in reading and math; the percentage of 8th graders below basic in reading and math averaged 43.4% in 1999 and 35.1% in 2002.

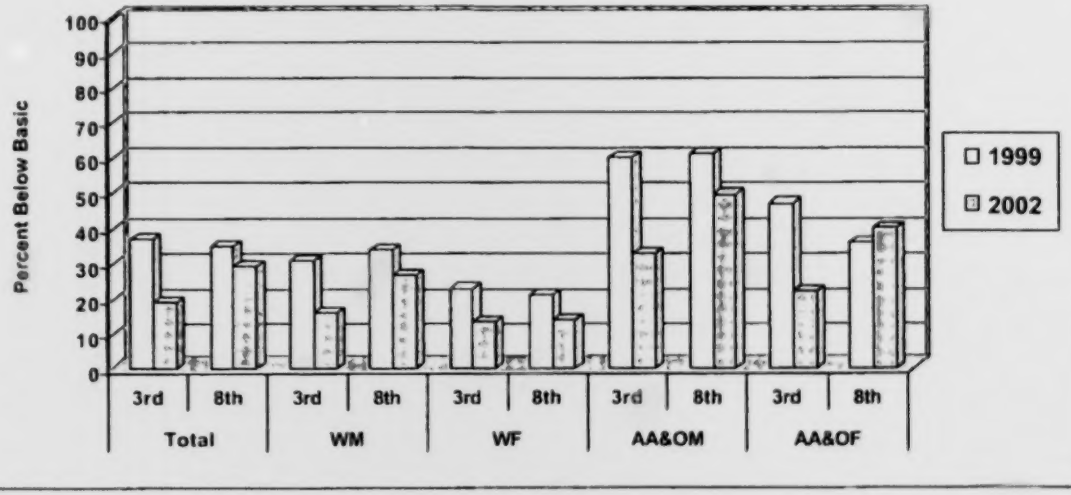
PACT: The Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) was first administered in 1999 for grades 3 - 8 in math and reading/language arts. Math assesses skills in numbers, numerical and algebraic concepts, patterns and functions, geometry, measurement, probability and statistics. The percentage of students scoring below basic in math has decreased by 35.0% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 783 students below basic in grades 3-8 but there would have been an additional 422 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
		Math (%)				
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	22.4	16.7	18.9	39.5	23.9
	4	21.0	10.5	15.2	38.2	35.8
	5	22.9	20.7	17.1	32.8	27.8
	6	26.3	19.2	15.0	41.5	42.6
	7	40.4	34.1	29.9	52.7	56.3
	8	40.8	33.2	31.1	57.4	53.6
Basic	3	43.8	43.9	39.0	41.9	54.9
	4	39.3	41.8	31.9	43.6	44.0
	5	40.8	39.4	40.0	38.1	47.6
	6	44.1	41.5	49.0	40.8	43.6
	7	34.1	31.3	38.5	35.7	30.6
	8	42.1	47.5	44.3	34.6	36.8
Proficient	3	20.7	21.6	25.4	13.7	16.8
	4	23.5	24.1	32.4	12.7	16.5
	5	20.6	21.2	22.0	22.4	15.1
	6	20.2	24.4	25.5	13.1	10.9
	7	14.9	18.5	18.6	8.5	9.0
	8	13.3	14.3	19.3	5.9	8.8
Advanced	3	13.2	17.8	16.7	4.8	4.4
	4	16.2	23.6	20.6	5.5	3.7
	5	15.7	18.7	20.8	6.7	9.5
	6	9.5	15.0	10.5	4.6	3.0
	7	10.6	16.1	13.1	3.1	4.2
	8	3.8	5.1	5.3	2.2	0.8

Reading/Language Arts assesses reading, listening, speaking, writing, research, and communication with technology. The first PACT assessment found a high percentage of elementary and middle grades students performing below standards and only a modest number above basic. The percentage of students scoring below basic in reading/language arts has decreased by 40.6% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 596 students below basic in grades 3 - 8 but there would have been an additional 408 at 1999 performance rates.

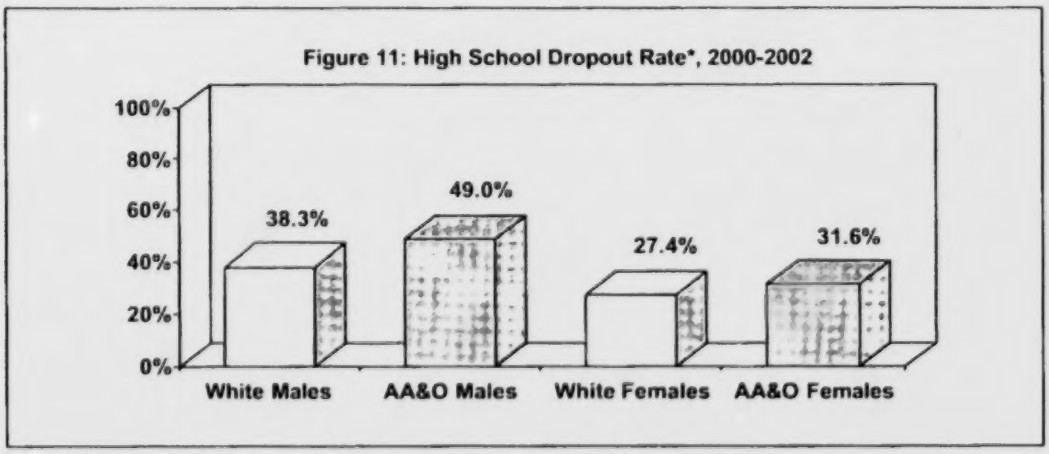
Figure 10: PACT Reading/Language Arts Below Basic in Grades 3 and 8



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
	Reading/Language Arts (%)					
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	19.1	16.0	13.6	33.1	22.1
	4	17.4	13.2	9.8	32.4	24.8
	5	22.2	20.4	13.5	33.6	30.2
	6	25.8	21.8	12.6	46.6	32.7
	7	24.5	25.3	10.9	38.8	31.3
	8	29.4	26.7	14.0	49.6	40.0
Basic	3	39.6	40.7	33.3	43.5	45.1
	4	45.4	46.4	39.0	47.7	53.2
	5	50.4	54.2	45.9	51.5	50.8
	6	36.1	36.3	31.3	35.1	46.5
	7	45.4	40.6	39.8	53.5	54.9
	8	40.6	45.2	34.2	40.1	44.8
Proficient	3	37.4	39.5	45.6	23.4	31.0
	4	33.5	36.4	44.9	18.9	21.1
	5	25.9	25.0	37.3	14.9	17.5
	6	30.2	32.6	42.9	17.6	16.8
	7	26.1	30.5	40.7	7.8	12.5
	8	24.0	25.3	38.2	8.8	12.8
Advanced	3	4.0	3.8	7.5	0.0	1.8
	4	3.7	4.1	6.3	0.9	0.9
	5	1.5	0.4	3.3	0.0	1.6
	6	7.9	9.3	13.1	0.8	4.0
	7	4.0	3.6	8.6	0.0	1.4
	8	5.9	2.8	13.6	1.5	2.4

Dropout Rate - 8th grade students no longer enrolled in grade 12
(average of students for the three years ending 2000-2002)

290 students drop out annually **35.8% students drop out?**



Dropouts: Distressing numbers of students drop out and fail to graduate. An average of 21.1% of 8th graders failed to graduate** from county schools five years later during the period 1980-84, 23.4% during 1985-89, and 22.4% during 1990-94, 21.3% during 1995-97 and 27.9% during 1998-2000***.

During 2001-02, 97.5% of all who did graduate received the State High School Diploma, while the remaining 2.5% received a State Certificate for meeting the required Carnegie units but not passing the Exit Exam.

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*12th grade enrollment compared to 8th grade enrollment four years earlier

** This is calculated by using 8th grade enrollment to graduation data.

*** 2001 data will be available soon and will be posted on the website.

Fortunately, many dropouts enroll in adult education programs and either earn a high school diploma or obtain a GED. During 2001-02, 19 Adult Education high school diplomas were awarded to school completers and in 2001 96 GEDs were awarded in the county. Over time, adult education high school diplomas and GEDs increase the effective school completion rate substantially. In the 2000 Census, 19.9% of county resident 25 - 34 year-olds said they had not completed either high school or a GED.

Achievement Summary: The numbers of students testing below basic on the PACT and dropping out range from 17.4% to 42.6%. Thus, far too many students fail to acquire the knowledge, skills, learning habits, and motivation necessary to compete in the economy or contribute to society in the 21st Century.

ADOLESCENT RISK BEHAVIORS

Academic achievement is greatly influenced by the prevailing youth culture which often promotes popularity with peers and partying rather than studying and doing well in school. The prevalence of adolescent risk-taking and under-achievement is illustrated by the poor grades of substance-abusing teens.

Substance Abuser Rates at Levels of Academic Performance

	Usual School Grades in Past Year					Total
	A Range	B Range	C Range	D Range	F Range	
Smoked Cigarettes (in past 30 days)	13.3%	22.4%	31.7%	42.8%	63.6%	25.3%
Drank 5 or More Drinks on One Occasion (in past 30 days)	12.4%	17.3%	22.6%	26.8%	43.5%	18.9%
Used Any Illicit Drug (in past 30 days)	11.5%	17.1%	25.1%	34.1%	53.0%	20.0%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

As influence from parents and other adults declines during adolescence, significant numbers of students engage in violence, crime, school offenses, depressive emotions and attempted suicide:

Risk Behaviors Participated in During Past 12 Months	White Male		White Female		African American Male		African American Female		Total		Total (Grade 7-12)
	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	
Carried a handgun or knife for self-defense?	22.5%	26.1%	5.3%	6.3%	14.6%	20.2%	5.0%	7.6%	12.2%	14.9%	13.7%
Carried a handgun or knife as a weapon?	6.8%	9.4%	1.3%	1.6%	9.0%	13.9%	3.0%	5.0%	4.8%	6.9%	5.9%
Been in a fight with someone?	40.1%	31.3%	18.5%	16.2%	41.4%	31.9%	29.4%	22.4%	31.7%	24.9%	28.0%
Hit your boyfriend or girlfriend?	2.0%	1.6%	6.9%	10.0%	5.7%	4.9%	17.7%	24.2%	7.4%	9.7%	8.7%
Been hit by your boyfriend or girlfriend?	7.1%	6.1%	6.1%	8.5%	11.5%	9.7%	9.5%	10.6%	8.1%	8.5%	8.3%
Rec'd detention or in-school suspension?	38.1%	37.3%	22.4%	25.0%	41.6%	37.6%	34.3%	30.7%	33.3%	32.1%	32.7%
Been suspended from school?	12.9%	13.9%	5.2%	7.2%	24.0%	22.6%	14.8%	15.4%	13.1%	13.8%	13.5%
Stolen anything worth > $5?	12.9%	17.6%	6.9%	10.7%	14.2%	15.6%	8.5%	8.4%	10.4%	13.1%	11.9%
Had an accident while driving?	NA	14.3%	NA	12.6%	NA	7.7%	NA	6.3%	NA	11.0%	NA
Been arrested and booked?	3.9%	6.1%	1.5%	2.7%	5.7%	8.1%	2.2%	2.9%	3.2%	4.7%	4.0%
Felt hopeless for two weeks or more?	14.8%	15.9%	21.8%	29.0%	14.0%	13.3%	22.0%	24.8%	18.2%	21.4%	19.9%
Seriously considered attempting suicide?	6.9%	8.4%	9.6%	14.3%	5.5%	5.4%	6.8%	8.7%	7.4%	9.7%	8.7%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

Adolescence is often a time of taking risks and asserting independence from adults. When asked whether they would tell an adult about a problem, the following percentages of state students said they would be "not likely" or "very unlikely" to tell if they:

-heard a student threaten to harm someone: 33.2% middle school, 47.0% high school;
-saw a student with a handgun at school: 22.7% middle school, 20.5% high school;
-saw a student with a knife at school: 24.7% middle school, 31.6% high school;
-saw a student with drugs at school: 33.7% middle school, 61.9% high school;

Alcohol Use:* In the state during 2001-02, 21.0% of 7th and 8th graders and 37.1% of high schoolers said they had used alcohol in the past month. Of White males in grades 7 - 12, 33.8% had used it in the past month, compared with 26.0% of African-American males; likewise, 34.5% of White females said they had used alcohol, compared with 26.4% of African-American females. Many youth first used alcohol at an early age: 14.2% had used alcohol by age 11 or younger, 33.0% by age 13, and 61.1% by age 15.

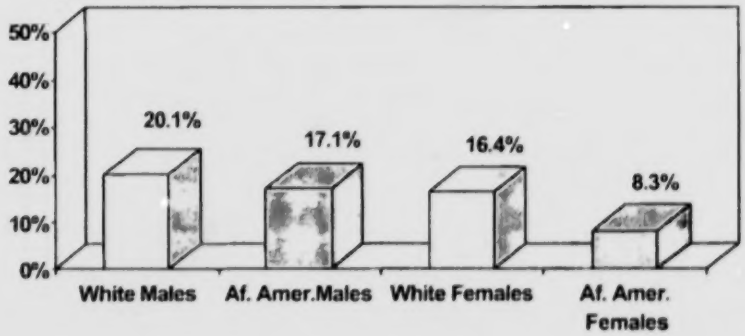
During the previous year, 21.0% of 7th and 8th graders and 30.4% of high schoolers said they had ridden with a drinking driver. Of seniors who drive, 19.4% said they had driven after drinking. Widespread use is encouraged by the ready availability and perceived low risk of alcohol use. Among students who expressed an opinion, 43.6% of eighth graders and 75.4% of seniors felt that beer was easy to get. Also, 71.6% of eighth graders and 70.7% of seniors felt there was not a great risk in drinking two drinks a day, and 47.3% of eighth graders and 53.1% of high schoolers felt there was not a great risk in drinking 5 drinks every weekend.

Heavy Drinking:* In 2001-02, 7.7% of 7th and 8th graders and 18.9% of high school students in the state repor drinking 5 or more drinks in a day during the past month. When asked how many drinks, if any, they usually consur 13.7% of all state students in grades 7 - 12 in 2001-02 responded 3 or more drinks at a time and 7.1% reported usually 5 more drinks. Among high school students, 18.6% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 10.0% 5 or mc Among seniors, 24.7% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 13.7% 5 or more; however 22.9% of seni said that they drank 5 or more drinks in a day once or more during the past month.

Drugs:* In 2001-02, 9.5% of 7th and 8th graders and 20.1% of high schoolers in the state reported using ille drugs during the previous month. Among students in grades 7 - 12, use was reported by 20.1% of White males, 16.4% Wl females, 17.1% of African-American males, and 8.3% of African-American females. Some young people initiated drug at an early age: 5.3% had experienced their first use by age 11 or sooner; 16.3% had used a drug by age 13, and 34.7% by 15.

In the past year, 10.3% of all high school students in the state who drive and 15.4% of seniors who drive said that they had driven after using drugs. Such use is encouraged by the ready availability of drugs: 22.3% of 8th graders who had an opinion said it is easy to get marijuana and 8.4% said it is easy to get cocaine or crack; 65.0% of seniors said it is easy to get marijuana and 29.5% said it was easy to get cocaine or crack.

Figure 12: Drug Use among Students Grades 7-12 during 2001-02*



* Schools in the county elected not to participate in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking. Therefore, data for all of South Carolina is presented here. The latest Kershaw County data, for 1992-93, is available on the Kids Count website at www.sckidscount.org.

Sexual Activity and Pregnancy: Many teenagers now engage in sexual activity. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) administered to a representative sample of high school students throughout South Carolina in 2001 showed that sexual activity begins at an early age: 7% of female and 21% of male students have engaged in intercourse before age 13; by age 15, 38% the females and 49% of males have engaged in sexual intercourse. Statewide, 48% of females and 50% of males in the 11th and 12th grades reported engaging in intercourse during the past three months. Furthermore, 27% of female and 33% of male 12th graders have had intercourse with four or more partners during their lifetimes.

Premature sexual activity often results in pregnancy. In the county, 64 girls between the ages of 14 and 17 became pregnant in 1999, 75 in 2000 and 56 in 2001. This represented 3.7% of all girls ages 14 – 17 in 2001; several times this percentage become pregnant at least once by age 18. The 2001 pregnancy rate for ages 14 - 17 was 3.2% for Whites and 4.5% for African-Americans and Others. Of all pregnancies of 14-17 year olds, 76.8% resulted in live births, with almost all other pregnancies ending in abortions.

Teen pregnancy rates increased substantially across the state during the 1980s; as a result, greater emphasis v devoted to preventing teen pregnancy. Since 1989, the teen pregnancy rate in Kershaw County has decreased by 12.5 Overall, it has decreased by 13.5% for Whites, and decreased by 16.7% for African Americans and Others.

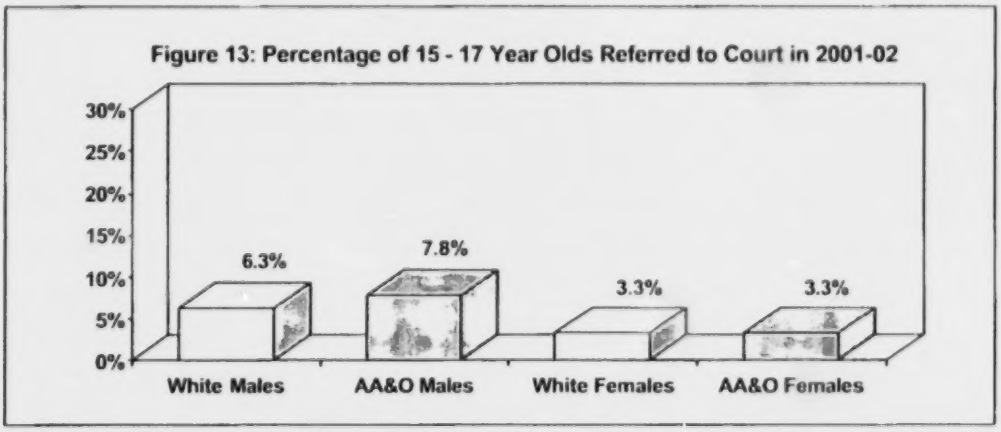
Juvenile Delinquency: In 2001-02, 226 individual juvenile offenders in the county were referred to the Solicitor for delinquency; of these, 19.0% were age 12 or younger, 29.2% were 13 or 14, and 51.8% were 15 or older.

Of the referrals to the family court, 7.6% of all referrals were for violent and serious crimes which include drug trafficking, acts against persons for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and serious property offenses for arson and burglary. Also, 58 juvenile cases constituting 20.1% of all referrals were for status offenses. Status offenses include truancy, running away, incorrigibility, and other offenses that would not be crimes for adults.

Delinquents are likely to live in families with low income: 16.1% lived in families with income under $10,000, 41.9% with $10,000-$19,999 and 41.9% with $20,000 or more. Furthermore, only 21.9% of delinquents lived with both natural parents, while 53.1% lived in a single parent household, 20.8% lived with other relatives, and 4.2% in other situations including parent plus step-parent. Delinquency or criminal activity occurs among many related family members: 23.4% had at least one family member who was delinquent or had some criminal record.

Youth referred to the family courts are likely to have been there before. In 2001-02, 46.0% had at least one prior referral and 12.8% had been referred to court 3 times or more. Many were referred at an early age. For delinquents 15 - 17 years old, 3.4% had been referred by the age of 10, 9.0% by the age of 12, and 21.5% by the age of 14.

During 2001-02, 117 youth ages 15 to 17 were referred to the family courts. In the county, 5.1% of all youth 15 to 17 were referred to court in one year and roughly double that percentage are referred at least once by age 18. Furthermore, the National Youth Survey indicates that typically across the United States the proportion of youth engaging in crime is two or three times the number ever apprehended. In 2001-02, there were 20 juveniles committed from the county to DJJ custody and placed in residential programs.



Not in School or Employed: During 2000, 327 teenagers ages 16-19 were idle, meaning they neither worked any hours nor were enrolled in school, even part-time. Idle teens comprised 11.9% of their age group: 11.2% for White and 13.1% African-American & Other teens. A much larger number, perhaps twice as many, were not engaged in either school full time or work full time. The data reflect a serious failure in both school completion and the critical transition from school to work, significantly affecting their development as future workers. For an in-depth description of the problems of young adults seeking to enter the labor force, visit our website at www.scyoungadults.org for our state and county reports on 18-29 year olds.

Deaths: During 1997-2001, 15 youth ages 15 to 19 died. Historically, automobile accidents have been the major cause, resulting in 6 deaths between 1996 and 2000; homicides killed youth 15 to 19 years old during the five-year period, and 0 youth committed suicide. Alcohol use is often a significant factor in deaths among teenagers.

Summary

Facing the Scope of Problems: The data on families, economic status, health, readiness, school achievement, and adolescent risk behaviors provide a troublesome picture of the condition of children in Kershaw County. The 27.2% of children in single-parent families, 17.2% in poverty, 27.9% not graduating from school, 37.1% of high school students using alcohol and 20.1% using drugs each month, and other data profiled in this report suggest that too many children are at risk of not growing up to become self-supporting adults, good family members, and responsible community citizens.

Emphasizing the Positive: South Carolina Kids Count reports have been developed to describe the problems of children in each of the counties. Fortunately, the majority of children and youth are doing well, and some very well. One simple description is the percentage of children who do not fall into the problem categories reported. For the county, 83.9% of children are born to non-teen mothers ages 20 or older, 67.3% are born to married parents, and 72.8% lived in two-parent families; 82.8% were not poor and 59.4% lived in families with incomes above twice the poverty level for a family of three, $30,040 in 2002; 88.9% of babies were born with normal birthweights; 92.2% were assessed as ready for the first grade, 59.2% scored basic or better on PACT for 8th grade math and 70.6% for 8th grade reading, 61.3% passed all parts of the Exit Exam in the 10th grade, and 72.1% graduated with their class. In a typical month, 62.9% of high school students do not drink alcohol, 79.9% do not use drugs, and 74.7% do not smoke. Unfortunately, the absence of a problem is not always an indicator of success. Some data is available for exemplary performance: for example, 41.4% of 3rd graders and 29.9% of 8th graders scored proficient or advanced on PACT in reading and 33.9% of 3rd graders and 17.1% of 8th graders in math. Unfortunately, data on success is not generally available.

Despite the limitations of success data, we must emphasize the positive in providing good support and appropriate influences for children and youth. Recent philosophy and publications such as those of the Search Institute (700 South Third Street, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN, 55415-1138, tel. 1-800-888-7828, www.search-institute.org), emphasize the critical importance of "developmental assets" to promote and support positive development. One short book from the Search Institute, (What Kids Need to Succeed, by Peter J. Benson, Judy Gailbraith, and Pamela Espeland, 1995) presents an excellent array of suggestions for promoting developmental assets through families, community, faith congregations, and schools. If each family, school, religious congregation and community organization assertively worked to build such assets, the problems described in this report would be reduced dramatically. Such positive family-school-community efforts could improve South Carolina's national Kids Count ranking from the bottom 10 to the average or even into the top 10 by prevention of unnecessary problems affecting children and youth, as shown on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

All data presented in this report is the most recent available at the date it goes to the printer. This version of the Kids Count report will be revised as more recent and additional data become available. Please send us your corrections and suggestions for improvement. We welcome your ideas for ways to make the state and county reports more useful and accurate. Please utilize local data sources whenever possible to supplement the profile provided through our report.

Data related inquiries should be directed to:

Anne Wilson, Data Manager (awilson@drss.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-4810

Calls for **copies of reports** for other counties and inquiries regarding more recent reports should be made to:

Kim Hazel-Lohr, Project Manager (khazel@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-1295

For **policy questions and general comments**, please contact:

Dr. A. Baron Holmes, Project Director (bholmes@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-2291

Comparable reports for all 46 counties and for the state can also be found on the World Wide Web at

www.sckidscount.org

Our website also provides: links to other websites for indicators in our report; high to low rankings for individual indicators; information on how to improve SC's national rank; and a glossary of definitions.

The national Kids Count Report can be found on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website at www.aecf.org

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Kershaw County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Indicators	Most Recent Year	Number 1980*	Number 1990*	Number Most Recent Data	Number Percent Change 80-pres	Number Percent Change 90-pres	Percent 1980	Percent 1990	Percent Most Recent	Percent Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Percent Change 90-pres	1980 Rank	R 1990
Health													
Low Birth Weight	2001	49	74	77	+57.1%	+4.1%	8.0	11.3	11.1	38.1%	-1.5%	14	
White babies	*2001*	*15*	*39*	*49*	*+226.7%*	*+25.6%*	*4.1*	*9.5*	*10.1*	*146.3%*	*6.2%*	*4*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*34*	*35*	*28*	*-17.6%*	*-20.0%*	*13.6*	*14.2*	*13.3*	*-2.0%*	*-5.9%*	*37*	
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	2001	148	224	181	-22.3%	-19.2%	24.1	34.1	26.1	8.3%	-23.4%	2	
White babies	*2001*	*66*	*109*	*105*	*+59.1%*	*-3.7%*	*18.1*	*26.6*	*21.7*	*19.9%*	*18.4%*	*5*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*82*	*115*	*76*	*-7.3%*	*-33.9%*	*32.8*	*46.6*	*36.2*	*10.3%*	*-22.3%*	*1*	
Infant Mortality	2001	26	22	15	-42.3%	-31.8%	1.4	1.1	0.7	-49.1%	-36.8%	7	
White babies	*2001*	*13*	*9*	*11*	*-15.4%*	*+22.2%*	*1.1*	*0.7*	*0.7*	*-36.7%*	*2.6%*	*23*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*13*	*13*	*4*	*-69.2%*	*-69.2%*	*1.7*	*1.8*	*0.6*	*-62.8%*	*-65.0%*	*5*	
Family													
Births to mothers under 18	2001	42	36	43	+2.4%	+19.4%	6.8	5.5	6.2	-9.4%	13.2%	8	
White babies	*2001*	*14*	*19*	*25*	*+78.6%*	*+31.6%*	*3.8*	*4.6*	*5.2*	*35.2%*	*12.2%*	*8*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*28*	*17*	*18*	*-35.7%*	*+5.9%*	*11.2*	*6.9*	*8.6*	*-23.5%*	*24.5%*	*11*	
Births to mothers under 20	2001	107	106	112	+4.7%	+5.7%	17.4	16.1	16.1	-7.6%	-0.2%	5	
White babies	*2001*	*48*	*62*	*63*	*+31.3%*	*-1.6%*	*13.2*	*15.1*	*13.0*	*-1.4%*	*-14.0%*	*10*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*59*	*44*	*49*	*-16.9%*	*-11.4%*	*23.6*	*17.8*	*23.3*	*-1.1%*	*31.0%*	*10*	
Births to mothers with less than a high school education	2001	181	138	146	-19.3%	+5.8%	29.5	21.0	21.0	-28.8%	0.0%	7	
White babies	*2001*	*93*	*95*	*97*	*+4.3%*	*+2.1%*	*25.5*	*23.2*	*20.0*	*-21.7%*	*-13.7%*	*15*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*88*	*43*	*49*	*-44.3%*	*+14.0%*	*35.2*	*17.4*	*23.3*	*-33.7%*	*34.0%*	*11*	
Births to single mothers****	2001	118	200	227	+92.4%	+13.5%	19.2	30.4	32.7	70.2%	7.4%	8	
White babies	*2001*	*20*	*50*	*97*	*+385.0%*	*+94.0%*	*5.5*	*12.2*	*20.0*	*264.0%*	*64.0%*	*16*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*98*	*150*	*130*	*+32.7%*	*-13.3%*	*39.2*	*60.7*	*61.9*	*57.9%*	*1.9%*	*5*	
Children in single parent families	2000	1,937	1,974	3,238	+67.2%	+64.0%	17.1	19.5	27.2	58.8%	39.3%	14	
White	*2000*	*796*	*919*	*1,559*	*+95.9%*	*+69.6%*	*10.1*	*12.9*	*18.5*	*83.0%*	*43.2%*	*23*	
African American and Other	*2000*	*1,136*	*1,044*	*1,679*	*+47.8%*	*+60.8%*	*30.3*	*35.3*	*48.2*	*59.0%*	*36.4%*	*19*	
Education													
Not Ready for Grade 1	2001	213	127	53	-75.1%	-58.3%	33.5	17.2	7.8	-76.7%	-54.7%	13	
White males	*2001*	*70*	*39*	*16*	*-77.1%*	*-59.0%*	*31.7*	*16.7*	*7.9*	*-75.1%*	*-52.7%*	*26*	
White females	*2001*	*36*	*16*	*9*	*-75.0%*	*-43.8%*	*18.3*	*7.7*	*4.2*	*-77.0%*	*-45.5%*	*14*	
African American and Other males	*2001*	*58*	*41*	*17*	*-70.7%*	*-58.5%*	*51.8*	*27.3*	*12.5*	*-75.9%*	*-54.2%*	*16*	
African American and Other females	*2001*	*49*	*30*	*11*	*-77.6%*	*-63.3%*	*46.7*	*20.3*	*9.0*	*-80.7%*	*-55.7%*	*24*	
Repeating Grades 1-3	2000	81	59	114	+40.7%	+93.2%	13.2	8.2	15.9	20.5%	93.9%	10	
White males	*2000*	*30*	*25*	*33*	*+10.0%*	*+32.0%*	*13.8*	*10.7*	*13.4*	*-2.9%*	*25.2%*	*11*	
White females	*2000*	*16*	*8*	*24*	*+50.0%*	*+200.0%*	*8.1*	*3.7*	*10.5*	*29.6%*	*183.8%*	*14*	
African American and Other males	*2000*	*24*	*15*	*38*	*+58.3%*	*+153.3%*	*22.9*	*11.3*	*28.4*	*24.0%*	*151.3%*	*19*	
African American and Other females	*2000*	*11*	*10*	*19*	*+72.7%*	*+90.0%*	*11.0*	*7.2*	*16.4*	*49.1%*	*127.8%*	*9*	
Grade 3 Math below standards*****	2002	235	105	163	-30.6%	+55.2%	36.6	15.8	22.4	-38.8%	41.8%	15	
White males	*2002*	*68*	*25*	*44*	*-35.3%*	*+76.0%*	*29.1*	*12.7*	*16.7*	*-42.6%*	*31.5%*	*19*	
White females	*2002*	*60*	*24*	*43*	*-28.3%*	*+79.2%*	*28.7*	*10.8*	*18.9*	*-34.1%*	*75.0%*	*27*	
African American and Other males	*2002*	*51*	*30*	*49*	*-3.9%*	*+63.3%*	*54.8*	*25.6*	*39.5*	*-27.9%*	*54.3%*	*16*	
African American and Other females	*2002*	*56*	*26*	*27*	*-51.8%*	*+3.8%*	*54.4*	*20.5*	*23.9*	*-56.1%*	*16.6%*	*28*	
Grade 3 Reading below standards*****	2002	178	70	139	-21.9%	+98.6%	27.6	10.6	19.1	-30.8%	80.2%	10	
White males	*2002*	*62*	*15*	*42*	*-32.3%*	*+180.0%*	*26.4*	*7.6*	*16.0*	*-39.4%*	*110.5%*	*20*	
White females	*2002*	*26*	*15*	*31*	*+19.2%*	*+106.7%*	*12.4*	*6.8*	*13.6*	*9.7%*	*100.0%*	*7*	
African American and Other males	*2002*	*51*	*25*	*41*	*-19.6%*	*+64.0%*	*54.3*	*21.6*	*33.1*	*-39.0%*	*53.2%*	*19*	
African American and Other females	*2002*	*39*	*15*	*25*	*-35.9%*	*+66.7%*	*37.9*	*11.9*	*22.1*	*-41.7%*	*85.7%*	*15*	
Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT Grade 4	1998	120	199	146	+21.7%	-26.6%	20.9	29.7	21.7	3.8%	-26.9%	6	
White males	*1998*	*41*	*69*	*41*	*+0.0%*	*-40.6%*	*20.4*	*31.1*	*19.9*	*-2.5%*	*-36.0%*	*14*	
White females	*1998*	*19*	*43*	*32*	*+68.4%*	*-25.6%*	*10.2*	*19.6*	*13.7*	*34.3%*	*-30.1%*	*9*	
African American and Other males	*1998*	*30*	*50*	*43*	*+43.3%*	*-14.0%*	*36.6*	*50.0*	*35.9*	*-1.9%*	*-28.2%*	*3*	
African American and Other females	*1998*	*27*	*37*	*30*	*+11.1%*	*-18.9%*	*29.7*	*28.9*	*28.0*	*-5.7%*	*-3.1%*	*7*	

*Year of data is approximate in many cases.
**1 is best, 46 is worst.
*** Data include paternity acknowledgements.
***** BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Kershaw County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Education (continued)

Indicators	Most Recent Year	Number 1980*	Number 1990*	Number Most Recent	Number Percent Change 80-pres	Number Percent Change 90-pres	Percent 1980	Percent 1990	Percent Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres
Grade 8 Math below state standards**	2002	283	146	288	+1.8%	+97.3%	45.0	22.4	40.8	-9.3%	82.1%
White males	*2002*	*64*	*34*	*72*	*+12.5%*	*+111.8%*	*31.7*	*14.9*	*33.2*	*4.7%*	*122.8%*
White females	*2002*	*64*	*37*	*71*	*+10.9%*	*+91.9%*	*33.3*	*16.5*	*31.1*	*-6.6%*	*88.5%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*74*	*36*	*78*	*+5.4%*	*+116.7%*	*67.9*	*38.3*	*57.4*	*-15.5%*	*49.9%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*78*	*38*	*67*	*-14.1%*	*+76.3%*	*63.9*	*36.5*	*53.6*	*-16.1%*	*46.8%*
Grade 8 Reading below state standards**	2002	279	138	208	-25.4%	+50.7%	44.1	21.2	29.4	-33.3%	38.7%
White males	*2002*	*75*	*48*	*58*	*-22.7%*	*+20.8%*	*36.8*	*21.0*	*26.7*	*-27.4%*	*27.1%*
White females	*2002*	*52*	*24*	*32*	*-38.5%*	*+33.3%*	*26.9*	*10.7*	*14.0*	*-48.0%*	*30.8%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*75*	*34*	*68*	*-9.3%*	*+100.0%*	*68.2*	*36.2*	*49.6*	*-27.3%*	*37.0%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*74*	*31*	*50*	*-32.4%*	*+61.3%*	*60.7*	*29.8*	*40.0*	*-34.1%*	*34.2%*
Grade 9 Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT	1998	NA	199	246	NA	+23.6%	NA	29.8	31.1	NA	4.4%
White males	*1998*	*NA*	*85*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*32.2*	*27.9*	*NA*	*-13.4%*
White females	*1998*	*NA*	*37*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*17.4*	*13.9*	*NA*	*-20.1%*
African American and Other males	*1998*	*NA*	*39*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*41.5*	*53.4*	*NA*	*28.7%*
African American and Other females	*1998*	*NA*	*38*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*40*	*40.7*	*NA*	*1.8%*
Exit Exam (not passing all parts on 1st attempt)	2002	217	172	242	+11.5%	+40.7%	35.6	28.2	38.1	8.7%	37.2%
White males	*2002*	*60*	*50*	*58*	*-3.3%*	*+16.0%*	*27.3*	*21.3*	*29.6*	*8.4%*	*39.0%*
White females	*2002*	*62*	*40*	*48*	*-22.6%*	*+20.0%*	*26.6*	*19.9*	*24.5*	*-7.9%*	*23.1%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*40*	*42*	*52*	*+30.0%*	*+23.8%*	*65.6*	*53.8*	*61.2*	*-6.7%*	*13.8%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*54*	*40*	*59*	*+9.3%*	*+47.5%*	*56.8*	*42.6*	*48.8*	*-14.1%*	*14.6%*
Dropout Rate (8th graders no longer enrolled in 12th grade 4 years later)	2000-02	68	165	290	+330.1%	+76.0%	9.9	22.6	35.8	262.1%	58.6%
White males	*2000-02*	*22*	*68*	*100*	*+356.1%*	*+48.6%*	*9.7*	*25.1*	*38.3*	*296.0%*	*52.3%*
White females	*2000-02*	*21*	*58*	*67*	*+226.8%*	*+16.5%*	*9.6*	*24.4*	*27.4*	*186.9%*	*12.5%*
African American and Other males	*2000-02*	*21*	*25*	*76*	*+261.9%*	*+210.2%*	*16.3*	*21.1*	*49.0*	*201.2%*	*132.2%*
African American and Other females	*2000-02*	*4*	*16*	*47*	*+1075.0%*	*+203.2%*	*3.7*	*14.2*	*31.6*	*765.4%*	*123.3%*
Young Adults Not Completing High School (18-24)	2000	1,435	1,058	1,282	-10.7%	+21.2%	31.7	28.6	19.9	-37.3%	-30.5%
White males	*NA*	*516*	*414*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*35.4*	*32.0*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
White females	*NA*	*418*	*280*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*28.9*	*22.3*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other males	*NA*	*234*	*222*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*31.2*	*42.7*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other females	*NA*	*267*	*142*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*30.6*	*22.8*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*

Economics

Poverty Rate	2000	2,337	1,891	2,337	+0.0%	+23.6%	19.3	16.5	17.2	-10.9%	4.2%
White children	*2000*	*813*	*549*	*947*	*+16.5%*	*+72.5%*	*10.5*	*7.2*	*10.3*	*-1.9%*	*43.1%*
African American and Other children	*2000*	*1,524*	*1,342*	*1,390*	*-8.8%*	*+3.6%*	*35.0*	*34.8*	*31.7*	*-9.5%*	*-9.0%*
Income of Families w/children (1999 $)	2000	$ 43,682	$ 45,606	$ 48,920	+12.0%	+7.3%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
White families	*2000*	*$ 45,303*	*$ 50,709*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other families	*2000*	*$ 39,589*	*$ 33,016*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*

Adolescent Risk Factors

Teenage Pregnancy (ages 14-17)	2001	66	53	56	-15.2%	+5.7%	4.5	4.1	3.7	-17.0%	-9.8%
White	*2001*	*29*	*33*	*32*	*+10.3%*	*-3.0%*	*3.2*	*3.8*	*3.2*	*-0.6%*	*-15.8%*
African American and Other	*2001*	*37*	*20*	*23*	*-37.8%*	*+15.0%*	*6.4*	*4.8*	*4.5*	*-29.5%*	*-6.3%*
Delinquency	2002	41	100	117	+185.4%	+17.0%	1.9	4.8	5.1	168.9%	6.4%
White males	*2002*	*17*	*43*	*48*	*+182.4%*	*+11.6%*	*2.5*	*6.3*	*6.3*	*152.6%*	*0.3%*
White females	*2002*	*6*	*16*	*24*	*+300.0%*	*+50.0%*	*0.9*	*2.2*	*3.3*	*265.3%*	*49.4%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*11*	*28*	*32*	*+190.9%*	*+14.3%*	*2.8*	*7.9*	*7.8*	*178.7%*	*-1.2%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*7*	*13*	*13*	*+85.7%*	*+0.0%*	*1.6*	*3.7*	*3.3*	*103.1%*	*-12.2%*

*Closest available data to this year was used in many cases.
**BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Kids Count 2003

Lancaster County

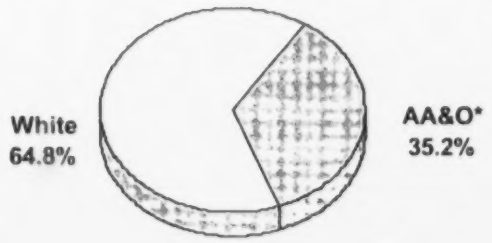
DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2000 there were an estimated 15,595 children under age 18 in the county. Of these, 10,100 were White, 5,075 were African-American, and 420 were other races. There were 14,645 children under age 18 in 1990, 16,616 in 1980, 16,231 in 1970, and 16,646 in 1960.

Children represent a shrinking portion of the county's population. Those under 18 constituted 25.4% of the population in 2000, down from 42.3% in 1960, 37.5% in 1970, and 31.1% in 1980.

In 2000 the 4,876 pre-schoolers under age 6 were 7.9% of the overall population: 7.4% of Whites and 8.9% of African Americans.

Figure 1: Population Ages 0-17 in 2000



* In all charts African-American is combined with other races, and often abbreviated as AA&O. Other races comprise 2.7% of children in the county, with "two or more races" at 1.4% and "some other race alone" at 0.8% as the largest Other groups.

FAMILY

Families have always been the most important influence in a child's life. Children depend on their families for material needs, stimulation and guidance. Family life is different in numerous ways from previous generations, and many families now face exceptional challenges.

Families with children now make up a smaller share of all households. Only 33.4% of all households in 2000, as compared with 50.0% of households in 1960, had children below the age of 18.

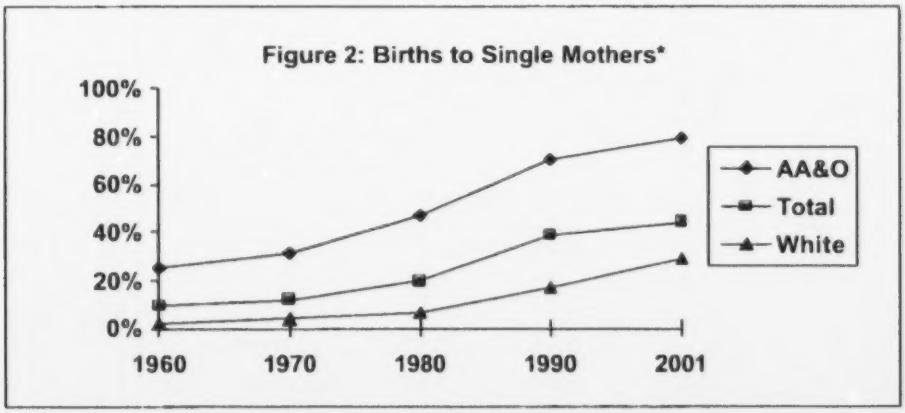
Births to Teen Mothers: In 2001, 50 babies were born to mothers younger than age 18. They were 6.2% of all babies born in the county; 4.6% of all White and 9.9% of all African-American and Other babies were born to teen mothers under the age of 18. Of the babies born to these teens in 2001, 92.0% were born to single mothers, including babies whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers.

In 2001, 133 babies were born to mothers younger than age 20. These babies were 16.5% of all born in the county; 13.9% of all White and 22.6% of all African-American and Other babies were born to mothers under the age of 20. Of the babies born to these mothers in 2001, 88.0% were born to single mothers, including paternity acknowledeged babies.

Education of Mothers Giving Birth: Children's success is strongly influenced by the education of their parents. In 2001, 205 babies, 25.5% of all babies, were born to mothers of all ages who had not completed the 12th grade. In 2001, 24.8% of White and 27.2% of African-American and Other babies were born to mothers who had completed less than the 12th grade. This is a substantial improvement from 51.0% in 1970. In addition, during 2001, 37.2% had completed 12 grades (33.9% of Whites and 44.9% of African Americans and Others) and 37.2% had more than a high school degree (41.3% of Whites and 28.0% of African American and Others).

Births to Single Mothers: Births to single mothers have increased steadily over four decades. In 2001, 218 babies, 27.1% of all babies, were recorded as born to single mothers. A decade earlier in 1990, the percentage was 28.6% and in 1960 it was 9.5%. In 2001, 15.3% of White children and 54.3% of African-American and Other children were born to single mothers. These numbers, however, do not include paternity acknowlegement births.

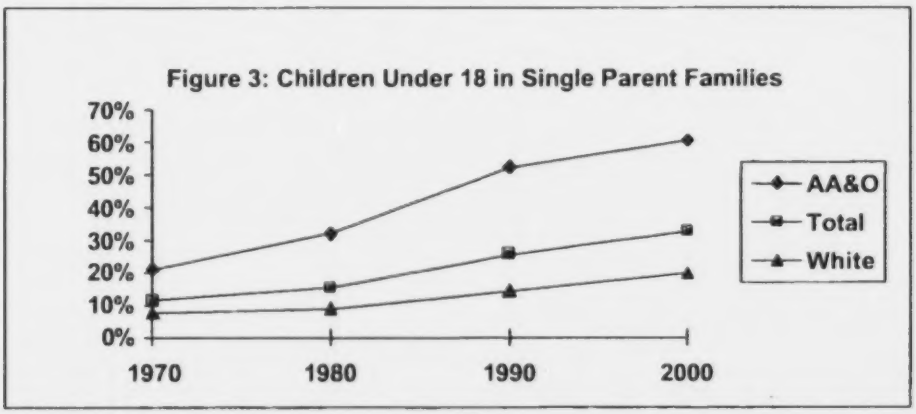
Thus, to these numbers should be added an additional group of 137 babies, 17.0% of all born in 2001, whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers. When the paternity-acknowledged babies are added, the total number born to single mothers in 2001 was 355, constituting 44.2% of all babies, 29.1% of White babies, and 79.0% of African-American and Others.



*Includes paternity acknowleged babies in 1980, 1990 and 2001. Prior to 1979, paternity acknowleged cases were not a statistical category, and thus were included in births to single mothers.

Divorce Rate: In 2001, 542 marriage licenses were issued, while 216 divorce decrees involving 196 children were filed. In 1970, only 124 children were in families involved in divorce.

Single-Parent Family: Increasing numbers of children live in single-parent families. In 2000, 4,429 children lived with only one parent. This was 32.9% of all children, up from 25.8% in 1990, 15.6% in 1980, and 11.3% in 1970. In 2000, 20.0% of White and 60.5% of African-American and Other children lived in single-parent families. Also in 2000, 1,174 or 33.1% of children under age 6 lived in single parent families: 18.8% of White and 66.6% of African American and Other pre-schoolers.



Parents Working and Child Care: Increasingly, parents must divide their time between children and employers. In order to meet family financial needs, most parents must work and thus have less time for family life. In 2000, 73.3% of mothers with children under 6 and 77.9% with children 6 - 17 were in the labor force. This has increased substantially from 1960 when 50.5% of mothers with children under 6 were in the labor force. Most fathers also work: 69.9% of children under 6 are in families where the single parent or both parents work. Caring for children is a problem for parents unable to obtain quality, affordable daycare while they are at work.

Overall, there are 1,851 spaces in state-regulated childcare facilities* in the county, 97.2% of these are in licensed programs and 2.8% are in registered programs. Of the spaces, 97.2% are in licensed childcare centers serving more than 12 children, 2.2% are in registered or licensed family childcare homes serving six or fewer children, 0.0% are in licensed group childcare homes serving 7-12 children, and 0.5% are in registered or licensed church programs.

The homes and centers are severely constrained by the limited ability of parents to pay. In the county, the average weekly charge is $ 79.09 for centers and $ 61.67 for homes. Consequently, center wages are low: 23.1% of centers with pre-school staff and 28.6% of centers with assistant pre-school staff report paying these staff under $6 per hour. Paying $6-$8 per hour are 69.2% of centers with pre-school staff and 42.9% of centers with assistants. Low wages attract workers with limited education. In 53.8% of centers, most pre-school staff and in 71.4% of centers most assistants have only a high school degree. In 61.5% of centers few to none of the pre-school staff have early childhood credentials. In childcare homes, 85.8% of lead providers have no more education than a high school degree or GED; 42.9% have less than a high school degree.

Family Violence: In 2000, 583 domestic assaults were recorded by law enforcement officials. These domestic assaults comprised 26.4% of all assaults, which include aggravated assaults, simple assaults, and intimidation. Overall, 48.5% of all domestic assaults involve spouse abuse which constitutes 12.8% of all assaults. Since most family violence is not reported, the true incidence of family disruption is much more widespread than even the large number of reported cases would indicate.

Separation from Parents: Some children do not live with their natural parents. In 2000, 8.0% of all children did not live with their natural parents. Approximately 889 or 5.7% of all children lived with relatives, 302 or 1.9% lived with non-relatives, 14 or 0.1% were householders or spouses, and 38 or 0.2% were in institutional facilities.

Abuse and Neglect: In 2000-01, there were 489 investigations into reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children. Through its investigations, the Department of Social Services (DSS) determined that 130 of the investigations were indicated for abuse or neglect: 13.5% for physical abuse, 4.0% for sexual abuse, 0.0% for mental injury, 24.6% for physical neglect, 6.3% for educational neglect, 3.2% for medical neglect, 46.8% for threat of harm for physical/sexual abuse, and 1.6% for other types of abuse.

In the indicated cases of abuse and neglect, DSS determined there were 213 children who were victims of abuse or neglect. Of these, 48.6% were male, 51.4% were female; 53.5% were White, 46.5% were African-American and Other. By age, 40.4% were ages 0 - 5, 38.9% were ages 6 - 12, and 20.7% were ages 13 - 17. In the indicated cases, 34.7% of the children lived in two-parent families, 42.3% in single parent families, 17.8% with unmarried couples, and 5.2% in other circumstances.

Out of Home Placements: As of June 2001, 87 children lived in foster care. The median age at first placement in the county is 7.8 years. The ages of children in foster care were 11.5% 0-2, 8.1% 3-5, 21.8% 6-10, 24.1% 11-13, and 34.5% 14 and above. The foster care population is 42.5% males and 57.5% females. Regarding their future, 24.1% were under a plan for placement in adoptive homes, 33.3% for return to a parent or guardian, 2.3% for placement with a relative, 19.5% for independent living, 20.7% for permanent foster care, and 0.0% for other circumstances.

Adult/Child Ratio: A measure of potential adult attention for children from family and community is the ratio of adults to children and youth. In 2000 there were 2.93 adults for every person below age 18. This was up substantially from 1960, when there were only 1.36 adults for every person under the age 18. This indicates that today there are more adults potentially available to provide attention and care for each child than in the past.

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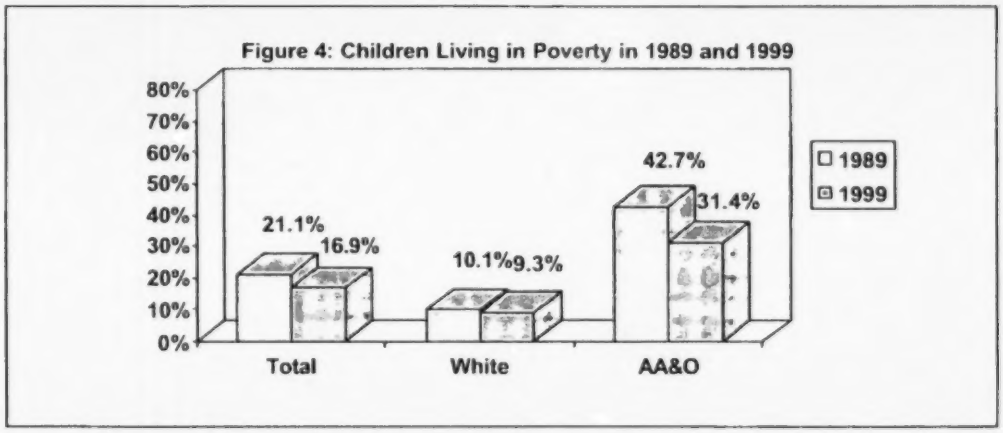
* This data is the best currently available; however, an effort is being made to check the coverage and improve the accuracy. As soon as more recent and complete data becomes available, it will be posted on the website.

ECONOMIC STATUS

Low income makes it difficult for many families to provide the material and environmental enrichment necessary for healthy child development.

Poverty: In 1999, 2,587 children and youth under the age of 18 lved in 1,245 families with incomes below poverty, comprising 16.9% of all children and youth: 9.3% of Whites and 31.4% of African-Americans and Others. A rough estimate of child poverty in 2001 calculated by the Census Bureau was 23.0%.



Poverty has always been a serious problem. While the rate among children under age 18 in 1989 was 21.1%, it was 13.4% in 1979 and 18.8% in 1969.

Children and the elderly are the age groups most seriously affected by poverty. In 1999, 17.0% of children 0 - 5 (9.8% White, 31.9% African-American and Other), and 16.3% of children 6 - 17 (8.4% White, 30.4% African-American and Other), lived in poverty; 15.8% of persons 65 years and older lived in poverty. Historically, the poverty rate among the elderly was much higher. During the last three decades, federal policy actions have substantially improved the economic status of older persons but have not done so for children.

Single-parent families are most likely to be poor. In 1999, 35.4% of children in single-parent families lived in poverty, but only 5.6% of children in married-couple families were poor. Children in single-parent families made up 63.4% of all the county's children living in poverty.

In 2002, the poverty level was $15,020 for a family of three and $18,100 for a family of four. The poverty threshold is often criticized as an arbitrary number. People can still be poor but may be just above the poverty level. Federal programs utilize varying thresholds. For example, in 1999 there were 7,172 children ages 0-17 who were less than 200 percent of poverty; thus an additional 4,585 children were above the poverty level but could still be considered poor or near-poor with incomes below $30,040 and $36,200 respectively for 3 and 4 person families.

Children Under 18 in Poverty in 1999

Percent of Poverty	Total		White		African American & Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 50%	1,343	8.8%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 100%	2,587	16.9%	925	9.3%	1,662	31.4%
Under 125%	3,859	25.3%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 150%	5,071	33.2%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 175%	6,065	39.7%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 185%	6,598	43.2%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 200%	7,172	47.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total Children	15,595		10,100		5,495	

Note: Missing data will be released by the Census Bureau later in 2003, and will be posted on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

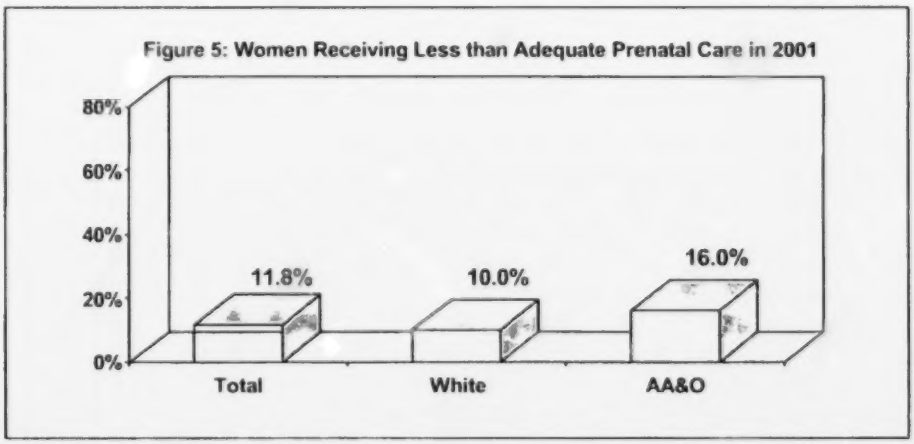
Income: The mean income of families with children in 1999 was $44,749. In 1989 it was $44,267, and 1979, it was $42,835, adjusted for inflation (i.e., in 1999 dollars). The mean income of single-parent families with children was $22,347 for single parents in 1999, as compared with $55,893 in married-couple families with children. From 1999 to 2000, Lancaster County real dollar per capita income (eliminating inflation) increased by 1.6%.

Child Support Payments: There were 466[7] families receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families in fiscal year 2002, but only 21.0 % had child support court orders. Their average monthly payment of child support was $ 274, including child support receipts and tax refund intercepts. In addition, during fiscal year 2002, an estimated 1,074 parents in non-TANF families were obligated to pay a monthly average of $ 195. Information is not available regarding the amount actually paid.

HEALTH

Good health during a child's formative years helps children to reach their maximum potential. Good health requires healthy lifestyles and effective primary care, starting during the prenatal period and continuing through adolescence into adulthood. Children's health reflects the well-being of the community, as well as how adequately they are protected.

Prenatal Care: Early and continuous prenatal care can make a significant difference in assuring births of healthy babies. Delayed or insufficient prenatal care is associated with low birthweight and other health risks for infants. In 2001, 73, or 9.1% of pregnant women received no prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy. In 2001, 95, or 11.8% of pregnant women received less than adequate prenatal care: 56 or 10.0% of Whites and 39 or 16.0% of African-Americans and Others. In that same year, 2 women received no prenatal care at all.



Low Birthweight: Low birthweight of less than 5.5 pounds and very low birthweight of less than 3.3 pounds are associated with health risks and growth and development problems. In 2001, 85 or 10.6% of all babies in the county were born with low birthweight: 15.2% of African-American and Other babies and 8.6% of White babies. During 1999-2001, approximately 56 or 2.3% of all babies were born with very low birthweight and had the most serious complications: 1.9% of White babies and 3.0% of African-American and Other babies. The cost of hospitalization for each newborn low birthweight baby in the county in 1999 - 2001 was $9,334 and $44,300 for each very low birthweight baby, compared with $2,341 for a baby of normal birthweight. The result was excess cost in the county of $587,410 for all low birthweight babies, of which $349,660 was for very low birthweight babies.

Infant Mortality: During the decade since 1989-91, the overall infant mortality rate decreased by 7.5% from 12.0 to 11.1 per 1000 live births. For Whites, the rate decreased 12.0% from 9.0 to 7.9 per 1000 live births, while for African-Americans and Others the rate increased 4.2% from 17.1 to 17.8 per 1000 live births. Over the three-year period 1999-2001, 13 White and 14 African-American and Other infants died before age one. By comparison, 15 White and 17 African-American and Other infants died during 1989-91.

[7] Number is an unduplicated count for the entire fiscal year.

Child Injuries and Deaths: Childhood deaths and injuries reflect whether communities are safe for children. In 2001, children in the Lancaster County went to the emergency room 1,810 times because of injuries. Boys are injured more often than girls. Children visit the emergency room at comparable rates for each age from 0 to 17.

In South Carolina, the major causes of death among young children are unintentional injuries, cancer, homicide, and congenital anomalies. Over the three year period 1999-2001, 7 White and 4 African-American and Other children ages 1-14 died in the county. During 1989-91, 8 White and 4 African-American and Other children died.

Immunization: Immunization rates are an important indication of whether young children are receiving adequate preventive health care. During FY 1989-90, 51.8% of children less than two years old seen in public health clinics were not fully immunized against such preventable diseases as Polio, Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Haemophilus Influenza B and Whooping Cough. After a concerted statewide campaign to increase immunizations, the percentage of children seen in public health clinics who were not fully immunized in January 2001 had declined in the county to 3.1%. The DHEC statewide birth registry survey of all two year old children found that 88.1% were fully immunized in 2001. This success demonstrates the potential to improve the status of children when the leadership of the state and its communities act decisively together.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Children and youth are infected with sexually transmitted diseases through sexual abuse or irresponsible sexual activity. National prevalence rates indicate: a 1 in 8 chance that sexually active 15 year-old girls will develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), the most rapidly increasing cause of infertility; 10% of sexually active adolescent girls and boys are infected with chlamydia, the most common cause of PID; and as many as 15% of teen girls are infected with human papilloma virus, often with strains linked to cervical cancer. Furthermore, research evidence indicates that susceptibility to HIV/AIDS increases by 3 to 8 times through prior infection with various STDs.

According to national studies, approximately 1 in 4 sexually experienced youth aged 13-19 acquires a STD eve year; since two-thirds of all high school students have had sexual intercourse and half engage in intercourse over a thr month period, this would suggest that 10-15% of teens are infected with STDs annually. For 2000, this would indicate th an estimated 586 to 879 youth ages 13-19 in the county were infected with a STD. Many infections are either not identifi for treatment or not reported. In the county, there were 2 reported cases of children under age 15 and 45 youth ages 1 19 infected with gonorrhea; 5 youth under 15 and 125 ages 15 - 19 were reported infected with chlamydia. Youth wi undiagnosed and untreated STDs often spread their infections.

Healthy Lifestyles: Although no county data is available, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2001 found that ma high school students are not following good health habits. The YRBS revealed that 26% felt that they were overweight; 42 were trying to lose weight: 27% of boys and 57% of girls. Although during a week 79% of high school students ate fru 59% ate salad, and over 83% ate vegetables, only 17% ate the recommended five or more servings of fruit and vegetabl per day. During a week, 49% did stretching or muscle strengthening exercises, and 59% exercised three or more times f 20 minutes in sports that made them sweat or breathe hard. However, 11% of students engaged in no vigorous or modera activity at all during a week: 8% of boys and 13% of girls.

Tobacco Use:* Cigarette smoking starts at a young age and often becomes habitual. In the county during 2002 among all students 15 and older, 20.8% first smoked by age 11, 44.9% by age 13, and 62.7% by age 15. In a typical month, 26.0% of 7th and 8th graders and 27.3% of high school students smoked cigarettes. White youths were much more likely than African-Americans to smoke: 27.4% of White male and 25.6% of White female 7th to 12th graders used cigarettes, as compared with 28.0% of African-American males and 23.9% of African American females. A smaller but significant group of high school students (7.3%) used smokeless tobacco monthly; it was used primarily by White males (16.7% compared with 0.9% of all other race and sex groups).

* County participation in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking was not complete but county data is presented to provide the best available picture of teen risk-taking attitudes and behavior in Lancaster County. Only grades 8 and 10 participated, with a disproportionately small number from grade 10.

Disabilities: No data are collected on the true prevalence of disabilities within the county. According to national reported estimates, over 10% of children and youth have developmental disabilities at any point in time, and more than 17 are affected at some time before age 18 by deafness, blindness, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, speech defects, development delays, learning disabilities, and emotional or behavioral problems. For 2000 this suggests that at least 1,560 children ar youth under age 18 in the county are currently affected by disabilities.

Approximately 5% of children and youth nationally have serious disabilities which have lifelong implications f work, social life and community living. Typically among children and youth, there are 1 - 2% who are mentally retarded, - 3% with serious emotional disturbances, over 1% with orthopedic or multiple disabilities, including cerebral palsy an many hereditary conditions, and under 1% with visual or hearing impairments.

Other chronic health problems also affect the lives of many children. Over 3% of children have one or more these limitations. Such serious chronic conditions affect 1 - 2% who have respiratory problems (asthma and chron bronchitis), 0.5 - 1.0% with neurological problems (epilepsy and seizures), and less than 1% with circulatory problen (congenital heart defects and acquired diseases).

Other disabilities are identified primarily in school performance. These would include 485 students in grades 1- with learning disabilities and 433 students in grades 1-12 with speech/language deficits.

Disabilities are caused by genetics, disease, poor prenatal conditions, injuries, and environmental factors. For example, lead exposure, primarily from paint dust, was detected in over 1% of all children screened, including 8 in Lancaster County.

Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: While over 20% of 9-17 year olds meet diagnostic criteria for some form of mental disorder, the number with serious emotional disturbance and impaired functioning in family, school, or community activities is: 9-13% for substantial functional impairment and 5-9% for extreme functional impairment. The rates among poor children are at the higher end of these ranges. Based on a federal formula for estimating prevalence, in the county there are 12% or 965 seriously emotionally disturbed 9-17 year olds with substantial functional impairment and 8% or 643 with extreme functional impairment during the course of a year. Conduct disorders, attention deficit, depression, and anxiety disorders are the most prevalent, each affecting 3% or more of school-aged children. These disorders may occur simultaneously in a child. The prevalence rates are highest among males, adolescents, and disadvantaged persons in communities under stress and lacking social cohesion; depression, however, is more prevalent among females. On the YRBS, 20% of boys and 33% of girls in high school reported that during the past year they felt so sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that they stopped doing some usual activities. Another indicator of emotional problems is the 8% of high school students in South Carolina who reported that they had "attempted suicide" in the past year: 5% of boys and 10% of girls. Suicide attempts resulted in 4% of high school students reporting that they required treatment by a doctor or nurse for injury, poisoning, or overdose.

Inadequate Healthcare: No county level data is routinely collected regarding the number of children and youth with inadequate healthcare. According to estimates for 2000-02 by the Bureau of the Census through the annual Current Population Survey, the statewide average rate of uninsured children and youth under age 18 in families with incomes under 200% of poverty in South Carolina was 16.6%, and 9.9% above 200% of poverty. If these rates are applied to the county, there are 1,192 children in the county below 200% of poverty with no health insurance, and 836 children above 200% of poverty with no health insurance, for a total of 2,028 uninsured children in Lancaster County. The number lacking basic accessible primary care is at least double the number lacking insurance. Those lacking primary care are often dependent on health services at school. The ratio of students to nurses recommended nationally is 750:1. In the county, this would suggest the need for 14 nurses, compared with 1 currently working in the schools.

Medicaid: For several years, the State of South Carolina has emphasized enrolling eligible children into Medicaid. In late 1997, South Carolina implemented its version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, Partners for Healthy Children (PHC), and aggressively pursued outreach enrollment for PHC and Medicaid. As a result, enrollment of children ages 0 through 18 in Lancaster County has increased by 71.0% from June 1997 to June 2001; thus Medicaid and PHC were serving 42.5% of all children in that age range. The total Medicaid expenditures in South Carolina for services provided to children ages 0 through 18 for state fiscal year 2002 were $991 million, at an average statewide expenditure of $2,343 per child enrolled, approximate Medicaid expenditure for children in the county would be $15.5 million.

In June 2001, the total number of Lancaster County children, birth through 18, enrolled in Medicaid was 6,635. The total can be broken down into the following age and race groupings:

	White	African American	Hispanic	Other	Total
Children under 1	279	252	1	31	563
Children 1 - 5	900	895	22	77	1,894
Children 6 - 14	1,354	1,654	19	91	3,118
Children 15 - 18	444	598	1	17	1,060
Total	2,977	3,399	43	216	6,635

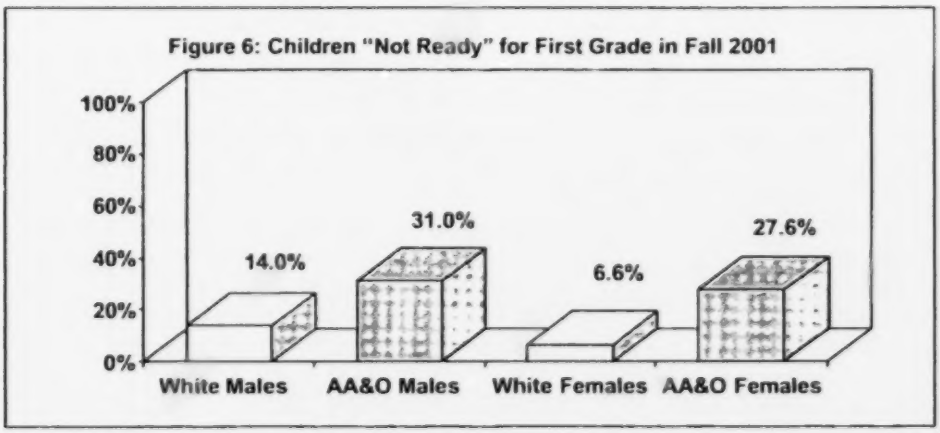
Ambulatory Care: When children lack adequate primary care, whether through lack of insurance, through limite access, or through failing to utilize available care, preventable and treatable conditions become serious and requi hospitalization. A useful indicator of inadequate primary care is the percentage of all hospitalizations that could typicall have been avoided through ambulatory care, especially for pneumonia, asthma, diarrhea and vomiting, dehydration, a severe ear, nose, and throat infections. The share of hospitalizations for these types of conditions could normally be ke below 20%; for children in the county under the age of 18 during 2001, the share was 36.7% for Whites and 43.8% f African-Americans and Others.

READINESS AND EARLY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Too many children reach school without the readiness skills needed for success in learning, such as language, soci skills, visual and auditory discrimination, memory recall, and knowledge of colors, letters, numbers, names of objects, et Likewise, some schools are not ready to respond appropriately to the varying developmental levels of children in the ear grades. As a result, too many students do not experience the success needed to create the motivation and engagement th sustain learning.

1st Grade "Readiness" on 2001-02 Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB):

152 children not ready 17.7% children not ready

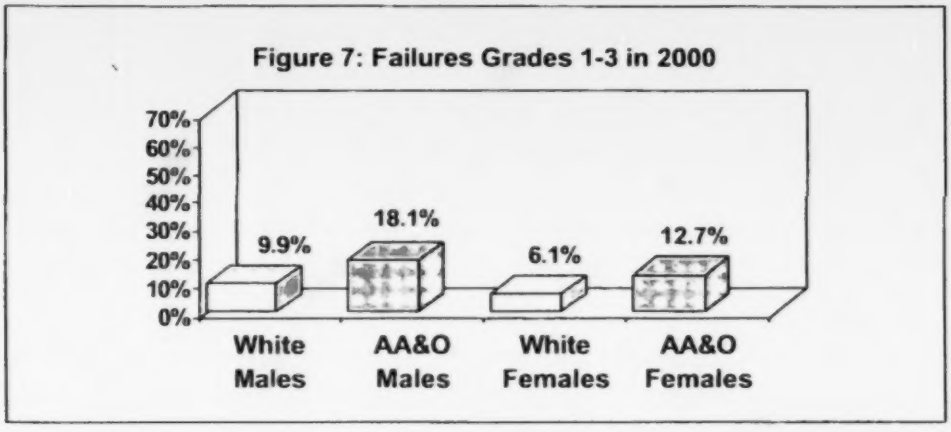


1st Grade Failures in 2002:

62 children failing 7.1% children failing

Failures Grades 1-3 in 2002 (approximate cumulative percentage of grades one, two and three):

96 children failing 11.2% children failing



Over-age for Grade 3 in 2001

122 children over-age 14.7% children over-age

Special Education: Large numbers of children are placed in special education classes. In elementary school, 308 six and seven year olds and 244 eight and nine year-olds were enrolled in special education classes during 2001-02, approximately 19.0% and 14.8% of their age groups respectively: 14.7% of White 8 – 9 year olds were in special education and 14.9% of African American and Others.

Readiness Summary: A serious problem exists in terms of student readiness and school success in the early grades. With 17.7% assessed not ready for the 1st grade, 14.7% over age in grade 3, and 14.8% of eight and nine year-olds placed in special education, unacceptably large numbers of students still begin school without good prospects of success in future school achievement and graduation; however, great improvement has occurred since the mid 1990s.

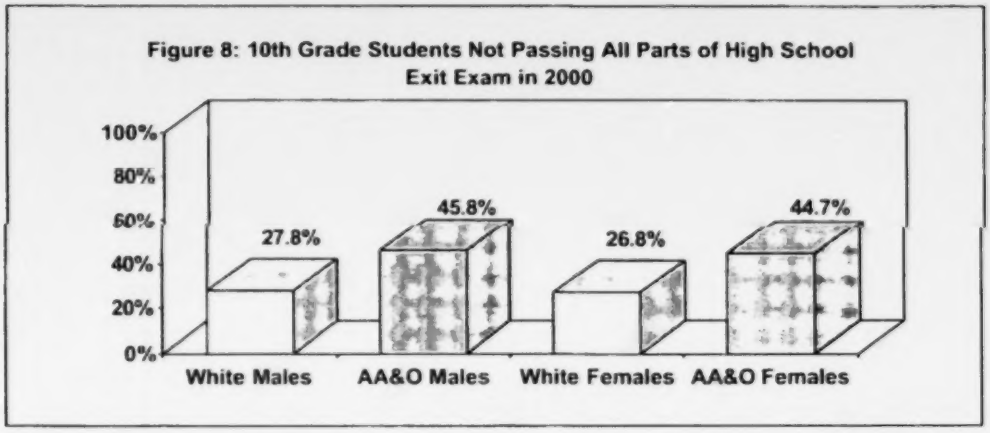
SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

By the end of elementary school, significant numbers of students perform below minimum standards. The following standardized test measures, comparing student performance to state minimum standards, should be used in combination with routine classroom assessments more reflective of real-world performance skills.

Special Education: Special education placements reflect both the significant number of children with serious handicapping conditions and a large number of students with mild learning and behavioral problems that have not been accommodated successfully by the regular educational program. The result is a large system of self-contained, resource, and itinerant services to meet the needs of 433 speech and language impaired, 485 learning disabled, 49 emotionally disabled, 314 mentally impaired, and 70 physically handicapped, deaf, blind, and other handicapped students. Special education classes served approximately 12.5% of all students in grades 1 - 12 during 2001-2002.

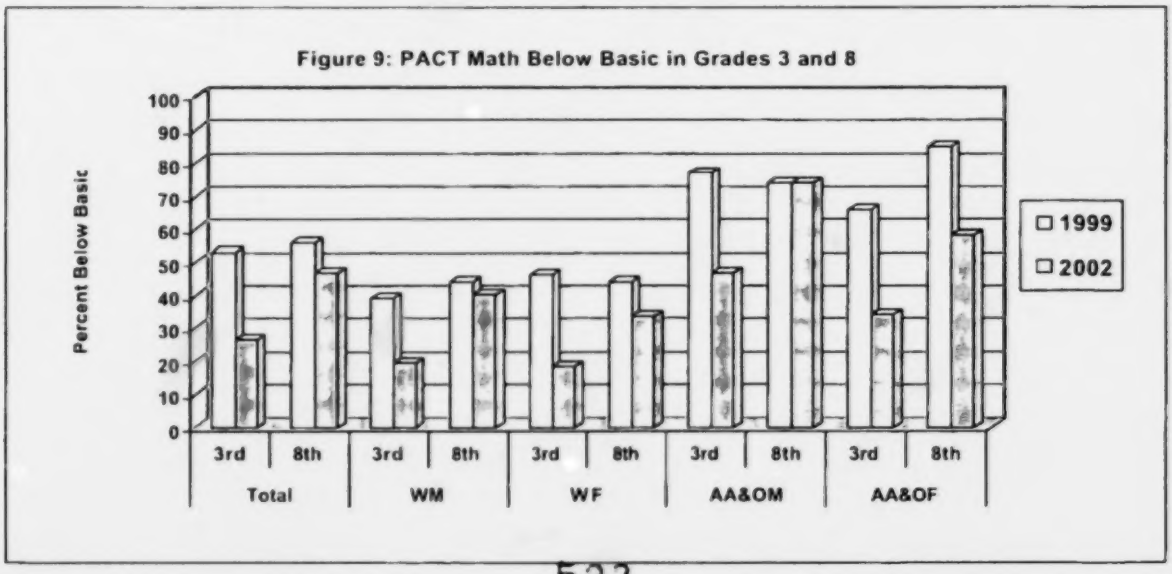
Exit Exam - not passing all parts of Exit Exam on first attempt in the 10th grade in 2002

183 students did not pass all parts — 32.6% of students did not pass all parts



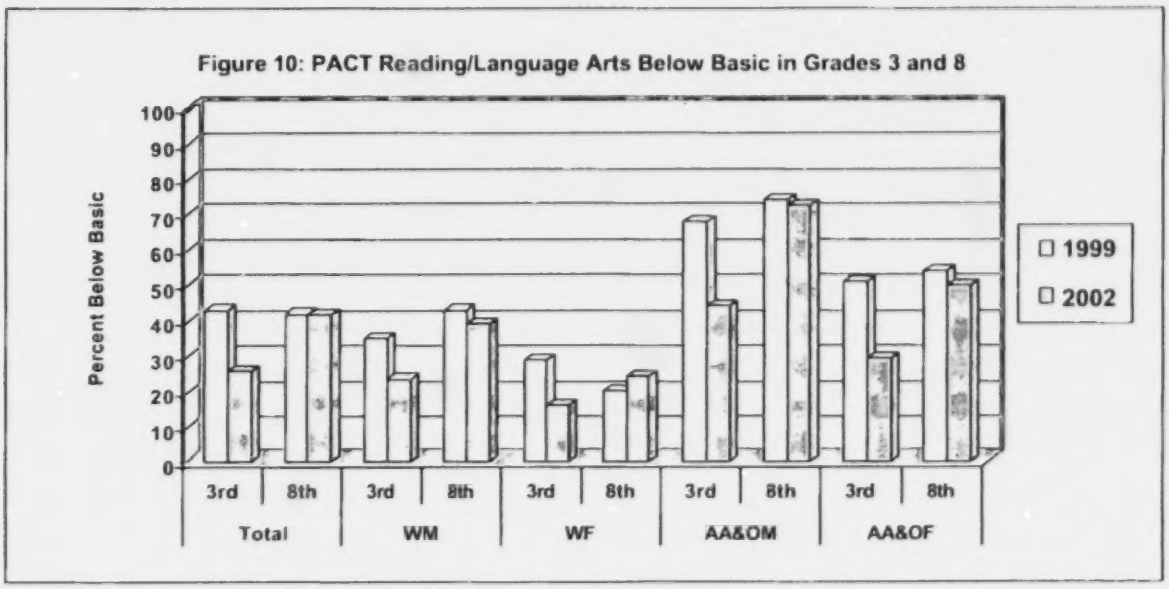
Achievement Trends: How has performance on standardized achievement tests changed over the past 20 years? During the 1980s, student performance on the BSAP tests improved dramatically. Between 1981 and 1990, the percentage of 8th grade students in Lancaster County who did not meet standards declined from 67.5% to 28.1% in math and from 52.3% to 22.6% in reading. During the 1990's the BSAP trend changed, with 37.2% not meeting 8th grade math standards in 1998 and 34.3% in reading. On standardized tests, the first year when South Carolina students take the exam is comparable to the challenge encountered by the national norm group which took the test only once. Looking at first year data, the percentage of 4th grade students at or below the 25th percentile of national norms was 37.2% in 1983 on the CTBS, 36.4% in 1990 on the Stanford, and 36.2% in 1995 on the Metropolitan; for 9th graders, the percentage in the bottom quarter was 30.0% in 1990 and 31.6% in 1995. Although not comparable, the percent below basic on the 4th grade PACT in 1999, the first year of administration, was 48.7%, but in 2002 31.9% of 4th graders were below basic in reading and math; the percentage of 8th graders below basic in reading and math averaged 49.1% in 1999 and 44.3% in 2002.

PACT: The Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) was first administered in 1999 for grades 3 - 8 in math and reading/language arts. Math assesses skills in numbers, numerical and algebraic concepts, patterns and functions, geometry, measurement, probability and statistics. The percentage of students scoring below basic in math has decreased by 34.8% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 1,079 students below basic in grades 3-8 but there would have been an additional 577 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
	Math (%)					
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	26.6	19.4	18.5	46.6	34.3
	4	32.8	25.6	20.9	51.4	44.2
	5	29.7	22.0	22.4	47.1	37.8
	6	34.9	25.0	20.8	60.7	49.6
	7	44.9	32.4	31.7	70.9	63.0
	8	46.9	40.3	33.7	73.8	58.3
Basic	3	39.2	38.9	37.4	36.8	44.8
	4	35.7	32.0	39.4	35.6	36.7
	5	42.4	42.3	38.4	41.8	48.9
	6	40.7	38.3	50.9	31.7	38.8
	7	30.6	34.5	34.7	20.6	26.5
	8	36.9	39.9	42.2	22.7	34.5
Proficient	3	22.0	27.8	24.3	14.3	15.4
	4	20.5	26.7	24.9	10.7	12.9
	5	17.6	20.6	24.3	8.5	10.6
	6	17.0	25.8	19.3	4.8	9.1
	7	12.5	14.7	17.7	5.7	6.6
	8	11.7	12.4	18.8	2.8	6.0
Advanced	3	12.2	13.9	19.8	2.3	5.6
	4	11.0	15.7	14.9	2.3	6.1
	5	10.4	15.1	14.8	2.6	2.8
	6	7.4	10.9	9.0	2.8	2.5
	7	12.0	18.3	15.8	2.8	3.9
	8	4.5	7.4	5.3	0.7	1.2

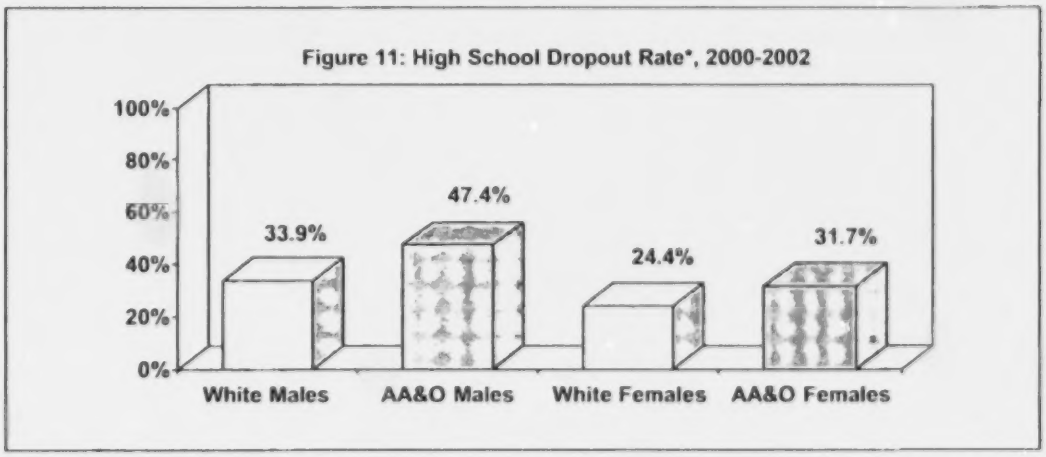
Reading/Language Arts assesses reading, listening, speaking, writing, research, and communication with technology. The first PACT assessment found a high percentage of elementary and middle grades students performing below standards and only a modest number above basic. The percentage of students scoring below basic in reading/language arts has decreased by 21.8% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 1,037 students below basic in grades 3 - 8 but there would have been an additional 290 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
	Reading/Language Arts (%)					
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	25.8	23.4	16.0	44.4	29.4
	4	31.1	28.9	15.7	52.5	35.4
	5	35.9	30.6	24.8	52.3	46.7
	6	38.4	32.8	20.3	64.8	50.4
	7	37.5	32.4	22.0	62.4	48.6
	8	41.7	39.1	24.1	72.3	50.0
Basic	3	40.7	36.9	39.1	40.6	50.3
	4	45.1	40.0	48.8	41.2	53.1
	5	46.5	48.1	47.3	43.8	45.0
	6	37.2	41.4	38.7	28.3	36.4
	7	45.3	49.5	48.1	34.0	43.6
	8	38.1	43.4	42.6	22.0	34.5
Proficient	3	31.8	38.5	42.4	15.0	17.5
	4	22.9	30.0	33.9	6.2	10.9
	5	17.4	21.3	27.1	3.9	8.3
	6	21.1	23.0	34.4	6.9	10.7
	7	15.3	17.5	24.6	3.5	7.7
	8	17.2	15.5	26.6	5.0	14.9
Advanced	3	1.7	1.2	2.5	0.0	2.8
	4	0.9	1.1	1.6	0.0	0.7
	5	0.2	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0
	6	3.3	2.7	6.6	0.0	2.5
	7	1.9	0.7	5.3	0.0	0.0
	8	3.0	2.0	6.7	0.7	0.6

Dropout Rate - 8th grade students no longer enrolled in grade 12
(average of students for the three years ending 2000-2002)

284 students drop out annually **32.9% students drop out***



Dropouts: Distressing numbers of students drop out and fail to graduate. An average of 34.3% of 8th graders failed to graduate** from county schools five years later during the period 1980-84, 35.3% during 1985-89, and 29.8% during 1990-94, 33.2% during 1995-97 and 31.6% during 1998-2000***.

During 2001-02, 96.3% of all who did graduate received the State High School Diploma, while the remaining 3.7% received a State Certificate for meeting the required Carnegie units but not passing the Exit Exam.

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* 12th grade enrollment compared to 8th grade enrollment four years earlier

** This is calculated by using 8th grade enrollment to graduation data.

*** 2001 data will be available soon and will be posted on the website

Fortunately, many dropouts enroll in adult education programs and either earn a high school diploma or obtain a GED. During 2001-02, 14 Adult Education high school diplomas were awarded to school completers and in 2001 92 GEDs were awarded in the county. Over time, adult education high school diplomas and GEDs increase the effective school completion rate substantially. In the 2000 Census, 22.9% of county resident 25 - 34 year-olds said they had not completed either high school or a GED.

Achievement Summary: The numbers of students testing below basic on the PACT and dropping out range from 25.8% to 50.4%. Thus, far too many students fail to acquire the knowledge, skills, learning habits, and motivation necessary to compete in the economy or contribute to society in the 21st Century.

ADOLESCENT RISK BEHAVIORS

Academic achievement is greatly influenced by the prevailing youth culture which often promotes popularity with peers and partying rather than studying and doing well in school. The prevalence of adolescent risk-taking and under-achievement is illustrated by the poor grades of substance-abusing teens.

Substance Abuser Rates at Levels of Academic Performance

	Usual School Grades in Past Year					Total
	A Range	B Range	C Range	D Range	F Range	
Smoked Cigarettes (in past 30 days)	11.1%	25.2%	37.0%	38.5%	100.0%	27.4%
Drank 5 or More Drinks on One Occasion (in past 30 days)	20.0%	19.3%	33.9%	26.9%	80.0%	25.5%
Used Any Illicit Drug (in past 30 days)	18.9%	18.2%	34.9%	42.3%	100.0%	26.5%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

As influence from parents and other adults declines during adolescence, significant numbers of students engage in violence, crime, school offenses, depressive emotions and attempted suicide:

Risk Behaviors Participated in During Past 12 Months	White Male		White Female		African American Male		African American Female		Total		Total (Grade 7-12)
	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	
Carried a handgun or knife for self-defense?	37.8%	30.0%	7.5%	3.5%	32.1%	14.6%	10.9%	16.7%	21.5%	17.7%	20.0%
Carried a handgun or knife as a weapon?	10.4%	9.2%	2.4%	NA%	11.7%	12.5%	4.8%	10.0%	6.8%	0.0%	4.0%
Been in a fight with someone?	40.6%	32.9%	26.3%	12.2%	36.3%	25.5%	37.9%	25.0%	34.6%	24.4%	30.4%
Hit your boyfriend or girlfriend?	0.8%	1.3%	9.6%	8.7%	6.5%	4.3%	23.4%	32.2%	9.1%	8.9%	9.0%
Been hit by your boyfriend or girlfriend?	5.1%	3.4%	9.2%	4.4%	11.0%	10.4%	9.1%	13.6%	8.1%	6.3%	7.4%
Rec'd detention or in-school suspension?	47.9%	50.7%	30.2%	27.4%	56.8%	56.5%	54.5%	40.0%	44.5%	42.6%	43.7%
Been suspended from school?	19.6%	17.8%	9.2%	8.9%	28.7%	27.7%	26.4%	11.7%	18.7%	15.4%	17.4%
Stolen anything worth > $5?	16.5%	20.0%	11.6%	12.4%	26.6%	23.4%	19.3%	21.7%	16.9%	18.4%	17.5%
Had an accident while driving?	NA	7.7%	NA	4.8%	NA	10.0%	NA	2.2%	NA	6.3%	NA
Been arrested and booked?	4.3%	4.0%	3.6%	1.8%	11.7%	2.3%	3.5%	7.0%	5.0%	3.6%	4.4%
Felt hopeless for two weeks or more?	15.8%	11.9%	27.5%	36.3%	16.1%	15.6%	27.4%	28.8%	22.0%	22.6%	22.2%
Seriously considered attempting suicide?	10.5%	9.3%	14.5%	12.5%	3.7%	6.4%	7.6%	13.3%	10.3%	10.6%	10.4%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

Adolescence is often a time of taking risks and asserting independence from adults. When asked whether they would tell an adult about a problem, the following percentages of county students said they would be "not likely" or "very unlikely" to tell if they:

-heard a student threaten to harm someone: 41.2% middle school, 46.3% high school;
-saw a student with a handgun at school: 19.8% middle school, 18.0% high school;
-saw a student with a knife at school: 25.1% middle school, 28.7% high school;
-saw a student with drugs at school: 44.7% middle school, 63.0% high school;

Alcohol Use:* In the county during 2001-02, 29.1% of 7th and 8th graders and 41.1% of high schoolers said they had used alcohol in the past month. Of White males in grades 7 - 12, 34.0% had used it in the past month, compared with 29.2% of African-American males; likewise, 31.9% of White females said they had used alcohol, compared with 39.1% of African-American females. Many youth first used alcohol at an early age: 17.1% had used alcohol by age 11 or younger, 39.6% by age 13, and 72.2% by age 15.

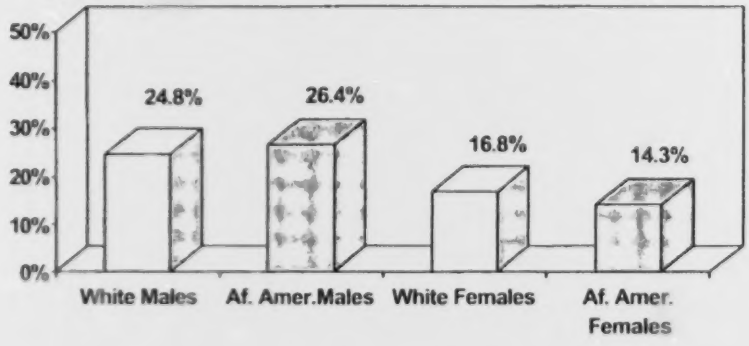
During the previous year, 28.5% of 7th and 8th graders and 30.6% of high schoolers said they had ridden with a drinking driver. Of seniors who drive, NA% said they had driven after drinking. Widespread use is encouraged by the ready availability and perceived low risk of alcohol use. Among students who expressed an opinion, 42.1% of eighth graders and NA% of seniors felt that beer was easy to get. Also, 69.6% of eighth graders and NA% of seniors felt there was not a great risk in drinking two drinks a day, and 45.9% of eighth graders and NA% of high schoolers felt there was not a great risk in drinking 5 drinks every weekend.

Heavy Drinking:* In 2001-02, 12.0% of 7th and 8th graders and 25.4% of high school students in the county repor drinking 5 or more drinks in a day during the past month. When asked how many drinks, if any, they usually consur 14.4% of all county students in grades 7 - 12 in 2001-02 responded 3 or more drinks at a time and 8.2% reported usually 5 more drinks. Among high school students, 24.2% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 14.9% 5 or mc Among seniors, NA% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and NA% 5 or more; however NA% of seni said that they drank 5 or more drinks in a day once or more during the past month.

Drugs:* In 2001-02, 16.8% of 7th and 8th graders and 26.3% of high schoolers in the county reported using ille drugs during the previous month. Among students in grades 7 - 12, use was reported by 24.8% of White males, 16.8% WI females, 26.4% of African-American males, and 14.3% of African-American females. Some young people initiated drug at an early age: 7.9% had experienced their first use by age 11 or sooner; 22.7% had used a drug by age 13, and 47.0% by 15.

In the past year, 8.2% of all high school students in the county who drive and NA% of seniors who drive said that they had driven after using drugs. Such use is encouraged by the ready availability of drugs: 26.6% of 8th graders who had an opinion said it is easy to get marijuana and 8.7% said it is easy to get cocaine or crack; NA% of seniors said it is easy to get marijuana and NA% said it was easy to get cocaine or crack.

Figure 12: Drug Use among Students Grades 7-12 during 2001-02*



* County participation in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking was not complete but county data is presented to provide the best available picture of teen risk-taking attitudes and behavior in Lancaster County. Only grades 8 and 10 participated, with a disproportionately small number from grade 10.

Sexual Activity and Pregnancy: Many teenagers now engage in sexual activity. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) administered to a representative sample of high school students throughout South Carolina in 2001 showed that sexual activity begins at an early age: 7% of female and 21% of male students have engaged in intercourse before age 13; by age 15, 38% the females and 49% of males have engaged in sexual intercourse. Statewide, 48% of females and 50% of males in the 11th and 12th grades reported engaging in intercourse during the past three months. Furthermore, 27% of female and 33% of male 12th graders have had intercourse with four or more partners during their lifetimes.

Premature sexual activity often results in pregnancy. In the county, 64 girls between the ages of 14 and 17 became pregnant in 1999, 59 in 2000 and 53 in 2001. This represented 3.2% of all girls ages 14 – 17 in 2001; several times this percentage become pregnant at least once by age 18. The 2001 pregnancy rate for ages 14 - 17 was 2.7% for Whites and 4.1% for African-Americans and Others. Of all pregnancies of 14-17 year olds, 94.3% resulted in live births, with almost all other pregnancies ending in abortions.

Teen pregnancy rates increased substantially across the state during the 1980s; as a result, greater emphasis v devoted to preventing teen pregnancy. Since 1989, the teen pregnancy rate in Lancaster County has decreased by 42.2 Overall, it has decreased by 28.9% for Whites, and decreased by 59.4% for African Americans and Others.

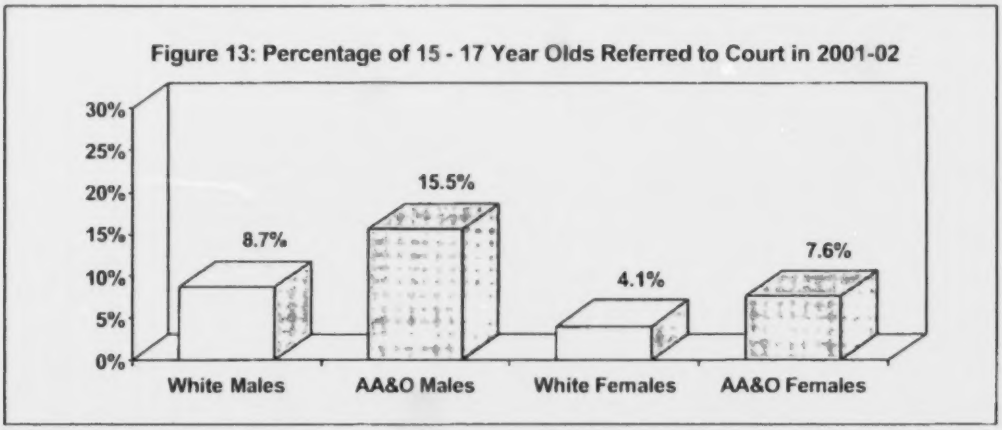
Juvenile Delinquency: In 2001-02, 520 individual juvenile offenders in the county were referred to the Solicitor for delinquency; of these, 21.9% were age 12 or younger, 36.5% were 13 or 14, and 41.5% were 15 or older.

Of the referrals to the family court, 8.4% of all referrals were for violent and serious crimes which include drug trafficking, acts against persons for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and serious property offenses for arson and burglary. Also, 37 juvenile cases constituting 5.0% of all referrals were for status offenses. Status offenses include truancy, running away, incorrigibility, and other offenses that would not be crimes for adults.

Delinquents are likely to live in families with low income: 16.7% lived in families with income under $10,000, 41.0% with $10,000-$19,999 and 42.2% with $20,000 or more. Furthermore, only 24.0% of delinquents lived with both natural parents, while 44.1% lived in a single parent household, 26.8% lived with other relatives, and 5.1% in other situations including parent plus step-parent. Delinquency or criminal activity occurs among many related family members: 40.5% had at least one family member who was delinquent or had some criminal record.

Youth referred to the family courts are likely to have been there before. In 2001-02, 47.9% had at least one prior referral and 17.3% had been referred to court 3 times or more. Many were referred at an early age. For delinquents 15 - 17 years old, 3.3% had been referred by the age of 10, 11.1% by the age of 12, and 27.7% by the age of 14.

During 2001-02, 213 youth ages 15 to 17 were referred to the family courts. In the county, 8.4% of all youth 15 to 17 were referred to court in one year and roughly double that percentage are referred at least once by age 18. Furthermore, the National Youth Survey indicates that typically across the United States the proportion of youth engaging in crime is two or three times the number ever apprehended. In 2001-02, there were 25 juveniles committed from the county to DJJ custody and placed in residential programs.



Not in School or Employed: During 2000, 521 teenagers ages 16-19 were idle, meaning they neither worked any hours nor were enrolled in school, even part-time. Idle teens comprised 15.7% of their age group: 9.3% for White and 26.0% African-American & Other teens. A much larger number, perhaps twice as many, were not engaged in either school full time or work full time. The data reflect a serious failure in both school completion and the critical transition from school to work, significantly affecting their development as future workers. For an in-depth description of the problems of young adults seeking to enter the labor force, visit our website at www.scyoungadults.org for our state and county reports on 18-29 year olds.

Deaths: During 1997-2001, 29 youth ages 15 to 19 died. Historically, automobile accidents have been the major cause, resulting in 17 deaths between 1996 and 2000; homicides killed youth 15 to 19 years old during the five-year period, and 0 youth committed suicide. Alcohol use is often a significant factor in deaths among teenagers.

Summary

Facing the Scope of Problems: The data on families, economic status, health, readiness, school achievement, and adolescent risk behaviors provide a troublesome picture of the condition of children in Lancaster County. The 32.9% of children in single-parent families, 16.9% in poverty, 31.6% not graduating from school, 41.1% of high school students using alcohol and 26.3% using drugs each month, and other data profiled in this report suggest that too many children are at risk of not growing up to become self-supporting adults, good family members, and responsible community citizens.

Emphasizing the Positive: South Carolina Kids Count reports have been developed to describe the problems of children in each of the counties. Fortunately, the majority of children and youth are doing well, and some very well. One simple description is the percentage of children who do not fall into the problem categories reported. For the county, 83.5% of children are born to non-teen mothers ages 20 or older, 55.8% are born to married parents, and 67.1% lived in two-parent families; 83.1% were not poor and 53.0% lived in families with incomes above twice the poverty level for a family of three, $30,040 in 2002; 89.4% of babies were born with normal birthweights; 82.3% were assessed as ready for the first grade, 53.1% scored basic or better on PACT for 8th grade math and 58.3% for 8th grade reading, 67.4% passed all parts of the Exit Exam in the 10th grade, and 68.4% graduated with their class. In a typical month, 58.9% of high school students do not drink alcohol, 73.7% do not use drugs, and 72.7% do not smoke. Unfortunately, the absence of a problem is not always an indicator of success. Some data is available for exemplary performance: for example, 33.5% of 3rd graders and 20.2% of 8th graders scored proficient or advanced on PACT in reading and 34.2% of 3rd graders and 16.2% of 8th graders in math. Unfortunately, data on success is not generally available.

Despite the limitations of success data, we must emphasize the positive in providing good support and appropriate influences for children and youth. Recent philosophy and publications such as those of the Search Institute (700 South Third Street, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN, 55415-1138, tel. 1-800-888-7828, www.search-institute.org), emphasize the critical importance of "developmental assets" to promote and support positive development. One short book from the Search Institute, (What Kids Need to Succeed, by Peter J. Benson, Judy Gailbraith, and Pamela Espeland, 1995) presents an excellent array of suggestions for promoting developmental assets through families, community, faith congregations, and schools. If each family, school, religious congregation and community organization assertively worked to build such assets, the problems described in this report would be reduced dramatically. Such positive family-school-community efforts could improve South Carolina's national Kids Count ranking from the bottom 10 to the average or even into the top 10 by prevention of unnecessary problems affecting children and youth, as shown on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

All data presented in this report is the most recent available at the date it goes to the printer. This version of the Kids Count report will be revised as more recent and additional data become available. Please send us your corrections and suggestions for improvement. We welcome your ideas for ways to make the state and county reports more useful and accurate. Please utilize local data sources whenever possible to supplement the profile provided through our report.

Data related inquiries should be directed to:

Anne Wilson, Data Manager (awilson@drss.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-4810

Calls for **copies of reports** for other counties and inquiries regarding more recent reports should be made to:

Kim Hazel-Lohr, Project Manager (khazel@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
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For **policy questions and general comments**, please contact:

Dr. A. Baron Holmes, Project Director (bholmes@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
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Comparable reports for all 46 counties and for the state can also be found on the World Wide Web at

www.sckidscount.org

Our website also provides: links to other websites for indicators in our report; high to low rankings for individual indicators; information on how to improve SC's national rank; and a glossary of definitions.

The national Kids Count Report can be found on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website at

www.aecf.org

Lancaster County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Indicators	Most Recent Year	Number					Percent						R
		1980*	1990*	Most Recent Data	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980 Rank	199
Health													
Low Birth Weight	2001	80	91	85	+6.3%	-6.6%	9.6	10.5	10.6	10.2%	0.9%	34	
White babies	2001	39	33	48	+23.1%	+45.5%	7.4	6.4	8.6	16.2%	33.4%	40	
African American and Other babies	2001	41	58	37	-9.8%	-36.2%	13.5	16.4	15.2	12.5%	-7.1%	36	
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	2001	359	317	95	+73.5%	-70.0%	43.2	36.6	11.8	-72.7%	-67.8%	28	
White babies	2001	173	139	56	-67.6%	-59.7%	32.7	27.1	10.0	-69.4%	-63.2%	36	
African American and Other babies	2001	186	178	39	-79.0%	-78.1%	61.4	50.3	16.0	-73.9%	-68.1%	36	
Infant Mortality	2001	41	32	27	-34.1%	-15.6%	1.7	1.2	1.1	-35.6%	-7.5%	26	
White babies	2001	19	15	13	-31.6%	-13.3%	1.2	0.9	0.8	-36.0%	-12.0%	27	
African American and Other babies	2001	22	17	14	-36.4%	-17.6%	2.6	1.7	1.8	-31.9%	4.2%	35	
Family													
Births to mothers under 18	2001	86	74	50	-41.9%	-32.4%	10.3	8.5	6.2	-40.0%	-27.4%	37	
White babies	2001	39	29	26	-33.3%	-10.3%	7.4	5.7	4.6	-37.6%	-18.8%	40	
African American and Other babies	2001	47	45	24	-48.9%	-46.7%	15.5	12.7	9.9	-36.3%	-22.3%	41	
Births to mothers under 20	2001	201	203	133	-33.8%	-34.5%	24.2	23.4	16.5	-31.7%	-29.6%	37	
White babies	2001	106	101	78	-26.4%	+22.8%	20.0	19.7	13.9	-30.6%	-29.5%	42	
African American and Other babies	2001	95	102	55	-42.1%	+46.1%	31.4	28.8	22.6	-27.8%	-21.4%	42	
Births to mothers with less than a high school education	2001	296	276	205	-30.7%	-25.7%	35.6	31.9	25.5	-28.3%	-20.0%	25	
White babies	2001	173	144	139	-19.7%	-3.5%	32.7	28.1	24.8	-24.2%	-11.8%	32	
African American and Other babies	2001	123	132	66	-46.3%	-50.0%	40.6	37.3	27.2	-33.1%	-27.2%	21	
Births to single mothers****	2001	176	336	355	+101.7%	+5.7%	21.2	38.8	44.2	108.9%	13.9%	13	
White babies	2001	33	87	163	+393.9%	+87.4%	5.2	17.0	29.1	366.5%	71.3%	19	
African American and Other babies	2001	143	249	192	+34.3%	-22.9%	47.2	70.3	79.0	67.4%	12.3%	24	
Children in single parent families	2000	2,396	3,298	4,429	+84.8%	+34.3%	15.6	25.8	32.9	111.0%	27.6%	9	
White	2000	1,047	1,291	1,835	+75.3%	+42.1%	9.0	14.4	20.0	122.4%	39.0%	12	
African American and Other	2000	1,344	1,998	2,594	+93.0%	+29.8%	32.0	52.5	60.5	89.0%	15.2%	23	
Education													
Not Ready for Grade 1	2001	348	204	152	-56.3%	-25.5%	35.8	22.3	17.7	-50.6%	-20.6%	17	
White males	2001	115	57	42	-63.5%	-26.3%	35.6	19.6	14.0	-60.7%	-28.6%	34	
White females	2001	51	35	16	-68.6%	-54.3%	16.6	12.9	6.6	-60.2%	-48.8%	9	
African American and Other males	2001	112	62	53	-52.7%	-14.5%	58.0	32.6	31.0	-46.6%	-4.9%	32	
African American and Other females	2001	70	50	37	-47.1%	-26.0%	47.3	30.3	27.6	-41.6%	-8.9%	26	
Repeating Grades 1-3	2000	228	203	102	-55.3%	-49.8%	24.3	22.7	11.1	-54.3%	-51.1%	35	
White males	2000	83	65	30	-63.9%	-53.8%	26.3	22.4	9.9	-62.4%	-55.8%	37	
White females	2000	37	28	16	-56.8%	-42.9%	12.3	10.5	6.1	-50.4%	-41.9%	33	
African American and Other males	2000	66	63	33	-50.0%	-47.6%	39.8	35.9	18.1	-54.5%	-49.6%	37	
African American and Other females	2000	40	47	22	-45.0%	-53.2%	27.1	29.5	12.7	-53.1%	-56.9%	36	
Grade 3 Math below standards****	2002	427	147	205	-52.0%	+39.5%	44.8	17.2	26.6	-40.6%	54.7%	29	
White males	2002	121	29	49	-59.5%	+69.0%	37.9	10.2	19.4	-48.8%	90.2%	36	
White females	2002	101	35	45	-55.4%	+28.6%	32.5	12.4	18.5	-43.1%	49.2%	36	
African American and Other males	2002	106	44	62	-41.5%	+40.9%	63.5	31.0	46.6	-26.6%	50.3%	35	
African American and Other females	2002	96	38	49	-49.0%	+28.9%	64.9	26.0	34.3	-47.1%	31.9%	44	
Grade 3 Reading below standards****	2002	383	97	199	-48.0%	+105.2%	40.1	11.3	25.8	-35.7%	128.3%	29	
White males	2002	124	28	59	-52.4%	+110.7%	38.6	9.8	23.4	-39.4%	138.8%	40	
White females	2002	64	15	39	-39.1%	+160.0%	20.6	5.3	16.0	-22.3%	201.9%	29	
African American and Other males	2002	107	29	59	-44.9%	+103.4%	64.1	20.4	44.4	-30.7%	117.6%	39	
African American and Other females	2002	83	24	42	-49.4%	+75.0%	56.1	16.4	29.4	-47.6%	79.3%	44	
Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT Grade 4	1998	328	313	335	+2.1%	+7.0%	37.2	36.4	37.1	-0.3%	1.9%	31	
White males	1998	90	83	88	-2.2%	+6.0%	30.5	30.9	29.8	-2.3%	-3.6%	38	
White females	1998	72	66	77	+6.9%	+16.7%	24.0	23.1	26.1	8.8%	13.0%	38	
African American and Other males	1998	88	96	95	+8.0%	-1.0%	65.7	61.5	66.7	1.5%	8.5%	43	
African American and Other females	1998	76	67	72	-5.3%	+7.5%	51.0	45.6	43.9	-13.9%	-3.7%	45	

*Year of data is approximate in many cases.
**1 is best, 46 is worst.
*** Data include paternity acknowledgements.
**** BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Lancaster County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Education (continued)

Indicators		Number					Percent					
	Most Recent Year	1980*	1990*	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	19
Grade 8 Math below state standards**	2002	558	221	417	-25.3%	+88.7%	67.5	28.1	46.9	-30.5%	66.9%	
White males	*2002*	*182*	*60*	*120*	*-34.1%*	*+100.0%*	*57.8*	*21.7*	*40.3*	*-30.3%*	*85.7%*	
White females	*2002*	*169*	*54*	*95*	*-43.8%*	*+75.9%*	*59.3*	*21.7*	*33.7*	*-43.2%*	*55.3%*	
African American and Other males	*2002*	*97*	*46*	*104*	*+7.2%*	*+126.1%*	*90.7*	*36.8*	*73.8*	*-18.6%*	*100.5%*	
African American and Other females	*2002*	*109*	*61*	*98*	*-10.1%*	*+60.7%*	*94.0*	*45.9*	*58.3*	*-38.0%*	*27.0%*	
Grade 8 Reading below state standards**	2002	436	177	370	-15.1%	+109.0%	52.3	22.6	41.7	-20.3%	84.5%	
White males	*2002*	*148*	*52*	*116*	*-21.6%*	*+123.1%*	*46.7*	*18.8*	*39.1*	*-16.3%*	*108.0%*	
White females	*2002*	*112*	*39*	*68*	*-39.3%*	*+74.4%*	*38.7*	*15.7*	*24.1*	*-37.7%*	*53.5%*	
African American and Other males	*2002*	*88*	*48*	*102*	*+15.9%*	*+112.5%*	*83.0*	*38.1*	*72.3*	*-12.9%*	*89.8%*	
African American and Other females	*2002*	*87*	*38*	*84*	*-3.4%*	*+121.1%*	*74.4*	*28.6*	*50.0*	*-32.8%*	*74.8%*	
Grade 9 Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT	1998	NA	224	342	NA	+52.7%	NA	30	41.6	NA	38.7%	
White males	*1998*	*NA*	*73*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*27.6*	*32.3*	*NA*	*17.0%*	
White females	*1998*	*NA*	*45*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*17*	*25.2*	*NA*	*48.2%*	
African American and Other males	*1998*	*NA*	*65*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*55.6*	*66.9*	*NA*	*20.3%*	
African American and Other females	*1998*	*NA*	*41*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*41*	*57.7*	*NA*	*40.7%*	
Exit Exam (not passing all parts on 1st attempt)	2002	377	201	183	-51.5%	-9.0%	47.0	27.8	32.6	-30.6%	17.3%	
White males	*2002*	*116*	*64*	*57*	*-50.9%*	*-10.9%*	*39.3*	*24.9*	*27.8*	*-29.3%*	*11.6%*	
White females	*2002*	*95*	*40*	*51*	*-46.3%*	*+27.5%*	*34.7*	*15.4*	*26.8*	*-22.8%*	*74.0%*	
African American and Other males	*2002*	*85*	*52*	*33*	*-61.2%*	*-36.5%*	*71.4*	*51.0*	*45.8*	*-35.9%*	*-10.2%*	
African American and Other females	*2002*	*81*	*45*	*42*	*-48.1%*	*-6.7%*	*70.4*	*43.3*	*44.7*	*-36.5%*	*3.2%*	
Dropout Rate (8th graders no longer enrolled in 12th grade 4 years later)	2000-02	299	337	284	-4.9%	-15.5%	31.9	35.1	32.9	3.3%	-6.2%	
White males	*2000-02*	*87*	*109*	*93*	*+7.5%*	*-14.3%*	*27.6*	*33.6*	*33.9*	*22.5%*	*0.8%*	
White females	*2000-02*	*99*	*96*	*67*	*-32.3%*	*-29.8%*	*30.2*	*29.8*	*24.4*	*-19.3%*	*-18.3%*	
African American and Other males	*2000-02*	*57*	*74*	*75*	*+33.3%*	*+1.8%*	*41.7*	*45.5*	*47.4*	*13.6%*	*4.0%*	
African American and Other females	*2000-02*	*57*	*59*	*49*	*-14.0%*	*-16.2%*	*35.1*	*38.4*	*31.7*	*-9.7%*	*-17.4%*	
Young Adults Not Completing High School (18-24)	2000	2,216	1,803	2,001	-9.7%	+11.0%	34.3	33.1	22.9	-33.3%	-30.9%	
White males	*NA*	*924*	*656*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*39.7*	*33.7*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	
White females	*NA*	*665*	*503*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*30.6*	*26.5*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	
African American and Other males	*NA*	*332*	*333*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*35.8*	*48.8*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	
African American and Other females	*NA*	*295*	*311*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*28.8*	*33.5*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	
Economics												
Poverty Rate	2000	2,190	3,046	2,587	+18.1%	-15.1%	13.4	21.1	16.9	26.1%	-19.9%	
White children	*2000*	*927*	*970*	*925*	*-0.2%*	*-4.6%*	*8.1*	*10.1*	*9.3*	*14.8%*	*-7.9%*	
African American and Other children	*2000*	*1,247*	*2,076*	*1,662*	*+33.3%*	*-19.9%*	*26.2*	*42.7*	*31.4*	*19.9%*	*-26.4%*	
Income of Families w/children (1999 $)	2000	$ 42,835	$ 44,267	$ 44,749	+4.5%	+1.1%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
White families	*2000*	*$ 45,828*	*$ 50,116*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	
African American and Other families	*2000*	*$ 33,561*	*$ 26,983*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	
Adolescent Risk Factors												
Teenage Pregnancy (ages 14-17)	2001	88	101	53	-39.8%	-47.5%	4.6	6.0	3.2	-29.8%	-46.7%	
White	*2001*	*40*	*46*	*29*	*-27.5%*	*-37.0%*	*2.9*	*4.0*	*2.7*	*-8.2%*	*-32.5%*	
African American and Other	*2001*	*48*	*54*	*24*	*-50.0%*	*-55.6%*	*8.4*	*10.0*	*4.1*	*-51.3%*	*-59.0%*	
Delinquency	2002	112	207	213	+90.2%	+2.9%	3.8	7.5	8.4	120.7%	11.8%	
White males	*2002*	*56*	*85*	*71*	*+26.8%*	*-16.5%*	*5.1*	*8.5*	*8.7*	*69.8%*	*1.9%*	
White females	*2002*	*21*	*40*	*32*	*+52.4%*	*-20.0%*	*2.1*	*3.9*	*4.1*	*92.9%*	*3.9%*	
African American and Other males	*2002*	*24*	*61*	*76*	*+216.7%*	*+24.6%*	*6.0*	*17.2*	*15.5*	*158.5%*	*-9.8%*	
African American and Other females	*2002*	*11*	*21*	*34*	*+209.1%*	*+61.9%*	*2.6*	*5.4*	*7.6*	*190.6%*	*39.9%*	

*Closest available data to this year was used in many cases.
**BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Kids Count 2003

Laurens County

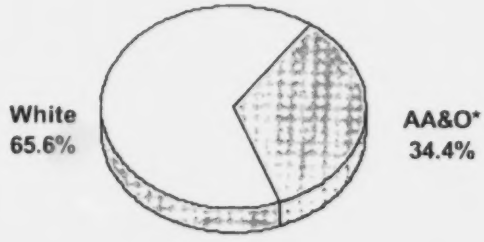
DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2000 there were an estimated 17,587 children under age 18 in the county. Of these, 11,534 were White, 5,535 were African-American, and 518 were other races. There were 14,747 children under age 18 in 1990, 15,024 in 1980, 17,237 in 1970, and 18,708 in 1960.

Children represent a shrinking portion of the county's population. Those under 18 constituted 25.3% of the population in 2000, down from 39.3% in 1960, 34.7% in 1970, and 28.8% in 1980.

In 2000 the 5,486 pre-schoolers under age 6 were 7.9% of the overall population: 7.4% of Whites and 8.8% of African Americans.

Figure 1: Population Ages 0-17 in 2000



* In all charts African-American is combined with other races, and often abbreviated as AA&O. Other races comprise 2.9% of children in the county, with "two or more races" at 1.3% and "some other race alone" at 1.3% as the largest Other groups.

FAMILY

Families have always been the most important influence in a child's life. Children depend on their families for material needs, stimulation and guidance. Family life is different in numerous ways from previous generations, and many families now face exceptional challenges.

Families with children now make up a smaller share of all households. Only 32.5% of all households in 2000, as compared with 44.0% of households in 1960, had children below the age of 18.

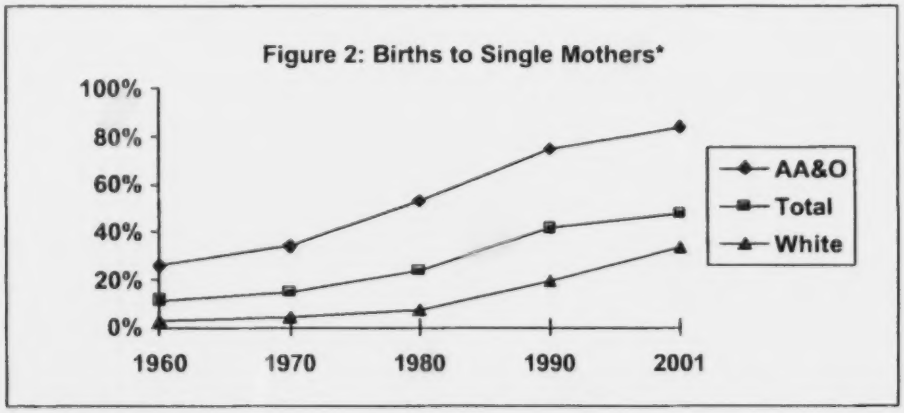
Births to Teen Mothers: In 2001, 64 babies were born to mothers younger than age 18. They were 8.0% of all babies born in the county; 5.7% of all White and 13.6% of all African-American and Other babies were born to teen mothers under the age of 18. Of the babies born to these teens in 2001, 90.6% were born to single mothers, including babies whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers.

In 2001, 162 babies were born to mothers younger than age 20. These babies were 20.2% of all born in the county; 17.1% of all White and 28.1% of all African-American and Other babies were born to mothers under the age of 20. Of the babies born to these mothers in 2001, 78.4% were born to single mothers, including paternity acknowledeged babies.

Education of Mothers Giving Birth: Children's success is strongly influenced by the education of their parents. In 2001, 256 babies, 32.0% of all babies, were born to mothers of all ages who had not completed the 12th grade. In 2001, 29.8% of White and 37.6% of African-American and Other babies were born to mothers who had completed less than the 12th grade. This is a substantial improvement from 54.4% in 1970. In addition, during 2001, 42.4% had completed 12 grades (40.7% of Whites and 46.9% of African Americans and Others) and 25.5% had more than a high school degree (29.5% of Whites and 15.5% of African American and Others).

Births to Single Mothers: Births to single mothers have increased steadily over four decades. In 2001, 236 babies, 29.4% of all babies, were recorded as born to single mothers. A decade earlier in 1990, the percentage was 38.4% and in 1960 it was 11.2%. In 2001, 14.8% of White children and 66.2% of African-American and Other children were born to single mothers. These numbers, however, do not include paternity acknowlegement births.

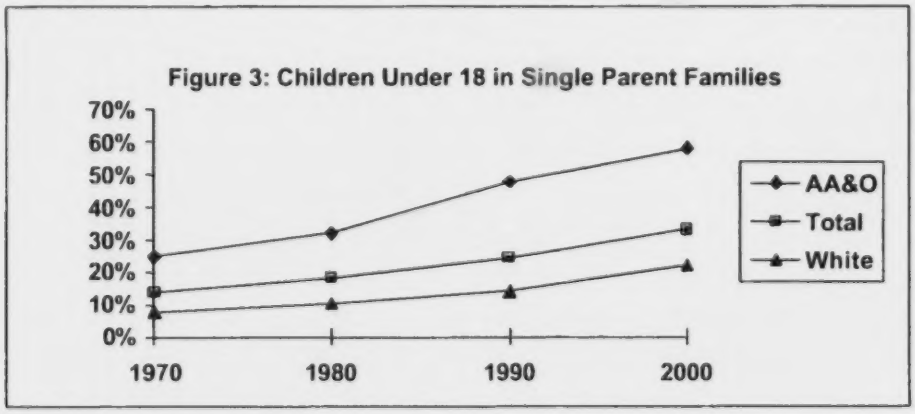
Thus, to these numbers should be added an additional group of 148 babies, 18.5% of all born in 2001, whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers. When the paternity-acknowledged babies are added, the total number born to single mothers in 2001 was 384, constituting 47.9% of all babies, 33.4% of White babies, and 84.2% of African-American and Others.



*Includes paternity acknowleged babies in 1980, 1990 and 2001. Prior to 1979, paternity acknowleged cases were not a statistical category, and thus were included in births to single mothers.

Divorce Rate: In 2001, 350 marriage licenses were issued, while 294 divorce decrees involving 248 children were filed. In 1970, only 127 children were in families involved in divorce.

Single-Parent Family: Increasing numbers of children live in single-parent families. In 2000, 4,913 children lived with only one parent. This was 33.0% of all children, up from 24.4% in 1990, 18.2% in 1980, and 13.6% in 1970. In 2000, 21.9% of White and 58.0% of African-American and Other children lived in single-parent families. Also in 2000, 1,465 or 32.2% of children under age 6 lived in single parent families: 20.8% of White and 60.7% of African American and Other pre-schoolers.



Parents Working and Child Care: Increasingly, parents must divide their time between children and employers. In order to meet family financial needs, most parents must work and thus have less time for family life. In 2000, 67.8% of mothers with children under 6 and 74.5% with children 6 - 17 were in the labor force. This has increased substantially from 1960 when 46.1% of mothers with children under 6 were in the labor force. Most fathers also work: 64.7% of children under 6 are in families where the single parent or both parents work. Caring for children is a problem for parents unable to obtain quality, affordable daycare while they are at work.

Overall, there are 1,465 spaces in state-regulated childcare facilities* in the county, 92.1% of these are in licensed programs and 7.9% are in registered programs. Of the spaces, 80.8% are in licensed childcare centers serving more than 12 children, 6.6% are in registered or licensed family childcare homes serving six or fewer children, 2.5% are in licensed group childcare homes serving 7-12 children, and 10.2% are in registered or licensed church programs.

The homes and centers are severely constrained by the limited ability of parents to pay. In the county, the average weekly charge is $ 79.92 for centers and $ 62.50 for homes. Consequently, center wages are low: 25% of centers with pre-school staff and 25% of centers with assistant pre-school staff report paying these staff under $6 per hour. Paying $6-$8 per hour are 75% of centers with pre-school staff and 75% of centers with assistants. Low wages attract workers with limited education. In 37.5% of centers, most pre-school staff and in 100% of centers most assistants have only a high school degree. In 50% of centers few to none of the pre-school staff have early childhood credentials. In childcare homes, 44.4% of lead providers have no more education than a high school degree or GED; 22.2% have less than a high school degree.

Family Violence: In 2000, 725 domestic assaults were recorded by law enforcement officials. These domestic assaults comprised 35.0% of all assaults, which include aggravated assaults, simple assaults, and intimidation. Overall, 51.7% of all domestic assaults involve spouse abuse which constitutes 18.1% of all assaults. Since most family violence is not reported, the true incidence of family disruption is much more widespread than even the large number of reported cases would indicate.

Separation from Parents: Some children do not live with their natural parents. In 2000, 8.1% of all children did not live with their natural parents. Approximately 931 or 5.3% of all children lived with relatives, 307 or 1.7% lived with non-relatives, 36 or 0.2% were householders or spouses, and 150 or 0.9% were in institutional facilities.

Abuse and Neglect: In 2000-01, there were 202 investigations into reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children. Through its investigations, the Department of Social Services (DSS) determined that 60 of the investigations were indicated for abuse or neglect: 20.6% for physical abuse, 9.5% for sexual abuse, 0.0% for mental injury, 36.5% for physical neglect, 0.0% for educational neglect, 1.6% for medical neglect, 28.6% for threat of harm for physical/sexual abuse, and 3.2% for other types of abuse.

In the indicated cases of abuse and neglect, DSS determined there were 93 children who were victims of abuse or neglect. Of these, 53.8% were male, 46.2% were female; 64.5% were White, 35.5% were African-American and Other. By age, 34.1% were ages 0 - 5, 44.0% were ages 6 - 12, and 22.0% were ages 13 - 17. In the indicated cases, 33.3% of the children lived in two-parent families, 33.3% in single parent families, 22.6% with unmarried couples, and 10.8% in other circumstances.

Out of Home Placements: As of June 2001, 45 children lived in foster care. The median age at first placement in the county is 7.0 years. The ages of children in foster care were 11.1% 0-2, 17.8% 3-5, 24.4% 6-10, 22.2% 11-13, and 24.4% 14 and above. The foster care population is 46.7% males and 53.3% females. Regarding their future, 48.9% were under a plan for placement in adoptive homes, 24.4% for return to a parent or guardian, 2.2% for placement with a relative, 13.3% for independent living, 11.1% for permanent foster care, and 0.0% for other circumstances.

Adult/Child Ratio: A measure of potential adult attention for children from family and community is the ratio of adults to children and youth. In 2000 there were 2.96 adults for every person below age 18. This was up substantially from 1960, when there were only 1.54 adults for every person under the age 18. This indicates that today there are more adults potentially available to provide attention and care for each child than in the past.

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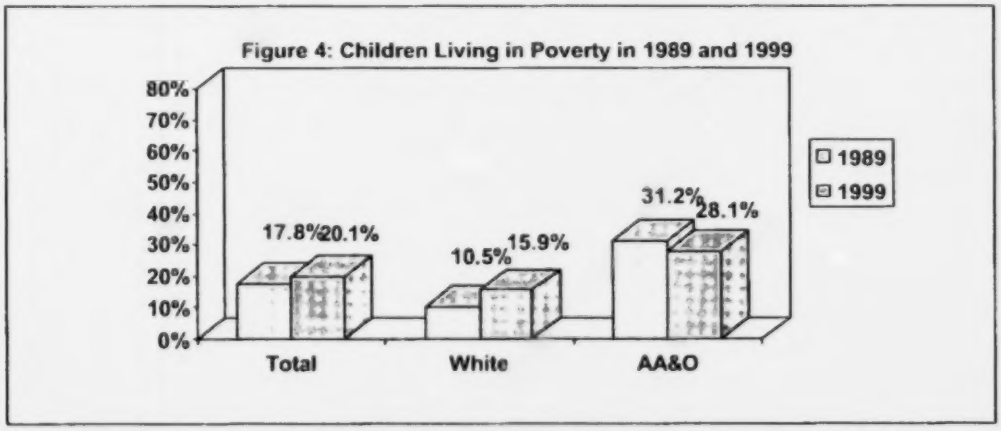
* This data is the best currently available; however, an effort is being made to check the coverage and improve the accuracy. As soon as more recent and complete data becomes available, it will be posted on the website.

ECONOMIC STATUS

Low income makes it difficult for many families to provide the material and environmental enrichment necessary for healthy child development.

Poverty: In 1999, 3,467 children and youth under the age of 18 lved in 1,653 families with incomes below poverty, comprising 20.1% of all children and youth: 15.9% of Whites and 28.1% of African-Americans and Others. A rough estimate of child poverty in 2001 calculated by the Census Bureau was 23.0%.



Poverty has always been a serious problem. While the rate among children under age 18 in 1989 was 17.8%, it was 13.5% in 1979 and 19.8% in 1969.

Children and the elderly are the age groups most seriously affected by poverty. In 1999, 24.6% of children 0 - 5 (17.1% White, 39.6% African-American and Other), and 17.7% of children 6 - 17 (15.2% White, 22.6% African-American and Other), lived in poverty; 13.5% of persons 65 years and older lived in poverty. Historically, the poverty rate among the elderly was much higher. During the last three decades, federal policy actions have substantially improved the economic status of older persons but have not done so for children.

Single-parent families are most likely to be poor. In 1999, 37.2% of children in single-parent families lived in poverty, but only 9.9% of children in married-couple families were poor. Children in single-parent families made up 72.4% of all the county's children living in poverty.

In 2002, the poverty level was $15,020 for a family of three and $18,100 for a family of four. The poverty threshold is often criticized as an arbitrary number. People can still be poor but may be just above the poverty level. Federal programs utilize varying thresholds. For example, in 1999 there were 7,955 children ages 0-17 who were less than 200 percent of poverty; thus an additional 4,488 children were above the poverty level but could still be considered poor or near-poor with incomes below $30,040 and $36,200 respectively for 3 and 4 person families.

Children Under 18 in Poverty in 1999

Percent of Poverty	Total		White		African American & Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 50%	1,443	8.4%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 100%	3,467	20.1%	1,812	15.9%	1,655	28.1%
Under 125%	4,563	26.4%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 150%	5,946	34.4%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 175%	7,036	40.8%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 185%	7,399	42.9%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 200%	7,955	46.1%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total Children	17,587		11,534		6,053	

Note: Missing data will be released by the Census Bureau later in 2003, and will be posted on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

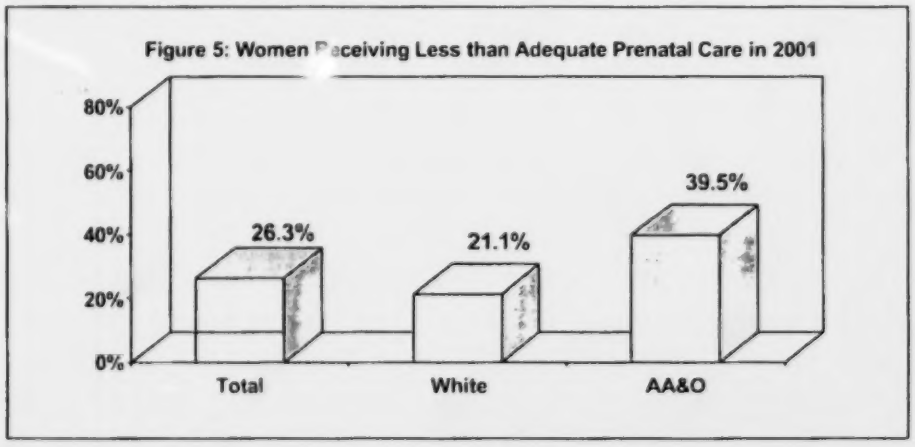
Income: The mean income of families with children in 1999 was $43,409. In 1989 it was $43,103, and 1979, it was $42,246, adjusted for inflation (i.e., in 1999 dollars). The mean income of single-parent families with children was $20,586 for single parents in 1999, as compared with $55,089 in married-couple families with children. From 1999 to 2000, Laurens County real dollar per capita income (eliminating inflation) increased by 2.2%.

Child Support Payments: There were 597[7] families receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families in fiscal year 2002, but only 23.1 % had child support court orders. Their average monthly payment of child support was $ 229, including child support receipts and tax refund intercepts. In addition, during fiscal year 2002, an estimated 1,053 parents in non-TANF families were obligated to pay a monthly average of $ 211. Information is not available regarding the amount actually paid.

HEALTH

Good health during a child's formative years helps children to reach their maximum potential. Good health requires healthy lifestyles and effective primary care, starting during the prenatal period and continuing through adolescence into adulthood. Children's health reflects the well-being of the community, as well as how adequately they are protected.

Prenatal Care: Early and continuous prenatal care can make a significant difference in assuring births of healthy babies. Delayed or insufficient prenatal care is associated with low birthweight and other health risks for infants. In 2001, 171, or 21.3% of pregnant women received no prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy. In 2001, 211, or 26.3% of pregnant women received less than adequate prenatal care: 121 or 21.1% of Whites and 90 or 39.5% of African-Americans and Others. In that same year, 4 women received no prenatal care at all.



Low Birthweight: Low birthweight of less than 5.5 pounds and very low birthweight of less than 3.3 pounds are associated with health risks and growth and development problems. In 2001, 66 or 8.2% of all babies in the county were born with low birthweight: 11.0% of African-American and Other babies and 7.1% of White babies. During 1999-2001, approximately 40 or 1.6% of all babies were born with very low birthweight and had the most serious complications: 1.1% of White babies and 2.9% of African-American and Other babies. The cost of hospitalization for each newborn low birthweight baby in the county in 1999 - 2001 was $12,774 and $81,269 for each very low birthweight baby, compared with $1,924 for a baby of normal birthweight. The result was excess cost in the county of $1,241,925 for all low birthweight babies, of which $793,450 was for very low birthweight babies.

Infant Mortality: During the decade since 1989-91, the overall infant mortality rate decreased by 6.3% from 10.7 to 10.0 per 1000 live births. For Whites, the rate decreased 31.7% from 9.9 to 6.8 per 1000 live births, while for African-Americans and Others the rate increased 50.0% from 11.9 to 17.9 per 1000 live births. Over the three-year period 1999-2001, 12 White and 13 African-American and Other infants died before age one. By comparison, 16 White and 12 African-American and Other infants died during 1989-91.

[7] Number is an unduplicated count for the entire fiscal year.

Child Injuries and Deaths: Childhood deaths and injuries reflect whether communities are safe for children. In 2001, children in the Laurens County went to the emergency room 2,338 times because of injuries. Boys are injured more often than girls. Children visit the emergency room at comparable rates for each age from 0 to 17.

In South Carolina, the major causes of death among young children are unintentional injuries, cancer, homicide, and congenital anomalies. Over the three year period 1999-2001, 9 White and 7 African-American and Other children ages 1-14 died in the county. During 1989-91, 7 White and 10 African-American and Other children died.

Immunization: Immunization rates are an important indication of whether young children are receiving adequate preventive health care. During FY 1989-90, 44% of children less than two years old seen in public health clinics were not fully immunized against such preventable diseases as Polio, Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Haemophilus Influenza B and Whooping Cough. After a concerted statewide campaign to increase immunizations, the percentage of children seen in public health clinics who were not fully immunized in January 2001 had declined in the county to 7.2%. The DHEC statewide birth registry survey of all two year old children found that 88.1% were fully immunized in 2001. This success demonstrates the potential to improve the status of children when the leadership of the state and its communities act decisively together.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Children and youth are infected with sexually transmitted diseases through sexual abuse or irresponsible sexual activity. National prevalence rates indicate: a 1 in 8 chance that sexually active 15 year-old girls will develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), the most rapidly increasing cause of infertility; 10% of sexually active adolescent girls and boys are infected with chlamydia, the most common cause of PID; and as many as 15% of teen girls are infected with human papilloma virus, often with strains linked to cervical cancer. Furthermore, research evidence indicates that susceptibility to HIV/AIDS increases by 3 to 8 times through prior infection with various STDs.

According to national studies, approximately 1 in 4 sexually experienced youth aged 13-19 acquires a STD eve year; since two-thirds of all high school students have had sexual intercourse and half engage in intercourse over a thr month period, this would suggest that 10-15% of teens are infected with STDs annually. For 2000, this would indicate th an estimated 699 to 1,048 youth ages 13-19 in the county were infected with a STD. Many infections are either n identified for treatment or not reported. In the county, there were ? reported cases of children under age 15 and 31 you ages 15 - 19 infected with gonorrhea; 6 youth under 15 and 80 ages 15 - 19 were reported infected with chlamyd Youth with undiagnosed and untreated STDs often spread their infections.

Healthy Lifestyles: Although no county data is available, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2001 found that ma high school students are not following good health habits. The YRBS revealed that 26% felt that they were overweight; 42 were trying to lose weight: 27% of boys and 57% of girls. Although during a week 79% of high school students ate fru 59% ate salad, and over 83% ate vegetables, only 17% ate the recommended five or more servings of fruit and vegetabl per day. During a week, 49% did stretching or muscle strengthening exercises, and 59% exercised three or more times f 20 minutes in sports that made them sweat or breathe hard. However, 11% of students engaged in no vigorous or modera activity at all during a week: 8% of boys and 13% of girls.

Tobacco Use:* Cigarette smoking starts at a young age and often becomes habitual. In the state during 2002 among all students 15 and older, 16.7% first smoked by age 11, 36.3% by age 13, and 51.4% by age 15. In a typical month, 17.1% of 7th and 8th graders and 25.3% of high school students smoked cigarettes. White youths were much more likely than African-Americans to smoke: 26.4% of White male and 27.2% of White female 7th to 12th graders used cigarettes, as compared with 18.9% of African-American males and 12.2% of African American females. A smaller but significant group of high school students (5.4%) used smokeless tobacco monthly; it was used primarily by White males (15.9% compared with 1.1% of all other race and sex groups).

* Schools in the county elected not to participate in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking. Therefore, data for all of South Carolina is presented here.

Disabilities: No data are collected on the true prevalence of disabilities within the county. According to national reported estimates, over 10% of children and youth have developmental disabilities at any point in time, and more than 17 are affected at some time before age 18 by deafness, blindness, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, speech defects, development delays, learning disabilities, and emotional or behavioral problems. For 2000 this suggests that at least 1,759 children ar youth under age 18 in the county are currently affected by disabilities.

Approximately 5% of children and youth nationally have serious disabilities which have lifelong implications fi work, social life and community living. Typically among children and youth, there are 1 - 2% who are mentally retarded, - 3% with serious emotional disturbances, over 1% with orthopedic or multiple disabilities, including cerebral palsy an many hereditary conditions, and under 1% with visual or hearing impairments.

Other chronic health problems also affect the lives of many children. Over 3% of children have one or more these limitations. Such serious chronic conditions affect 1 - 2% who have respiratory problems (asthma and chron bronchitis), 0.5 - 1.0% with neurological problems (epilepsy and seizures), and less than 1% with circulatory problen (congenital heart defects and acquired diseases).

Other disabilities are identified primarily in school performance. These would include 749 students in grades 1- with learning disabilities and 388 students in grades 1-12 with speech/language deficits.

Disabilities are caused by genetics, disease, poor prenatal conditions, injuries, and environmental factors. For example, lead exposure, primarily from paint dust, was detected in over 1% of all children screened, including 9 in Laurens County.

Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: While over 20% of 9-17 year olds meet diagnostic criteria for some form of mental disorder, the number with serious emotional disturbance and impaired functioning in family, school, or community activities is: 9-13% for substantial functional impairment and 5-9% for extreme functional impairment. The rates among poor children are at the higher end of these ranges. Based on a federal formula for estimating prevalence, in the county there are 12% or 1,099 seriously emotionally disturbed 9-17 year olds with substantial functional impairment and 8% or 732 with extreme functional impairment during the course of a year. Conduct disorders, attention deficit, depression, and anxiety disorders are the most prevalent, each affecting 3% or more of school-aged children. These disorders may occur simultaneously in a child. The prevalence rates are highest among males, adolescents, and disadvantaged persons in communities under stress and lacking social cohesion; depression, however, is more prevalent among females. On the YRBS, 20% of boys and 33% of girls in high school reported that during the past year they felt so sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that they stopped doing some usual activities. Another indicator of emotional problems is the 8% of high school students in South Carolina who reported that they had "attempted suicide" in the past year: 5% of boys and 10% of girls. Suicide attempts resulted in 4% of high school students reporting that they required treatment by a doctor or nurse for injury, poisoning, or overdose.

Inadequate Healthcare: No county level data is routinely collected regarding the number of children and youth with inadequate healthcare. According to estimates for 2000-02 by the Bureau of the Census through the annual Current Population Survey, the statewide average rate of uninsured children and youth under age 18 in families with incomes under 200% of poverty in South Carolina was 16.6%, and 9.9% above 200% of poverty. If these rates are applied to the county, there are 1,322 children in the county below 200% of poverty with no health insurance, and 956 children above 200% of poverty with no health insurance, for a total of 2,278 uninsured children in Laurens County. The number lacking basic accessible primary care is at least double the number lacking insurance. Those lacking primary care are often dependent on health services at school. The ratio of students to nurses recommended nationally is 750:1. In the county, this would suggest the need for 12 nurses, compared with 11 currently working in the schools.

Medicaid: For several years, the State of South Carolina has emphasized enrolling eligible children into Medicaid. In late 1997, South Carolina implemented its version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, Partners for Healthy Children (PHC), and aggressively pursued outreach enrollment for PHC and Medicaid. As a result, enrollment of children ages 0 through 18 in Laurens County has increased by 57.0% from June 1997 to June 2001; thus Medicaid and PHC were serving 39.7% of all children in that age range. The total Medicaid expenditures in South Carolina for services provided to children ages 0 through 18 for state fiscal year 2002 were $991 million, at an average statewide expenditure of $2,343 per child enrolled, approximate Medicaid expenditure for children in the county would be $16.4 million.

In June 2001, the total number of Laurens County children, birth through 18, enrolled in Medicaid was 6,989. The total can be broken down into the following age and race groupings:

	White	African American	Hispanic	Other	Total
Children under 1	256	213	40	6	515
Children 1 - 5	1,086	838	73	55	2,052
Children 6 - 14	1,562	1,574	47	106	3,289
Children 15 - 18	516	597	6	14	1,133
Total	3,420	3,222	166	181	6,989

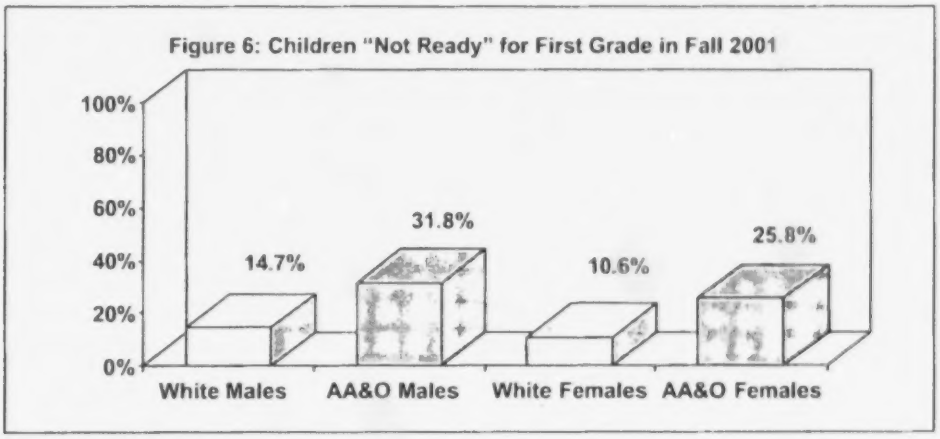
Ambulatory Care: When children lack adequate primary care, whether through lack of insurance, through limite access, or through failing to utilize available care, preventable and treatable conditions become serious and requi hospitalization. A useful indicator of inadequate primary care is the percentage of all hospitalizations that could typicall have been avoided through ambulatory care, especially for pneumonia, asthma, diarrhea and vomiting, dehydration, ar severe ear, nose, and throat infections. The share of hospitalizations for these types of conditions could normally be ke below 20%; for children in the county under the age of 18 during 2001, the share was 20.4% for Whites and 17.9% f African-Americans and Others.

READINESS AND EARLY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Too many children reach school without the readiness skills needed for success in learning, such as language, soci skills, visual and auditory discrimination, memory recall, and knowledge of colors, letters, numbers, names of objects, et Likewise, some schools are not ready to respond appropriately to the varying developmental levels of children in the ear grades. As a result, too many students do not experience the success needed to create the motivation and engagement th sustain learning.

1st Grade "Readiness" on 2001-02 Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB):

137 children not ready 19.5% children not ready

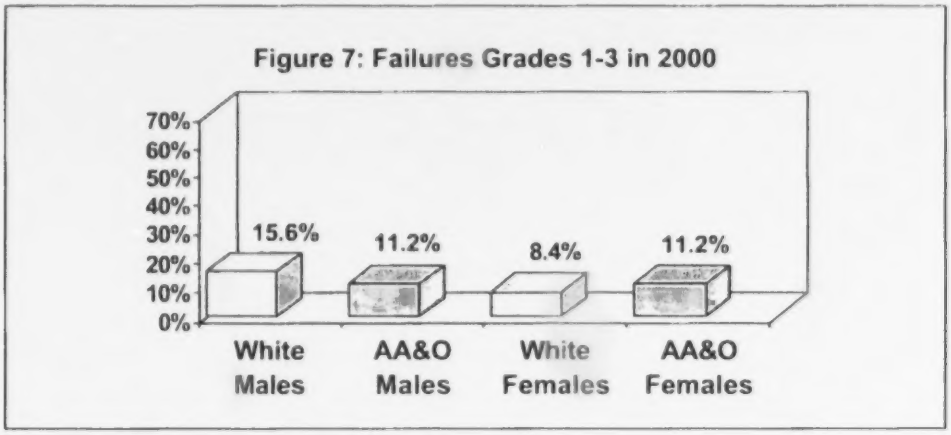


1st Grade Failures in 2002:

91 children failing 13.0% children failing

Failures Grades 1-3 in 2002 (approximate cumulative percentage of grades one, two and three):

177 children failing 24.7% children failing



Over-age for Grade 3 in 2001

120 children over-age 17.8% children over-age

Special Education: Large numbers of children are placed in special education classes. In elementary school, 297 six and seven year olds and 233 eight and nine year-olds were enrolled in special education classes during 2001-02, approximately 20.6% and 16.0% of their age groups respectively: 18.5% of White 8 – 9 year olds were in special education and 12.6% of African American and Others.

Readiness Summary: A serious problem exists in terms of student readiness and school success in the early grades. With 19.5% assessed not ready for the 1st grade, 17.8% over age in grade 3, and 16.0% of eight and nine year-olds placed in special education, unacceptably large numbers of students still begin school without good prospects of success in future school achievement and graduation; however, great improvement has occurred since the mid 1990s.

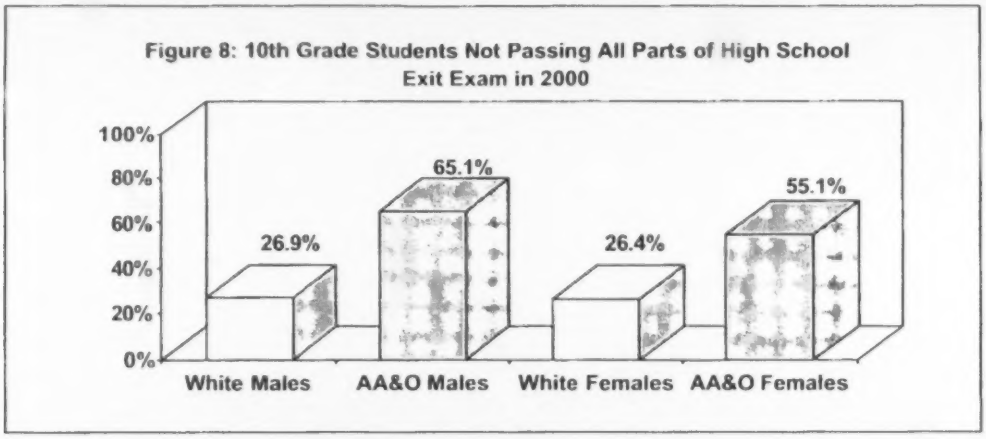
SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

By the end of elementary school, significant numbers of students perform below minimum standards. The following standardized test measures, comparing student performance to state minimum standards, should be used in combination with routine classroom assessments more reflective of real-world performance skills.

Special Education: Special education placements reflect both the significant number of children with serious handicapping conditions and a large number of students with mild learning and behavioral problems that have not been accommodated successfully by the regular educational program. The result is a large system of self-contained, resource, and itinerant services to meet the needs of 388 speech and language impaired, 749 learning disabled, 26 emotionally disabled, 262 mentally impaired, and 132 physically handicapped, deaf, blind, and other handicapped students. Special education classes served approximately 17.0% of all students in grades 1 - 12 during 2001-2002.

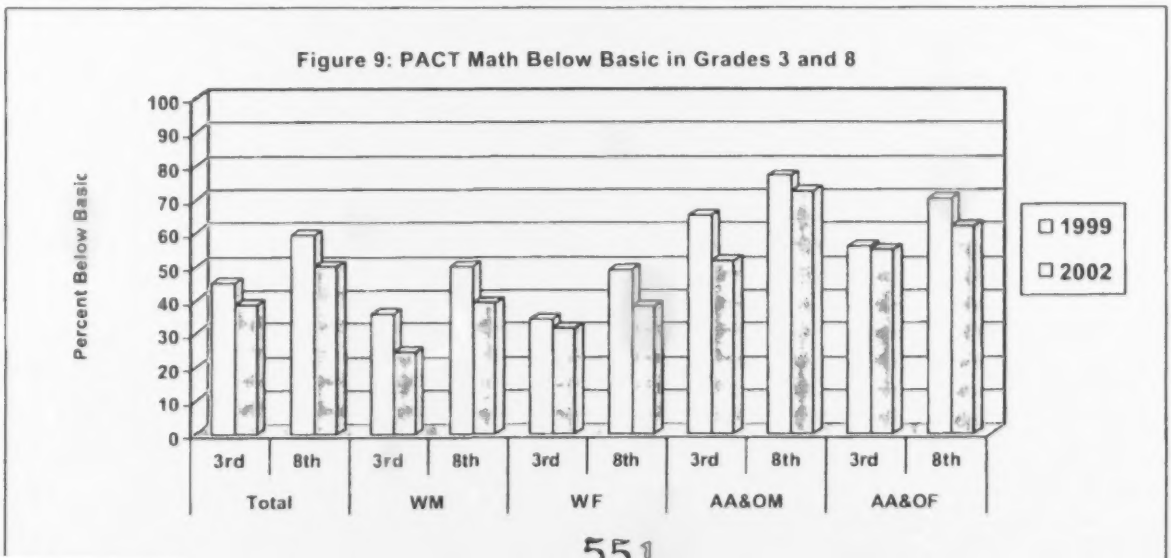
Exit Exam - not passing all parts of Exit Exam on first attempt in the 10th grade in 2002

185 students did not pass all parts — 39.6% of students did not pass all parts



Achievement Trends: How has performance on standardized achievement tests changed over the past 20 years? During the 1980s, student performance on the BSAP tests improved dramatically. Between 1981 and 1990, the percentage of 8th grade students in Laurens County who did not meet standards declined from 58% to 27.4% in math and from 55.1% to 24.2% in reading. During the 1990's the BSAP trend changed, with 31.7% not meeting 8th grade math standards in 1998 and 34.4% in reading. On standardized tests, the first year when South Carolina students take the exam is comparable to the challenge encountered by the national norm group which took the test only once. Looking at first year data, the percentage of 4th grade students at or below the 25th percentile of national norms was 33.7% in 1983 on the CTBS, 33.2% in 1990 on the Stanford, and 36.5% in 1995 on the Metropolitan; for 9th graders, the percentage in the bottom quarter was 30.2% in 1990 and 29.6% in 1995. Although not comparable, the percent below basic on the 4th grade PACT in 1999, the first year of administration, was 44.3%, but in 2002 29.0% of 4th graders were below basic in reading and math; the percentage of 8th graders below basic in reading and math averaged 51.0% in 1999 and 45.4% in 2002.

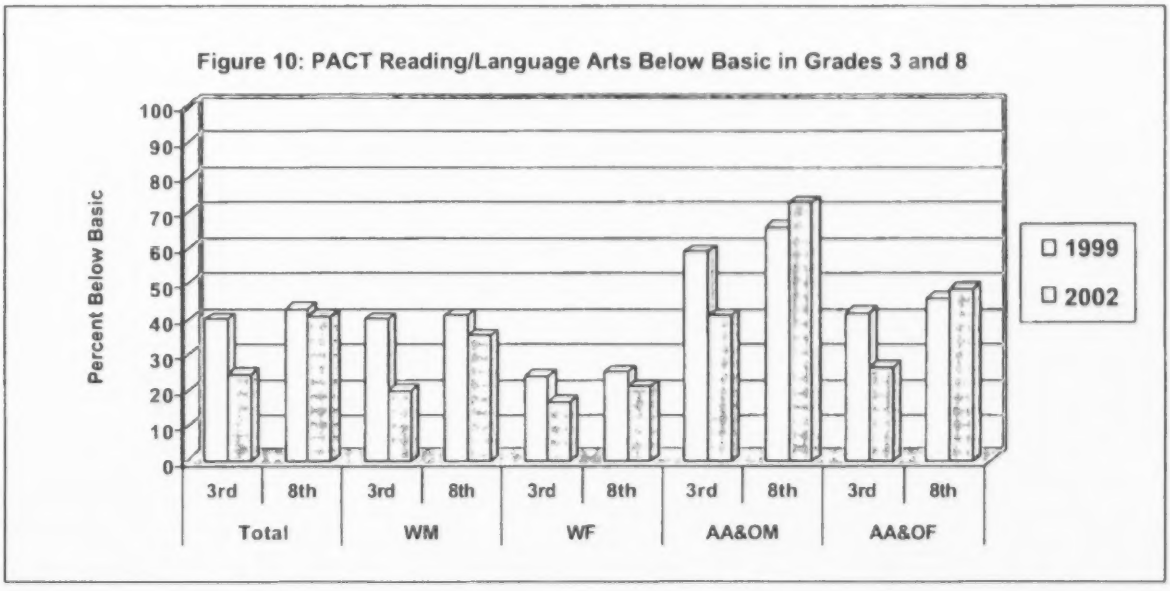
PACT: The Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) was first administered in 1999 for grades 3 - 8 in math and reading/language arts. Math assesses skills in numbers, numerical and algebraic concepts, patterns and functions, geometry, measurement, probability and statistics. The percentage of students scoring below basic in math has decreased by 22.9% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 998 students below basic in grades 3-8 but there would have been an additional 296 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
		Math (%)				
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	38.5	24.6	31.8	51.4	55.0
	4	32.4	21.5	26.9	50.0	41.7
	5	30.1	25.3	22.5	38.9	37.7
	6	32.4	27.2	15.1	52.6	40.6
	7	41.6	37.7	28.0	52.2	53.7
	8	49.9	39.3	38.2	72.1	62.2
Basic	3	43.3	46.7	46.9	38.6	37.9
	4	38.6	41.1	39.2	35.9	36.2
	5	47.2	41.0	51.7	54.0	45.5
	6	39.7	40.8	43.0	36.5	37.6
	7	32.3	25.3	39.9	32.9	33.5
	8	35.6	40.3	42.0	24.0	30.4
Proficient	3	12.7	19.6	14.7	8.6	4.3
	4	18.8	23.0	19.3	13.3	16.5
	5	14.8	19.8	15.7	5.6	14.4
	6	18.4	21.4	25.1	5.8	18.8
	7	15.4	20.8	17.6	10.6	9.1
	8	9.8	14.2	13.2	0.8	6.1
Advanced	3	5.5	9.0	6.6	1.4	2.9
	4	10.2	14.4	14.6	0.8	5.5
	5	7.8	13.8	10.1	1.6	2.4
	6	9.5	10.7	16.8	5.1	3.0
	7	10.7	16.2	14.5	4.3	3.7
	8	4.7	6.2	6.6	3.1	1.4

Reading/Language Arts assesses reading, listening, speaking, writing, research, and communication with technology. The first PACT assessment found a high percentage of elementary and middle grades students performing below standards and only a modest number above basic. The percentage of students scoring below basic in reading/language arts has decreased by 24.6% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 832 students below basic in grades 3 - 8 but there would have been an additional 272 at 1999 performance rates.

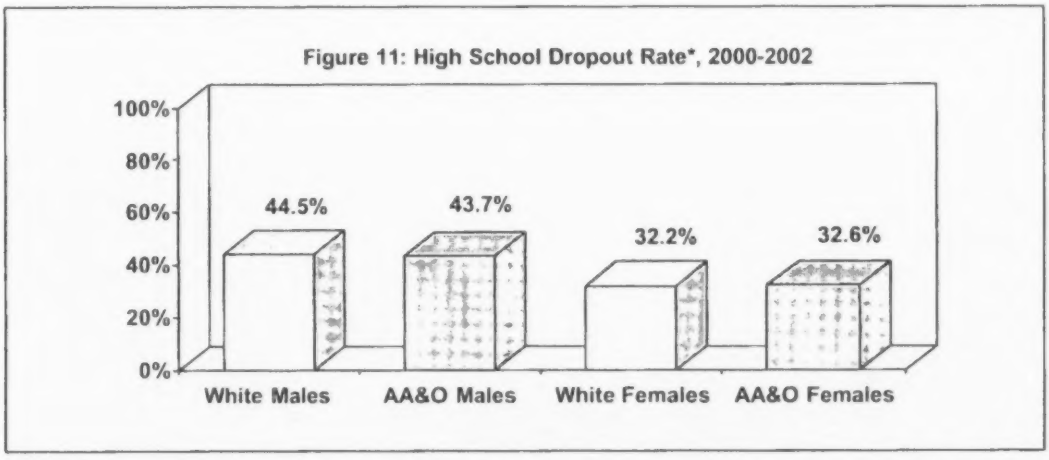
Figure 10: PACT Reading/Language Arts Below Basic in Grades 3 and 8



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
	Reading/Language Arts (%)					
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	24.5	19.8	16.6	41.3	26.6
	4	25.6	30.5	12.7	40.2	24.4
	5	33.9	34.1	17.4	53.6	36.5
	6	37.1	38.8	16.3	57.7	38.3
	7	35.3	31.6	15.5	60.2	40.2
	8	40.9	35.5	21.2	72.9	48.6
Basic	3	43.4	44.2	39.8	40.6	51.1
	4	46.7	42.9	42.9	52.0	54.3
	5	46.9	47.0	51.1	39.2	47.9
	6	30.7	29.1	31.5	31.4	31.6
	7	43.3	44.7	47.2	31.7	47.6
	8	38.5	39.3	45.3	23.3	41.2
Proficient	3	29.6	33.0	38.9	18.1	21.6
	4	25.6	26.2	38.7	7.9	20.5
	5	18.3	18.4	28.7	7.2	15.6
	6	25.8	26.7	38.8	9.6	25.6
	7	18.7	20.3	31.6	8.1	11.6
	8	17.0	22.7	25.0	3.1	9.5
Advanced	3	2.5	3.0	4.7	0.0	0.7
	4	2.1	0.5	5.7	0.0	0.8
	5	0.9	0.5	2.8	0.0	0.0
	6	6.4	5.3	13.5	1.3	4.5
	7	2.7	3.4	5.7	0.0	0.6
	8	3.7	2.4	8.5	0.8	0.7

Dropout Rate - 8th grade students no longer enrolled in grade 12
(average of students for the three years ending 2000-2002)

301 students drop out annually **38.6% students drop out?**



Dropouts: Distressing numbers of students drop out and fail to graduate. An average of 37.8% of 8th graders failed to graduate** from county schools five years later during the period 1980-84, 35.0% during 1985-89, and 37.8% during 1990-94, 39.8% during 1995-97 and 39.9% during 1998-2000***.

During 2001-02, 97.4% of all who did graduate received the State High School Diploma, while the remaining 2.6% received a State Certificate for meeting the required Carnegie units but not passing the Exit Exam.

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*12th grade enrollment compared to 8th grade enrollment four years earlier

** This is calculated by using 8th grade enrollment to graduation data.

*** 2001 data will be available soon and will be posted on the website

Fortunately, many dropouts enroll in adult education programs and either earn a high school diploma or obtain a GED. During 2001-02, 1 Adult Education high school diplomas were awarded to school completers and in 2001 171 GEDs were awarded in the county. Over time, adult education high school diplomas and GEDs increase the effective school completion rate substantially. In the 2000 Census, 25.6% of county resident 25 - 34 year-olds said they had not completed either high school or a GED.

Achievement Summary: The numbers of students testing below basic on the PACT and dropping out range from 24.5% to 49.9%. Thus, far too many students fail to acquire the knowledge, skills, learning habits, and motivation necessary to compete in the economy or contribute to society in the 21st Century.

ADOLESCENT RISK BEHAVIORS

Academic achievement is greatly influenced by the prevailing youth culture which often promotes popularity with peers and partying rather than studying and doing well in school. The prevalence of adolescent risk-taking and under-achievement is illustrated by the poor grades of substance-abusing teens.

Substance Abuser Rates at Levels of Academic Performance

	Usual School Grades in Past Year					Total
	A Range	B Range	C Range	D Range	F Range	
Smoked Cigarettes (in past 30 days)	13.3%	22.4%	31.7%	42.8%	63.6%	25.3%
Drank 5 or More Drinks on One Occasion (in past 30 days)	12.4%	17.3%	22.6%	26.8%	43.5%	18.9%
Used Any Illicit Drug (in past 30 days)	11.5%	17.1%	25.1%	34.1%	53.0%	20.0%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

As influence from parents and other adults declines during adolescence, significant numbers of students engage in violence, crime, school offenses, depressive emotions and attempted suicide:

Risk Behaviors Participated in During Past 12 Months	White Male		White Female		African American Male		African American Female		Total		Total (Grade 7-12)
	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	
Carried a handgun or knife for self-defense?	22.5%	26.1%	5.3%	6.3%	14.6%	20.2%	5.0%	7.6%	12.2%	14.9%	13.7%
Carried a handgun or knife as a weapon?	6.8%	9.4%	1.3%	1.6%	9.0%	13.9%	3.0%	5.0%	4.8%	6.9%	5.9%
Been in a fight with someone?	40.1%	31.3%	18.5%	16.2%	41.4%	31.9%	29.4%	22.4%	31.7%	24.9%	28.0%
Hit your boyfriend or girlfriend?	2.0%	1.6%	6.9%	10.0%	5.7%	4.9%	17.7%	24.2%	7.4%	9.7%	8.7%
Been hit by your boyfriend or girlfriend?	7.1%	6.1%	6.1%	8.5%	11.5%	9.7%	9.5%	10.6%	8.1%	8.5%	8.3%
Rec'd detention or in-school suspension?	38.1%	37.3%	22.4%	25.0%	41.6%	37.6%	34.3%	30.7%	33.3%	32.1%	32.7%
Been suspended from school?	12.9%	13.9%	5.2%	7.2%	24.0%	22.6%	14.8%	15.4%	13.1%	13.8%	13.5%
Stolen anything worth > $5?	12.9%	17.6%	6.9%	10.7%	14.2%	15.6%	8.5%	8.4%	10.4%	13.1%	11.9%
Had an accident while driving?	NA	14.3%	NA	12.6%	NA	7.7%	NA	6.3%	NA	11.0%	NA
Been arrested and booked?	3.9%	6.1%	1.5%	2.7%	5.7%	8.1%	2.2%	2.9%	3.2%	4.7%	4.0%
Felt hopeless for two weeks or more?	14.8%	15.9%	21.8%	29.0%	14.0%	13.3%	22.0%	24.8%	18.2%	21.4%	19.9%
Seriously considered attempting suicide?	6.9%	8.4%	9.6%	14.3%	5.5%	5.4%	6.8%	8.7%	7.4%	9.7%	8.7%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

Adolescence is often a time of taking risks and asserting independence from adults. When asked whether they would tell an adult about a problem, the following percentages of state students said they would be "not likely" or "very unlikely" to tell if they:

-heard a student threaten to harm someone: 33.2% middle school, 47.0% high school;
-saw a student with a handgun at school: 22.7% middle school, 20.5% high school;
-saw a student with a knife at school: 24.7% middle school, 31.6% high school;
-saw a student with drugs at school: 33.7% middle school, 61.9% high school;

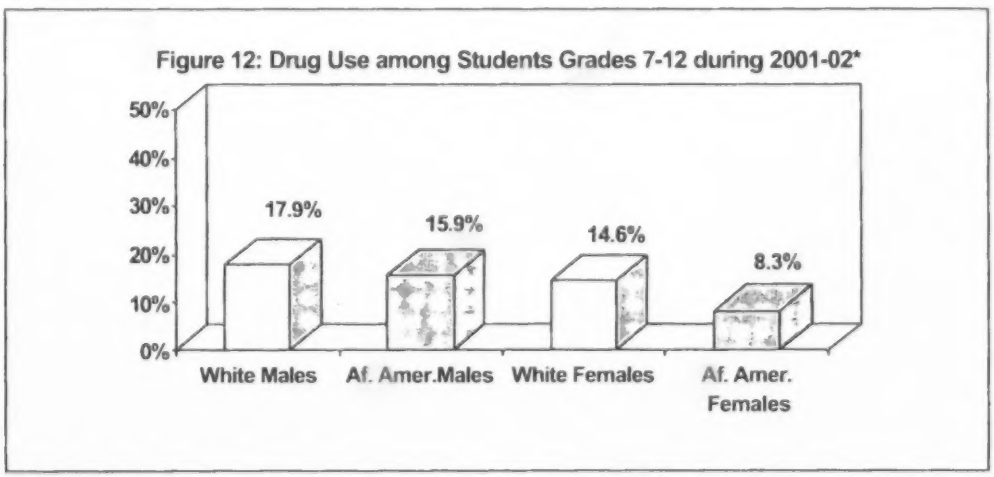
Alcohol Use:* In the state during 2001-02, 21.0% of 7th and 8th graders and 37.1% of high schoolers said they had used alcohol in the past month. Of White males in grades 7 - 12, 33.8% had used it in the past month, compared with 26.0% of African-American males; likewise, 34.5% of White females said they had used alcohol, compared with 26.4% of African-American females. Many youth first used alcohol at an early age: 14.2% had used alcohol by age 11 or younger, 33.0% by age 13, and 61.1% by age 15.

During the previous year, 21.0% of 7th and 8th graders and 30.4% of high schoolers said they had ridden with a drinking driver. Of seniors who drive, 19.4% said they had driven after drinking. Widespread use is encouraged by the ready availability and perceived low risk of alcohol use. Among students who expressed an opinion, 43.6% of eighth graders and 75.4% of seniors felt that beer was easy to get. Also, 71.6% of eighth graders and 70.7% of seniors felt there was not a great risk in drinking two drinks a day, and 47.3% of eighth graders and 53.1% of high schoolers felt there was not a great risk in drinking 5 drinks every weekend.

Heavy Drinking:* In 2001-02, 7.7% of 7th and 8th graders and 18.9% of high school students in the state repor drinking 5 or more drinks in a day during the past month. When asked how many drinks, if any, they usually consur 13.7% of all state students in grades 7 - 12 in 2001-02 responded 3 or more drinks at a time and 7.1% reported usually 5 more drinks. Among high school students, 18.6% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 10.0% 5 or mc Among seniors, 24.7% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 13.7% 5 or more; however 22.9% of seni said that they drank 5 or more drinks in a day once or more during the past month.

Drugs:* In 2001-02, 9.5% of 7th and 8th graders and 20.1% of high schoolers in the state reported using ille drugs during the previous month. Among students in grades 7 - 12, use was reported by 20.1% of White males, 16.4% Wl females, 17.1% of African-American males, and 8.3% of African-American females. Some young people initiated drug u at an early age: 5.3% had experienced their first use by age 11 or sooner; 16.3% had used a drug by age 13, and 34.7% by a 15.

In the past year, 10.3% of all high school students in the state who drive and 15.4% of seniors who drive said that they had driven after using drugs. Such use is encouraged by the ready availability of drugs: 22.3% of 8th graders who had an opinion said it is easy to get marijuana and 8.4% said it is easy to get cocaine or crack; 65.0% of seniors said it is easy to get marijuana and 29.5% said it was easy to get cocaine or crack.



* Schools in the county elected not to participate in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking. Therefore, data for all of South Carolina is presented here. The latest Laurens County data, for 1992-93, is available on the Kids Count website at www.sckidscount.org.

Sexual Activity and Pregnancy: Many teenagers now engage in sexual activity. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) administered to a representative sample of high school students throughout South Carolina in 2001 showed that sexual activity begins at an early age: 7% of female and 21% of male students have engaged in intercourse before age 13; by age 15, 38% the females and 49% of males have engaged in sexual intercourse. Statewide, 48% of females and 50% of males in the 11th and 12th grades reported engaging in intercourse during the past three months. Furthermore, 27% of female and 33% of male 12th graders have had intercourse with four or more partners during their lifetimes.

Premature sexual activity often results in pregnancy. In the county, 94 girls between the ages of 14 and 17 became pregnant in 1999, 75 in 2000 and 81 in 2001. This represented 4.1% of all girls ages 14 -- 17 in 2001; several times this percentage become pregnant at least once by age 18. The 2001 pregnancy rate for ages 14 - 17 was 3.4% for Whites and 5.6% for African-Americans and Others. Of all pregnancies of 14-17 year olds, 77.8% resulted in live births, with almost all other pregnancies ending in abortions.

Teen pregnancy rates increased substantially across the state during the 1980s; as a result, greater emphasis v devoted to preventing teen pregnancy. Since 1989, the teen pregnancy rate in Laurens County has decreased by 50.3 Overall, it has decreased by 34.6% for Whites, and decreased by 60.0% for African Americans and Others.

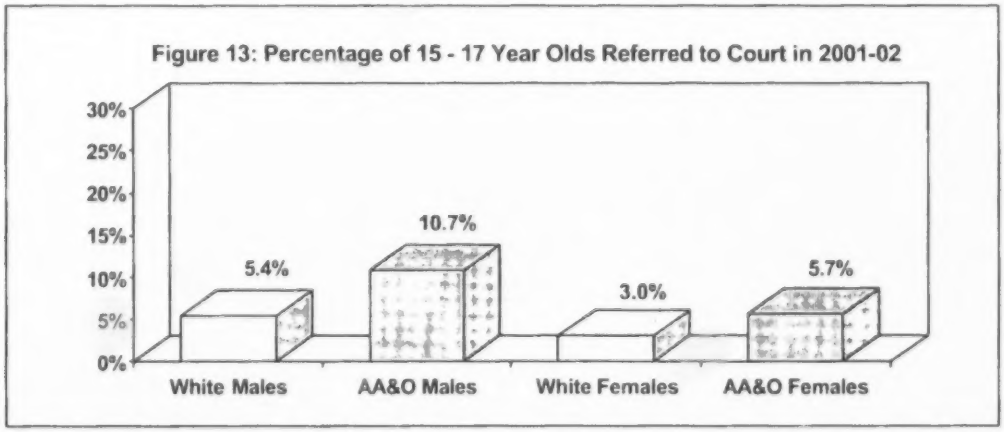
Juvenile Delinquency: In 2001-02, 262 individual juvenile offenders in the county were referred to the Solicitor for delinquency; of these, 7.6% were age 12 or younger, 25.2% were 13 or 14, and 67.2% were 15 or older.

Of the referrals to the family court, 10.5% of all referrals were for violent and serious crimes which include drug trafficking, acts against persons for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and serious property offenses for arson and burglary. Also, 51 juvenile cases constituting 14.5% of all referrals were for status offenses. Status offenses include truancy, running away, incorrigibility, and other offenses that would not be crimes for adults.

Delinquents are likely to live in families with low income: 10.6% lived in families with income under $10,000, 47.9% with $10,000-$19,999 and 41.5% with $20,000 or more. Furthermore, only 22.3% of delinquents lived with both natural parents, while 54.3% lived in a single parent household, 21.2% lived with other relatives, and 2.2% in other situations including parent plus step-parent. Delinquency or criminal activity occurs among many related family members: 45.9% had at least one family member who was delinquent or had some criminal record.

Youth referred to the family courts are likely to have been there before. In 2001-02, 60.7% had at least one prior referral and 28.6% had been referred to court 3 times or more. Many were referred at an early age. For delinquents 15 - 17 years old, 1.7% had been referred by the age of 10, 10.8% by the age of 12, and 28.5% by the age of 14.

During 2001-02, 174 youth ages 15 to 17 were referred to the family courts. In the county, 5.6% of all youth 15 to 17 were referred to court in one year and roughly double that percentage are referred at least once by age 18. Furthermore, the National Youth Survey indicates that typically across the United States the proportion of youth engaging in crime is two or three times the number ever apprehended. In 2001-02, there were 34 juveniles committed from the county to DJJ custody and placed in residential programs.



Not in School or Employed: During 2000, 470 teenagers ages 16-19 were idle, meaning they neither worked any hours nor were enrolled in school, even part-time. Idle teens comprised 11.2% of their age group: 9.2% for White and 15.3% African-American & Other teens. A much larger number, perhaps twice as many, were not engaged in either school full time or work full time. The data reflect a serious failure in both school completion and the critical transition from school to work, significantly affecting their development as future workers. For an in-depth description of the problems of young adults seeking to enter the labor force, visit our website at www.scyoungadults.org for our state and county reports on 18-29 year olds.

Deaths: During 1997-2001, 20 youth ages 15 to 19 died. Historically, automobile accidents have been the major cause, resulting in 8 deaths between 1996 and 2000; homicides killed 2 youth 15 to 19 years old during the five-year period, and 0 youth committed suicide. Alcohol use is often a significant factor in deaths among teenagers.

Summary

Facing the Scope of Problems: The data on families, economic status, health, readiness, school achievement, and adolescent risk behaviors provide a troublesome picture of the condition of children in Laurens County. The 33.0% of children in single-parent families, 20.1% in poverty, 39.9% not graduating from school, 42.5% of high school students using alcohol and 22.1% using drugs each month, and other data profiled in this report suggest that too many children are at risk of not growing up to become self-supporting adults, good family members, and responsible community citizens.

Emphasizing the Positive: South Carolina Kids Count reports have been developed to describe the problems of children in each of the counties. Fortunately, the majority of children and youth are doing well, and some very well. One simple description is the percentage of children who do not fall into the problem categories reported. For the county, 79.8% of children are born to non-teen mothers ages 20 or older, 52.1% are born to married parents, and 67.0% lived in two-parent families; 79.9% were not poor and 53.9% lived in families with incomes above twice the poverty level for a family of three, $30,040 in 2002; 91.8% of babies were born with normal birthweights; 80.5% were assessed as ready for the first grade, 50.1% scored basic or better on PACT for 8th grade math and 59.1% for 8th grade reading, 60.4% passed all parts of the Exit Exam in the 10th grade, and 60.1% graduated with their class. In a typical month, 62.9% of high school students do not drink alcohol, 79.9% do not use drugs, and 74.7% do not smoke. Unfortunately, the absence of a problem is not always an indicator of success. Some data is available for exemplary performance: for example, 32.1% of 3rd graders and 20.7% of 8th graders scored proficient or advanced on PACT in reading and 18.2% of 3rd graders and 14.5% of 8th graders in math. Unfortunately, data on success is not generally available.

Despite the limitations of success data, we must emphasize the positive in providing good support and appropriate influences for children and youth. Recent philosophy and publications such as those of the Search Institute (700 South Third Street, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN, 55415-1138, tel. 1-800-888-7828, www.search-institute.org), emphasize the critical importance of "developmental assets" to promote and support positive development. One short book from the Search Institute, (What Kids Need to Succeed, by Peter J. Benson, Judy Gailbraith, and Pamela Espeland, 1995) presents an excellent array of suggestions for promoting developmental assets through families, community, faith congregations, and schools. If each family, school, religious congregation and community organization assertively worked to build such assets, the problems described in this report would be reduced dramatically. Such positive family-school-community efforts could improve South Carolina's national Kids Count ranking from the bottom 10 to the average or even into the top 10 by prevention of unnecessary problems affecting children and youth, as shown on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

All data presented in this report is the most recent available at the date it goes to the printer. This version of the Kids Count report will be revised as more recent and additional data become available. Please send us your corrections and suggestions for improvement. We welcome your ideas for ways to make the state and county reports more useful and accurate. Please utilize local data sources whenever possible to supplement the profile provided through our report.

Data related inquiries should be directed to:

Anne Wilson, Data Manager (awilson@drss.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-4810

Calls for **copies of reports** for other counties and inquiries regarding more recent reports should be made to:

Kim Hazel-Lohr, Project Manager (khazel@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-1295

For **policy questions and general comments**, please contact:

Dr. A. Baron Holmes, Project Director (bholmes@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-2291

Comparable reports for all 46 counties and for the state can also be found on the World Wide Web at

www.sckidscount.org

Our website also provides: links to other websites for indicators in our report; high to low rankings for individual indicators; information on how to improve SC's national rank; and a glossary of definitions.

The national Kids Count Report can be found on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website at www.aecf.org

Laurens County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Indicators	Most Recent Year	Number					Percent					R	
		1980*	1990*	Most Recent Data	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980 Rank	199
Health													
Low Birth Weight	2001	71	75	66	-7.0%	-12.0%	9.0	8.3	8.2	-9.1%	-1.6%	27	
White babies	2001	34	28	41	+20.6%	+46.4%	6.9	5.2	7.1	2.9%	36.7%	34	
African American and Other babies	2001	37	47	25	-32.4%	-46.8%	12.5	13.0	11.0	-12.0%	-15.8%	26	
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	2001	370	383	211	+43.0%	-44.9%	47.0	42.6	26.3	-44.0%	-38.2%	36	
White babies	2001	180	173	121	-32.8%	-30.1%	36.7	32.1	21.1	-42.5%	-34.3%	42	
African American and Other babies	2001	190	210	90	-52.6%	-57.1%	64.0	58.2	39.5	-38.3%	-32.1%	38	
Infant Mortality	2001	51	28	25	-51.0%	-10.7%	2.2	1.1	1.0	-54.7%	-6.3%	37	
White babies	2001	29	16	12	-58.6%	-25.0%	2.0	1.0	0.7	-65.8%	-31.7%	39	
African American and Other babies	2001	22	12	13	-40.9%	+8.3%	2.6	1.2	1.8	-31.3%	50.0%	34	
Family													
Births to mothers under 18	2001	73	90	64	-12.3%	-28.9%	9.3	10.0	8.0	-13.8%	-20.0%	25	
White babies	2001	36	38	33	-8.3%	-13.2%	7.3	7.1	5.7	-22.4%	-19.2%	38	
African American and Other babies	2001	37	52	31	-16.2%	-40.4%	12.5	14.4	13.6	9.1%	-5.6%	21	
Births to mothers under 20	2001	182	206	162	-11.0%	-21.4%	23.1	22.9	20.2	-12.7%	-11.7%	33	
White babies	2001	106	93	98	-7.5%	-5.4%	21.6	17.3	17.1	-21.0%	-0.9%	43	
African American and Other babies	2001	76	113	64	-15.8%	+43.4%	25.6	31.3	28.1	9.7%	-10.3%	21	
Births to mothers with less than a high school education	2001	341	313	256	-24.9%	-18.2%	43.3	34.8	31.9	-26.4%	-8.3%	41	
White babies	2001	195	170	171	-12.3%	+0.6%	39.8	31.5	29.8	-25.1%	-5.5%	43	
African American and Other babies	2001	146	143	85	-41.8%	-40.6%	49.2	39.6	37.3	-24.2%	-5.9%	24	
Births to single mothers****	2001	194	373	384	+97.9%	+2.9%	24.7	41.4	47.9	94.3%	15.6%	21	
White babies	2001	36	103	192	+433.3%	+86.4%	7.3	19.1	33.4	354.6%	74.8%	35	
African American and Other babies	2001	158	270	192	+21.5%	-28.9%	53.2	74.8	84.2	58.3%	12.6%	42	
Children in single parent families	2000	2,490	3,044	4,913	+97.3%	+61.4%	18.2	24.4	33.0	81.5%	35.4%	23	
White	2000	1,005	1,223	2,252	+124.1%	+84.1%	10.6	14.1	21.9	106.5%	55.2%	31	
African American and Other	2000	1,483	1,810	2,661	+79.4%	+47.0%	31.9	47.8	58.0	81.9%	21.4%	26	
Education													
Not Ready for Grade 1	2001	287	172	137	-52.3%	-20.3%	34.5	22.8	19.5	-43.5%	-14.5%	15	
White males	2001	65	42	31	-52.3%	-26.2%	25.2	18.8	14.7	-41.7%	-21.8%	9	
White females	2001	46	24	21	-54.3%	-12.5%	20.3	12.2	10.6	-47.8%	-13.1%	21	
African American and Other males	2001	99	65	50	-49.5%	-23.1%	52.4	38.2	31.8	-39.3%	-16.8%	17	
African American and Other females	2001	77	41	34	-55.8%	-17.1%	48.7	24.7	25.8	-47.0%	4.5%	28	
Repeating Grades 1-3	2000	169	186	88	-47.9%	-52.7%	21.0	24.9	11.8	-43.8%	-52.6%	29	
White males	2000	63	57	36	-42.9%	-36.8%	24.9	25.1	15.6	-37.3%	-37.8%	36	
White females	2000	27	22	18	-33.3%	-18.2%	12.3	11.3	8.4	-31.7%	-25.7%	33	
African American and Other males	2000	50	66	18	-64.0%	-72.7%	28.8	40.0	11.2	-61.1%	-72.0%	28	
African American and Other females	2000	29	41	16	-44.8%	-61.0%	19.3	25.0	11.2	-42.0%	-55.2%	27	
Grade 3 Math below standards****	2002	367	121	266	-27.5%	+119.8%	44.2	17.1	38.5	-12.9%	125.1%	27	
White males	2002	78	26	49	-37.2%	+88.5%	30.5	11.7	24.6	-19.3%	110.3%	26	
White females	2002	84	26	67	-20.2%	+157.7%	35.9	12.8	31.8	-11.4%	148.4%	41	
African American and Other males	2002	101	38	72	-28.7%	+89.5%	63.1	24.4	51.4	-18.5%	110.7%	33	
African American and Other females	2002	103	30	77	-25.2%	+156.7%	57.5	24.0	55.0	-4.3%	129.2%	37	
Grade 3 Reading below standards****	2002	343	104	168	-51.0%	+61.5%	41.3	14.7	24.5	-40.7%	66.7%	31	
White males	2002	93	31	39	-58.1%	+25.8%	36.2	14.0	19.8	-45.3%	41.4%	37	
White females	2002	57	11	35	-38.6%	+218.2%	24.4	5.4	16.6	-32.0%	207.4%	36	
African American and Other males	2002	100	39	57	-43.0%	+46.2%	62.5	25.2	41.3	-33.9%	63.9%	35	
African American and Other females	2002	92	22	37	-59.8%	+68.2%	51.7	17.6	26.6	-48.5%	51.1%	40	
Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT Grade 4	1998	253	232	171	-32.4%	-26.3%	33.7	33.2	26.0	-22.8%	-21.7%	25	
White males	1998	61	77	40	-34.4%	-48.1%	25.7	34.8	21.2	-17.5%	-39.1%	26	
White females	1998	32	47	29	-9.4%	-38.3%	15.6	20.1	13.2	-15.4%	-34.3%	22	
African American and Other males	1998	91	71	53	-41.8%	-25.4%	59.9	54.6	48.6	-18.9%	-11.0%	40	
African American and Other females	1998	68	37	49	-27.9%	+32.4%	45.3	32.5	36.8	-18.8%	13.2%	36	

*Year of data is approximate in many cases.
**1 is best, 46 is worst.
*** Data include paternity acknowledgements.
**** BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Laurens County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Education (continued)

Indicators		Number					Percent				
	Most Recent Year	1980*	1990*	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres
Grade 8 Math below state standards**	2002	447	180	350	-21.7%	+94.4%	58.0	27.4	49.9	-14.0%	82.1%
White males	2002	101	31	83	-17.8%	+167.7%	40.1	14.6	39.3	-2.0%	169.2%
White females	2002	96	45	81	-15.6%	+80.0%	46.1	23.3	38.2	-17.1%	63.9%
African American and Other males	2002	114	53	93	-18.4%	+75.5%	80.9	38.1	72.1	-10.9%	89.2%
African American and Other females	2002	133	51	92	-30.8%	+80.4%	80.6	44.7	62.2	-22.8%	39.1%
Grade 8 Reading below state standards**	2002	426	160	287	-32.6%	+79.4%	55.1	24.2	40.9	-25.8%	69.0%
White males	2002	107	38	75	-29.9%	+97.4%	42.5	17.8	35.5	-16.5%	99.4%
White females	2002	78	22	45	-42.3%	+104.5%	37.3	11.4	21.2	-43.2%	86.0%
African American and Other males	2002	115	58	94	-18.3%	+62.1%	81.6	41.4	72.9	-10.7%	76.1%
African American and Other females	2002	122	42	72	-41.0%	+71.4%	73.5	36.8	48.6	-33.9%	32.1%
Grade 9 Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT	1998	NA	194	206	NA	+6.2%	NA	30.2	33.6	NA	11.3%
White males	1998	NA	42	NA	NA	NA	NA	22	25.3	NA	15.0%
White females	1998	NA	39	NA	NA	NA	NA	19.9	16.1	NA	-19.1%
African American and Other males	1998	NA	74	NA	NA	NA	NA	53.6	55.0	NA	2.6%
African American and Other females	1998	NA	39	NA	NA	NA	NA	33.3	50.0	NA	50.2%
Exit Exam (not passing all parts on 1st attempt)	2002	306	185	185	-39.5%	+0.0%	46.0	31.6	39.6	-13.9%	25.3%
White males	2002	53	43	36	-32.1%	-16.3%	28.0	22.3	26.9	-3.9%	20.6%
White females	2002	81	32	39	-51.9%	+21.9%	35.5	18.4	26.4	-25.6%	43.5%
African American and Other males	2002	89	59	56	-37.1%	-5.1%	75.4	54.6	65.1	-13.7%	19.2%
African American and Other females	2002	83	46	54	-34.9%	+17.4%	64.3	43.8	55.1	-14.3%	25.8%
Dropout Rate (8th graders no longer enrolled in 12th grade 4 years later)	2000-02	301	280	301	-0.1%	+7.4%	35.6	33.8	38.6	8.5%	14.2%
White males	2000-02	109	99	114	+5.1%	+15.2%	39.1	37.5	44.5	13.7%	18.6%
White females	2000-02	80	74	72	-10.4%	-3.2%	33.5	30.3	32.2	-4.0%	6.1%
African American and Other males	2000-02	64	61	68	+7.6%	+12.9%	38.1	37.9	43.7	14.6%	15.2%
African American and Other females	2000-02	49	47	47	-4.8%	+0.4%	30.1	29.0	32.6	8.3%	12.4%
Young Adults Not Completing High School (18-24)	2000	2,578	1,898	2,377	-7.8%	+25.2%	40.3	29.5	25.6	-36.4%	-13.2%
White males	NA	878	781	NA	NA	NA	39.4	32.3	NA	NA	NA
White females	NA	736	429	NA	NA	NA	33.8	19.7	NA	NA	NA
African American and Other males	NA	504	400	NA	NA	NA	53.1	47.0	NA	NA	NA
African American and Other females	NA	460	288	NA	NA	NA	44.4	29.0	NA	NA	NA

Economics

Poverty Rate	2000	1,994	2,612	3,467	+73.9%	+32.7%	13.5	17.8	20.1	48.9%	12.9%
White children	2000	632	1,001	1,812	+186.7%	+81.0%	6.7	10.5	15.9	137.3%	51.4%
African American and Other children	2000	1,362	1,611	1,655	+21.5%	+2.7%	25.2	31.2	28.1	11.4%	-10.1%
Income of Families w/children (1999 $)	2000	$ 42,246	$ 43,103	$ 43,409	+2.8%	+0.7%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
White families	2000	$ 43,907	$ 47,807	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
African American and Other families	2000	$ 38,451	$ 31,098	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Adolescent Risk Factors

Teenage Pregnancy (ages 14-17)	2001	111	125	81	-27.0%	-35.2%	5.7	6.9	4.1	-27.9%	-40.6%
White	2001	65	54	46	-29.2%	-14.8%	5.1	4.5	3.4	-33.6%	-24.4%
African American and Other	2001	46	71	35	-23.9%	-50.7%	6.8	11.8	5.6	-17.2%	-52.5%
Delinquency	2002	94	142	174	+85.1%	+22.5%	3.2	5.8	5.6	74.8%	-3.5%
White males	2002	47	63	57	+21.3%	-9.5%	4.8	7.5	5.4	12.0%	-28.3%
White females	2002	15	20	30	+100.0%	+50.0%	1.6	2.6	3.0	85.6%	14.2%
African American and Other males	2002	21	46	59	+181.0%	+28.3%	4.3	10.7	10.7	149.5%	0.3%
African American and Other females	2002	11	13	28	+154.5%	+115.4%	2.2	3.1	5.7	159.7%	84.3%

*Closest available data to this year was used in many cases.
**BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Kids Count 2003

Lee County

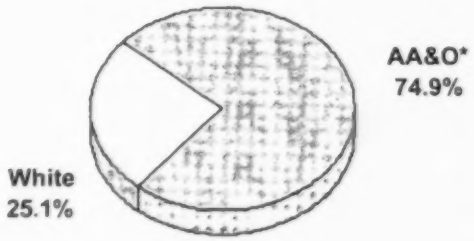
DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2000 there were an estimated 5,183 children under age 18 in the county. Of these, 1,303 were White, 3,786 were African-American, and 94 were other races. There were 5,655 children under age 18 in 1990, 6,611 in 1980, 8,121 in 1970, and 10,925 in 1960.

Children represent a shrinking portion of the county's population. Those under 18 constituted 25.8% of the population in 2000, down from 50.0% in 1960, 44.3% in 1970, and 34.9% in 1980.

In 2000 the 1,543 pre-schoolers under age 6 were 7.7% of the overall population: 5.7% of Whites and 8.7% of African Americans.

Figure 1: Population Ages 0-17 in 2000



* In all charts African-American is combined with other races, and often abbreviated as AA&O. Other races comprise 1.8% of children in the county, with "two or more races" at 0.8% and "some other race alone" at 0.7% as the largest Other groups.

FAMILY

Families have always been the most important influence in a child's life. Children depend on their families for material needs, stimulation and guidance. Family life is different in numerous ways from previous generations, and many families now face exceptional challenges.

Families with children now make up a smaller share of all households. Only 32.7% of all households in 2000, as compared with 49.0% of households in 1960, had children below the age of 18.

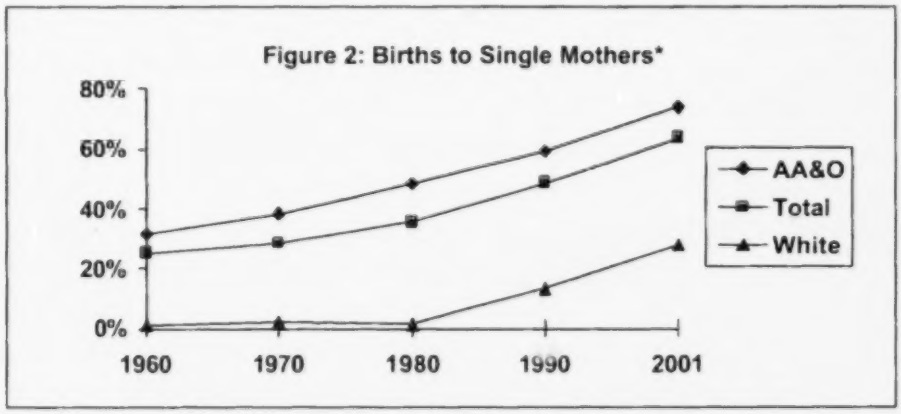
Births to Teen Mothers: In 2001, 15 babies were born to mothers younger than age 18. They were 5.3% of all babies born in the county; 4.7% of all White and 5.5% of all African-American and Other babies were born to teen mothers under the age of 18. Of the babies born to these teens in 2001, 100.0% were born to single mothers, including babies whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers.

In 2001, 51 babies were born to mothers younger than age 20. These babies were 18.0% of all born in the county; 12.5% of all White and 19.5% of all African-American and Other babies were born to mothers under the age of 20. Of the babies born to these mothers in 2001, 92.2% were born to single mothers, including paternity acknowledeged babies.

Education of Mothers Giving Birth: Children's success is strongly influenced by the education of their parents. In 2001, 73 babies, 25.8% of all babies, were born to mothers of all ages who had not completed the 12th grade. In 2001, 21.9% of White and 26.9% of African-American and Other babies were born to mothers who had completed less than the 12th grade. This is a substantial improvement from 59.9% in 1970. In addition, during 2001, 47.0% had completed 12 grades (39.1% of Whites and 49.3% of African Americans and Others) and 27.2% had more than a high school degree (39.1% of Whites and 23.7% of African American and Others).

Births to Single Mothers: Births to single mothers have increased steadily over four decades. In 2001, 144 babies, 50.7% of all babies, were recorded as born to single mothers. A decade earlier in 1990, the percentage was 48.0% and in 1960 it was 25.1%. In 2001, 15.6% of White children and 60.9% of African-American and Other children were born to single mothers. These numbers, however, do not include paternity acknowlegement births.

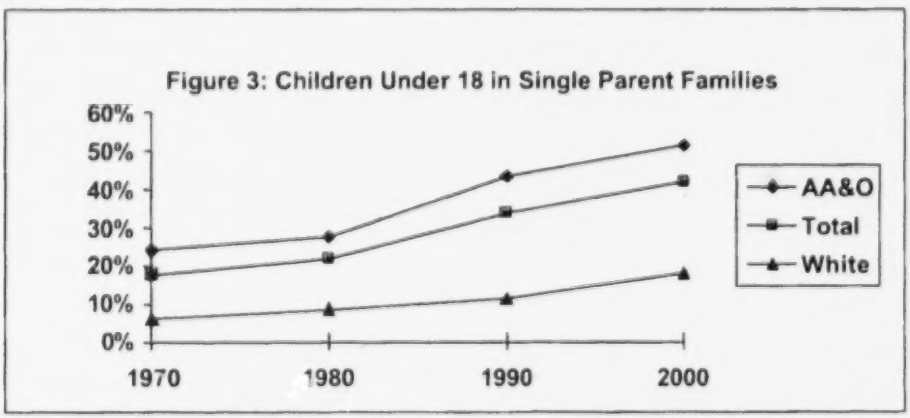
Thus, to these numbers should be added an additional group of 37 babies, 13.0% of all born in 2001, whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers. When the paternity-acknowledged babies are added, the total number born to single mothers in 2001 was 181, constituting 63.7% of all babies, 28.1% of White babies, and 74.1% of African-American and Others.



*Includes paternity acknowleged babies in 1980, 1990 and 2001. Prior to 1979, paternity acknowleged cases were not a statistical category, and thus were included in births to single mothers.

Divorce Rate: In 2001, 116 marriage licenses were issued, while 53 divorce decrees involving 37 children were filed. In 1970, only 17 children were in families involved in divorce.

Single-Parent Family: Increasing numbers of children live in single-parent families. In 2000, 1,694 children lived with only one parent. This was 41.9% of all children, up from 33.7% in 1990, 21.8% in 1980, and 17.8% in 1970. In 2000, 18.1% of White and 51.6% of African-American and Other children lived in single-parent families. Also in 2000, 364 or 42.7% of children under age 6 lived in single parent families: 17.4% of White and 54.9% of African American and Other pre-schoolers.



Parents Working and Child Care: Increasingly, parents must divide their time between children and employers. In order to meet family financial needs, most parents must work and thus have less time for family life. In 2000, 70.3% of mothers with children under 6 and 78.9% with children 6 - 17 were in the labor force. This has increased substantially from 1960 when 28.5% of mothers with children under 6 were in the labor force. Most fathers also work: 66.0% of children under 6 are in families where the single parent or both parents work. Caring for children is a problem for parents unable to obtain quality, affordable daycare while they are at work.

Overall, there are 588 spaces in state-regulated childcare facilities* in the county, 91.8% of these are in licensed programs and 8.2% are in registered programs. Of the spaces, 90.8% are in licensed childcare centers serving more than 12 children, 9.2% are in registered or licensed family childcare homes serving six or fewer children, 0.0% are in licensed group childcare homes serving 7-12 children, and 0.0% are in registered or licensed church programs.

The homes and centers are severely constrained by the limited ability of parents to pay. In the county, the average weekly charge is $ 73.75 for centers and $ 58.13 for homes. Consequently, center wages are low: 0% of centers with pre-school staff and 0% of centers with assistant pre-school staff report paying these staff under $6 per hour. Paying $6-$8 per hour are 50% of centers with pre-school staff and 100% of centers with assistants. Low wages attract workers with limited education. In 50% of centers, most pre-school staff and in 50% of centers most assistants have only a high school degree. In 0% of centers few to none of the pre-school staff have early childhood credentials. In childcare homes, 66.7% of lead providers have no more education than a high school degree or GED; 0% have less than a high school degree.

Family Violence: In 2000, 149 domestic assaults were recorded by law enforcement officials. These domestic assaults comprised 26.5% of all assaults, which include aggravated assaults, simple assaults, and intimidation. Overall, 53.0% of all domestic assaults involve spouse abuse which constitutes 14.6% of all assaults. Since most family violence is not reported, the true incidence of family disruption is much more widespread than even the large number of reported cases would indicate.

Separation from Parents: Some children do not live with their natural parents. In 2000, 11.9% of all children did not live with their natural parents. Approximately 556 or 10.7% of all children lived with relatives, 53 or 1.0% lived with non-relatives, 3 or 0.1% were householders or spouses, and 6 or 0.1% were in institutional facilities.

Abuse and Neglect: In 2000-01, there were 140 investigations into reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children. Through its investigations, the Department of Social Services (DSS) determined that 34 of the investigations were indicated for abuse or neglect: 6.7% for physical abuse, 2.2% for sexual abuse, 2.2% for mental injury, 24.4% for physical neglect, 6.7% for educational neglect, 11.1% for medical neglect, 46.7% for threat of harm for physical/sexual abuse, and 0.0% for other types of abuse.

In the indicated cases of abuse and neglect, DSS determined there were 73 children who were victims of abuse or neglect. Of these, 46.5% were male, 53.5% were female; 13.7% were White, 86.3% were African-American and Other. By age, 36.6% were ages 0 - 5, 42.3% were ages 6 - 12, and 21.1% were ages 13 - 17. In the indicated cases, 39.7% of the children lived in two-parent families, 54.8% in single parent families, 2.7% with unmarried couples, and 2.7% in other circumstances.

Out of Home Placements: As of June 2001, 31 children lived in foster care. The median age at first placement in the county is 6.5 years. The ages of children in foster care were 19.4% 0-2, 6.5% 3-5, 29.0% 6-10, 22.6% 11-13, and 22.6% 14 and above. The foster care population is 48.4% males and 51.6% females. Regarding their future, 45.2% were under a plan for placement in adoptive homes, 22.6% for return to a parent or guardian, 6.5% for placement with a relative, 12.9% for independent living, 12.9% for permanent foster care, and 0.0% for other circumstances.

Adult/Child Ratio: A measure of potential adult attention for children from family and community is the ratio of adults to children and youth. In 2000 there were 2.88 adults for every person below age 18. This was up substantially from 1960, when there were only 1.00 adults for every person under the age 18. This indicates that today there are more adults potentially available to provide attention and care for each child than in the past.

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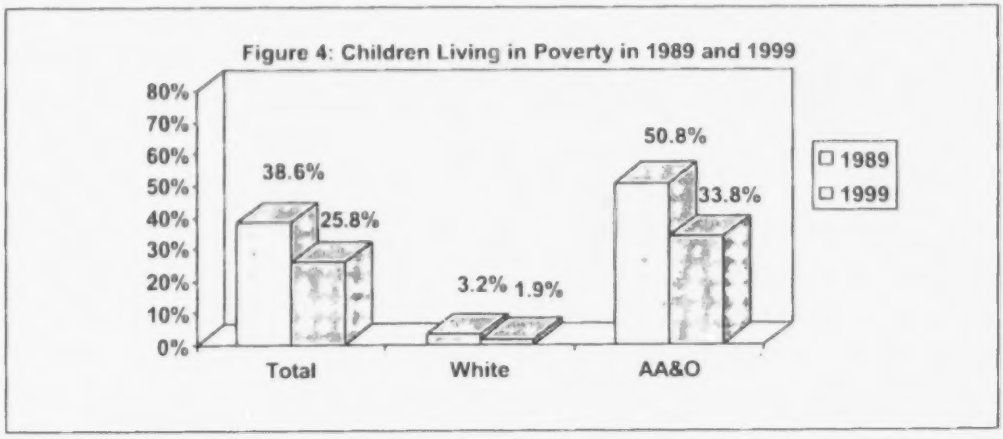
* This data is the best currently available; however, an effort is being made to check the coverage and improve the accuracy. As soon as more recent and complete data becomes available, it will be posted on the website.

ECONOMIC STATUS

Low income makes it difficult for many families to provide the material and environmental enrichment necessary for healthy child development.

Poverty: In 1999, 1,324 children and youth under the age of 18 lved in 635 families with incomes below poverty, comprising 25.8% of all children and youth: 1.9% of Whites and 33.8% of African-Americans and Others. A rough estimate of child poverty in 2001 calculated by the Census Bureau was 23.0%.



Poverty has always been a serious problem. While the rate among children under age 18 in 1989 was 38.6%, it was 38.7% in 1979 and 57.7% in 1969.

Children and the elderly are the age groups most seriously affected by poverty. In 1999, 25.1% of children 0 - 5 (3.8% White, 32.1% African-American and Other), and 25.1% of children 6 - 17 (0.7% White, 33.4% African-American and Other), lived in poverty; 27.9% of persons 65 years and older lived in poverty. Historically, the poverty rate among the elderly was much higher. During the last three decades, federal policy actions have substantially improved the economic status of older persons but have not done so for children.

Single-parent families are most likely to be poor. In 1999, 43.0% of children in single-parent families lived in poverty, but only 11.6% of children in married-couple families were poor. Children in single-parent families made up 64.1% of all the county's children living in poverty.

In 2002, the poverty level was $15,020 for a family of three and $18,100 for a family of four. The poverty threshold is often criticized as an arbitrary number. People can still be poor but may be just above the poverty level. Federal programs utilize varying thresholds. For example, in 1999 there were 3,056 children ages 0-17 who were less than 200 percent of poverty; thus an additional 1,732 children were above the poverty level but could still be considered poor or near-poor with incomes below $30,040 and $36,200 respectively for 3 and 4 person families.

Children Under 18 in Poverty in 1999

Percent of Poverty	Total		White		African American & Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 50%	585	11.4%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 100%	1,324	25.8%	25	1.9%	1,299	33.8%
Under 125%	1,783	34.7%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 150%	2,197	42.8%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 175%	2,687	52.4%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 185%	2,823	55.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 200%	3,056	59.5%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total Children	5,183		1,303		3,880	

Note: Missing data will be released by the Census Bureau later in 2003, and will be posted on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

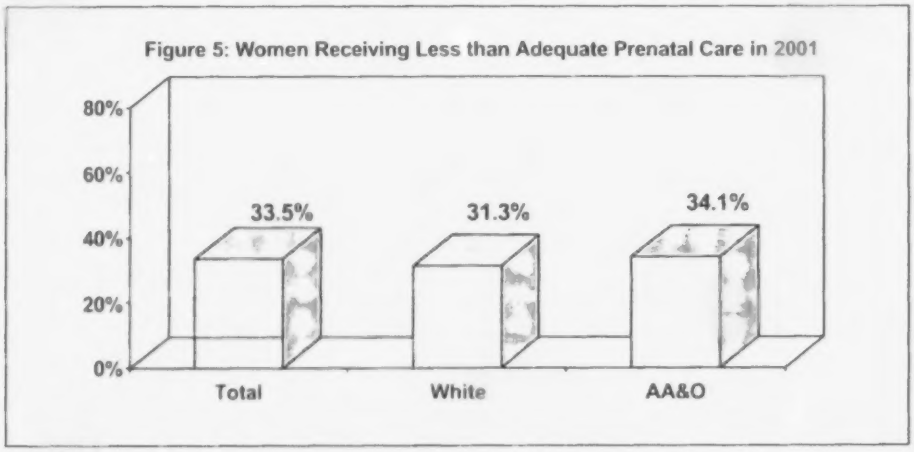
Income: The mean income of families with children in 1999 was $38,627. In 1989 it was $32,940, and 1979, it was $36,443, adjusted for inflation (i.e., in 1999 dollars). The mean income of single-parent families with children was $22,609 for single parents in 1999, as compared with $48,996 in married-couple families with children. From 1999 to 2000, Lee County real dollar per capita income (eliminating inflation) increased by 3.9%.

Child Support Payments: There were 325[7] families receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families in fiscal year 2002, but only 30.8 % had child support court orders. Their average monthly payment of child support was $ 256, including child support receipts and tax refund intercepts. In addition, during fiscal year 2002, an estimated 497 parents in non-TANF families were obligated to pay a monthly average of $ 194. Information is not available regarding the amount actually paid.

HEALTH

Good health during a child's formative years helps children to reach their maximum potential. Good health requires healthy lifestyles and effective primary care, starting during the prenatal period and continuing through adolescence into adulthood. Children's health reflects the well-being of the community, as well as how adequately they are protected.

Prenatal Care: Early and continuous prenatal care can make a significant difference in assuring births of healthy babies. Delayed or insufficient prenatal care is associated with low birthweight and other health risks for infants. In 2001, 88, or 31.0% of pregnant women received no prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy. In 2001, 95, or 33.5% of pregnant women received less than adequate prenatal care: 20 or 31.3% of Whites and 75 or 34.1% of African-Americans and Others. In that same year, 3 women received no prenatal care at all.



Low Birthweight: Low birthweight of less than 5.5 pounds and very low birthweight of less than 3.3 pounds are associated with health risks and growth and development problems. In 2001, 29 or 10.2% of all babies in the county were born with low birthweight: 10.5% of African-American and Other babies and 9.4% of White babies. During 1999-2001, approximately 22 or 2.7% of all babies were born with very low birthweight and had the most serious complications: 2.2% of White babies and 2.9% of African-American and Other babies. The cost of hospitalization for each newborn low birthweight baby in the county in 1999 - 2001 was $12,345 and $60,639 for each very low birthweight baby, compared with $2,215 for a baby of normal birthweight. The result was excess cost in the county of $486,405 for all low birthweight babies, of which $331,071 was for very low birthweight babies.

Infant Mortality: During the decade since 1989-91, the overall infant mortality rate decreased by 40.5% from 24.9 to 14.8 per 1000 live births. For Whites, the rate decreased 63.6% from 14.9 to 5.4 per 1000 live births, while for African-Americans and Others the rate decreased 36.8% from 27.9 to 17.6 per 1000 live births. Over the three-year period 1999-2001, 1 White and 11 African-American and Other infants died before age one. By comparison, 3 White and 19 African-American and Other infants died during 1989-91.

[7] Number is an unduplicated count for the entire fiscal year.

Child Injuries and Deaths: Childhood deaths and injuries reflect whether communities are safe for children. In 2001, children in the Lee County went to the emergency room 473 times because of injuries. Boys are injured more often than girls. Children visit the emergency room at comparable rates for each age from 0 to 17.

In South Carolina, the major causes of death among young children are unintentional injuries, cancer, homicide, and congenital anomalies. Over the three year period 1999-2001, 1 White and 3 African-American and Other children ages 1-14 died in the county. During 1989-91, 1 White and 1 African-American and Other children died.

Immunization: Immunization rates are an important indication of whether young children are receiving adequate preventive health care. During FY 1989-90, 40.5% of children less than two years old seen in public health clinics were not fully immunized against such preventable diseases as Polio, Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Haemophilus Influenza B and Whooping Cough. After a concerted statewide campaign to increase immunizations, the percentage of children seen in public health clinics who were not fully immunized in January 2001 had declined in the county to 11.4%. The DHEC statewide birth registry survey of all two year old children found that 88.1% were fully immunized in 2001. This success demonstrates the potential to improve the status of children when the leadership of the state and its communities act decisively together.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Children and youth are infected with sexually transmitted diseases through sexual abuse or irresponsible sexual activity. National prevalence rates indicate: a 1 in 8 chance that sexually active 15 year-old girls will develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), the most rapidly increasing cause of infertility; 10% of sexually active adolescent girls and boys are infected with chlamydia, the most common cause of PID; and as many as 15% of teen girls are infected with human papilloma virus, often with strains linked to cervical cancer. Furthermore, research evidence indicates that susceptibility to HIV/AIDS increases by 3 to 8 times through prior infection with various STDs.

According to national studies, approximately 1 in 4 sexually experienced youth aged 13-19 acquires a STD ever year; since two-thirds of all high school students have had sexual intercourse and half engage in intercourse over a three month period, this would suggest that 10-15% of teens are infected with STDs annually. For 2000, this would indicate that an estimated 217 to 325 youth ages 13-19 in the county were infected with a STD. Many infections are either not identified for treatment or not reported. In the county, there were 1 reported cases of children under age 15 and 25 youth ages 15 - 19 infected with gonorrhea; 1 youth under 15 and 40 ages 15 - 19 were reported infected with chlamydia. Youth with undiagnosed and untreated STDs often spread their infections.

Healthy Lifestyles: Although no county data is available, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2001 found that many high school students are not following good health habits. The YRBS revealed that 26% felt that they were overweight; 42% were trying to lose weight: 27% of boys and 57% of girls. Although during a week 79% of high school students ate fruit, 59% ate salad, and over 83% ate vegetables, only 17% ate the recommended five or more servings of fruit and vegetables per day. During a week, 49% did stretching or muscle strengthening exercises, and 59% exercised three or more times for 20 minutes in sports that made them sweat or breathe hard. However, 11% of students engaged in no vigorous or moderate activity at all during a week: 8% of boys and 13% of girls.

Tobacco Use:* Cigarette smoking starts at a young age and often becomes habitual. In the state during 2002 among all students 15 and older, 16.7% first smoked by age 11, 36.3% by age 13, and 51.4% by age 15. In a typical month, 17.1% of 7th and 8th graders and 25.3% of high school students smoked cigarettes. White youths were much more likely than African-Americans to smoke: 26.4% of White male and 27.2% of White female 7th to 12th graders used cigarettes, as compared with 18.9% of African-American males and 12.2% of African American females. A smaller but significant group of high school students (5.4%) used smokeless tobacco monthly; it was used primarily by White males (15.9% compared with 1.1% of all other race and sex groups).

* Schools in the county elected not to participate in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking. Therefore, data for all of South Carolina is presented here.

Disabilities: No data are collected on the true prevalence of disabilities within the county. According to national reported estimates, over 10% of children and youth have developmental disabilities at any point in time, and more than 17 are affected at some time before age 18 by deafness, blindness, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, speech defects, development delays, learning disabilities, and emotional or behavioral problems. For 2000 this suggests that at least 518 children ar youth under age 18 in the county are currently affected by disabilities.

Approximately 5% of children and youth nationally have serious disabilities which have lifelong implications f work, social life and community living. Typically among children and youth, there are 1 - 2% who are mentally retarded, - 3% with serious emotional disturbances, over 1% with orthopedic or multiple disabilities, including cerebral palsy an many hereditary conditions, and under 1% with visual or hearing impairments.

Other chronic health problems also affect the lives of many children. Over 3% of children have one or more these limitations. Such serious chronic conditions affect 1 - 2% who have respiratory problems (asthma and chron bronchitis), 0.5 - 1.0% with neurological problems (epilepsy and seizures), and less than 1% with circulatory problen (congenital heart defects and acquired diseases).

Other disabilities are identified primarily in school performance. These would include 93 students in grades 1- with learning disabilities and 129 students in grades 1-12 with speech/language deficits.

Disabilities are caused by genetics, disease, poor prenatal conditions, injuries, and environmental factors. For example, lead exposure, primarily from paint dust, was detected in over 1% of all children screened, including 12 in Lee County.

Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: While over 20% of 9-17 year olds meet diagnostic criteria for some form of mental disorder, the number with serious emotional disturbance and impaired functioning in family, school, or community activities is: 9-13% for substantial functional impairment and 5-9% for extreme functional impairment. The rates among poor children are at the higher end of these ranges. Based on a federal formula for estimating prevalence, in the county there are 12% or 328 seriously emotionally disturbed 9-17 year olds with substantial functional impairment and 8% or 219 with extreme functional impairment during the course of a year. Conduct disorders, attention deficit, depression, and anxiety disorders are the most prevalent, each affecting 3% or more of school-aged children. These disorders may occur simultaneously in a child. The prevalence rates are highest among males, adolescents, and disadvantaged persons in communities under stress and lacking social cohesion; depression, however, is more prevalent among females. On the YRBS, 20% of boys and 33% of girls in high school reported that during the past year they felt so sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that they stopped doing some usual activities. Another indicator of emotional problems is the 8% of high school students in South Carolina who reported that they had "attempted suicide" in the past year: 5% of boys and 10% of girls. Suicide attempts resulted in 4% of high school students reporting that they required treatment by a doctor or nurse for injury, poisoning, or overdose.

Inadequate Healthcare: No county level data is routinely collected regarding the number of children and youth with inadequate healthcare. According to estimates for 2000-02 by the Bureau of the Census through the annual Current Population Survey, the statewide average rate of uninsured children and youth under age 18 in families with incomes under 200% of poverty in South Carolina was 16.6%, and 9.9% above 200% of poverty. If these rates are applied to the county, there are 508 children in the county below 200% of poverty with no health insurance, and 211 children above 200% of poverty with no health insurance, for a total of 719 uninsured children in Lee County. The number lacking basic accessible primary care is at least double the number lacking insurance. Those lacking primary care are often dependent on health services at school. The ratio of students to nurses recommended nationally is 750:1. In the county, this would suggest the need for 4 nurses, compared with 3 currently working in the schools.

Medicaid: For several years, the State of South Carolina has emphasized enrolling eligible children into Medicaid. In late 1997, South Carolina implemented its version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, Partners for Healthy Children (PHC), and aggressively pursued outreach enrollment for PHC and Medicaid. As a result, enrollment of children ages 0 through 18 in Lee County has increased by 55.3% from June 1997 to June 2001; thus Medicaid and PHC were serving 70.1% of all children in that age range. The total Medicaid expenditures in South Carolina for services provided to children ages 0 through 18 for state fiscal year 2002 were $991 million, at an average statewide expenditure of $2,343 per child enrolled, approximate Medicaid expenditure for children in the county would be $8.5 million.

In June 2001, the total number of Lee County children, birth through 18, enrolled in Medicaid was 3,635. The total can be broken down into the following age and race groupings:

	White	African American	Hispanic	Other	Total
Children under 1	26	214	1	2	243
Children 1 - 5	121	797	8	42	968
Children 6 - 14	186	1,453	8	56	1,703
Children 15 - 18	76	635	2	8	721
Total	409	3,099	19	108	3,635

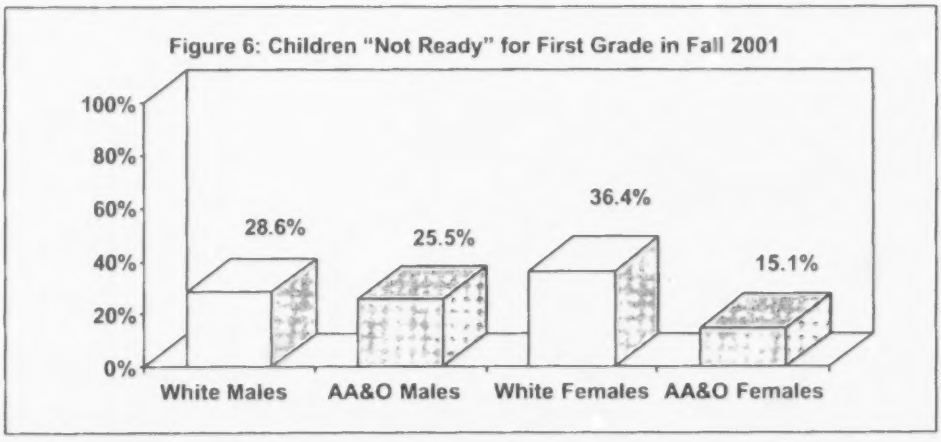
Ambulatory Care: When children lack adequate primary care, whether through lack of insurance, through limite access, or through failing to utilize available care, preventable and treatable conditions become serious and requi hospitalization. A useful indicator of inadequate primary care is the percentage of all hospitalizations that could typicall have been avoided through ambulatory care, especially for pneumonia, asthma, diarrhea and vomiting, dehydration, an severe ear, nose, and throat infections. The share of hospitalizations for these types of conditions could normally be ke below 20%; for children in the county under the age of 18 during 2001, the share was 45.5% for Whites and 40.4% f African-Americans and Others.

READINESS AND EARLY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Too many children reach school without the readiness skills needed for success in learning, such as language, soci skills, visual and auditory discrimination, memory recall, and knowledge of colors, letters, numbers, names of objects, et Likewise, some schools are not ready to respond appropriately to the varying developmental levels of children in the ear grades. As a result, too many students do not experience the success needed to create the motivation and engagement th sustain learning.

1st Grade "Readiness" on 2001-02 Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB):

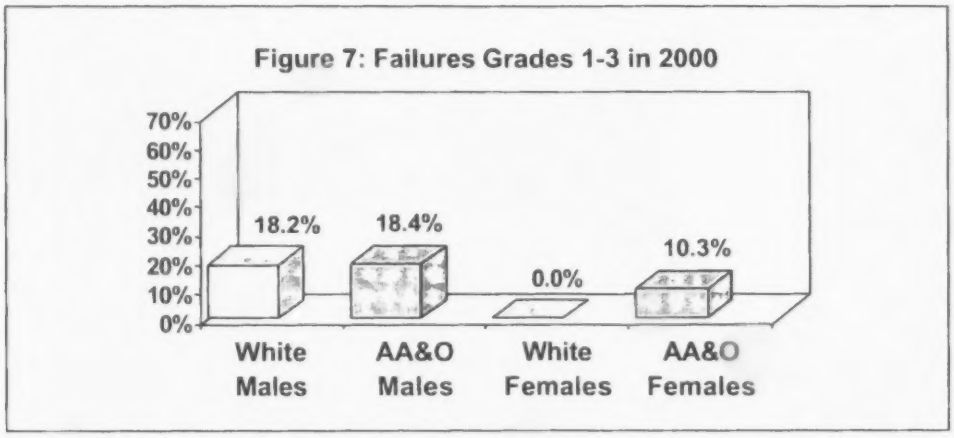
50 children not ready 21.4% children not ready



1st Grade Failures in 2002:

6 children failing 2.7% children failing

Failures Grades 1-3 in 2002 (approximate cumulative percentage of grades one, two and three):	
17 children failing	8.1% children failing



Over-age for Grade 3 in 2001	
53 children over-age	21.5% children over-age

Special Education: Large numbers of children are placed in special education classes. In elementary school, 76 six and seven year olds and 68 eight and nine year-olds were enrolled in special education classes during 2001-02, approximately 19.2% and 16.5% of their age groups respectively: 24.1% of White 8 – 9 year olds were in special education and 16.0% of African American and Others.

Readiness Summary: A serious problem exists in terms of student readiness and school success in the early grades. With 21.4% assessed not ready for the 1st grade, 21.5% over age in grade 3, and 16.5% of eight and nine year-olds placed in special education, unacceptably large numbers of students still begin school without good prospects of success in future school achievement and graduation; however, great improvement has occurred since the mid 1990s.

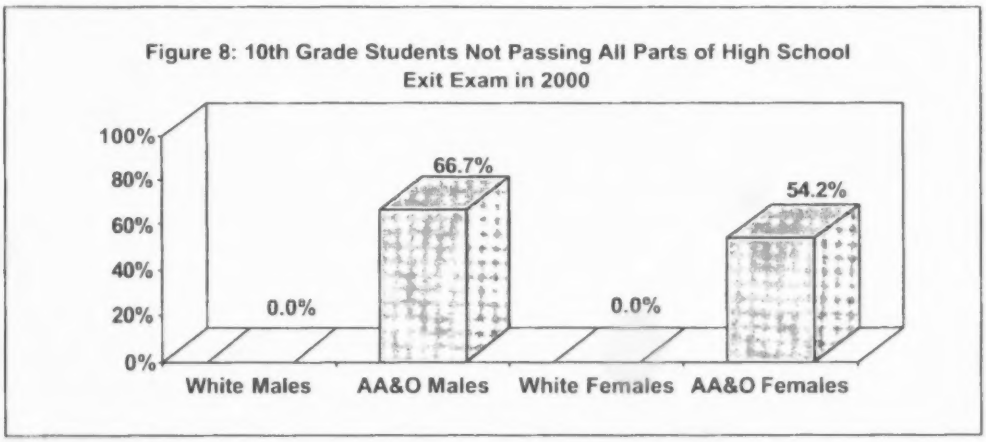
SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

By the end of elementary school, significant numbers of students perform below minimum standards. The following standardized test measures, comparing student performance to state minimum standards, should be used in combination with routine classroom assessments more reflective of real-world performance skills.

Special Education: Special education placements reflect both the significant number of children with serious handicapping conditions and a large number of students with mild learning and behavioral problems that have not been accommodated successfully by the regular educational program. The result is a large system of self-contained, resource, and itinerant services to meet the needs of 129 speech and language impaired, 93 learning disabled, 3 emotionally disabled, 143 mentally impaired, and 23 physically handicapped, deaf, blind, and other handicapped students. Special education classes served approximately 13.6% of all students in grades 1 - 12 during 2001-2002.

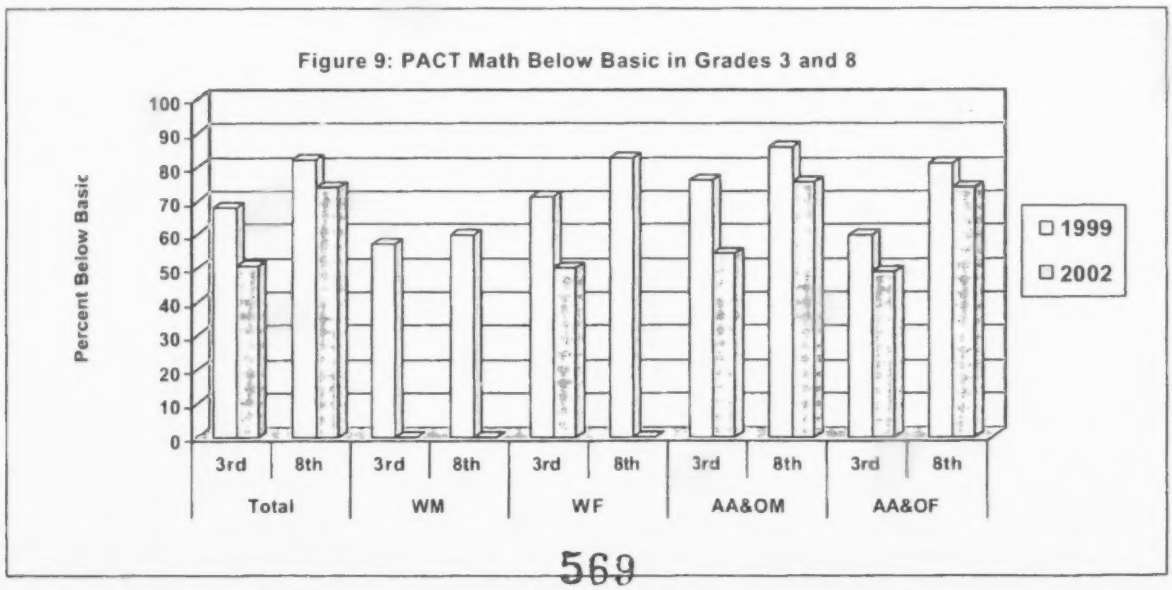
Exit Exam - not passing all parts of Exit Exam on first attempt in the 10th grade in 2002

100 students did not pass all parts | 58.5% of students did not pass all parts



Achievement Trends: How has performance on standardized achievement tests changed over the past 20 years? During the 1980s, student performance on the BSAP tests improved dramatically. Between 1981 and 1990, the percentage of 8th grade students in Lee County who did not meet standards declined from 81.4% to 48.3% in math and from 73.9% to 36.7% in reading. During the 1990's the BSAP trend changed, with 57% not meeting 8th grade math standards in 1998 and 59.9% in reading. On standardized tests, the first year when South Carolina students take the exam is comparable to the challenge encountered by the national norm group which took the test only once. Looking at first year data, the percentage of 4th grade students at or below the 25th percentile of national norms was 51.2% in 1983 on the CTBS, 55.2% in 1990 on the Stanford, and 61.0% in 1995 on the Metropolitan; for 9th graders, the percentage in the bottom quarter was 51.6% in 1990 and 55.7% in 1995. Although not comparable, the percent below basic on the 4th grade PACT in 1999, the first year of administration, was 74.1%, but in 2002 49.9% of 4th graders were below basic in reading and math; the percentage of 8th graders below basic in reading and math averaged 76.2% in 1999 and 67.4% in 2002.

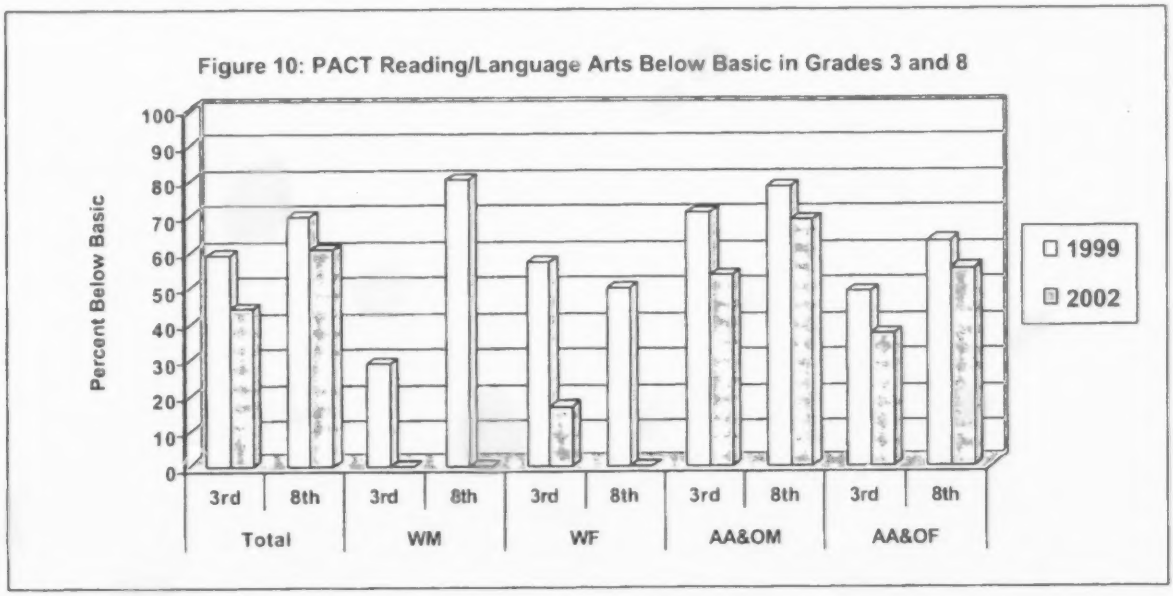
PACT: The Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) was first administered in 1999 for grades 3 - 8 in math and reading/language arts. Math assesses skills in numbers, numerical and algebraic concepts, patterns and functions, geometry, measurement, probability and statistics. The percentage of students scoring below basic in math has decreased by 22.7% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 570 students below basic in grades 3-8 but there would have been an additional 168 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
	Math (%)					
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	50.8	0.0	50.0	54.5	48.8
	4	54.2	0.0	0.0	55.8	54.5
	5	60.6	0.0	57.1	66.4	52.6
	6	54.6	0.0	0.0	53.8	55.4
	7	71.9	37.5	0.0	76.4	68.6
	8	74.0	0.0	0.0	75.9	74.2
Basic	3	37.8	0.0	50.0	36.4	37.2
	4	33.9	0.0	0.0	33.3	33.1
	5	31.9	0.0	14.3	28.2	38.9
	6	36.2	0.0	0.0	37.6	33.7
	7	23.2	62.5	0.0	21.7	22.9
	8	22.4	0.0	0.0	23.0	20.6
Proficient	3	9.2	0.0	0.0	8.0	11.6
	4	9.2	0.0	0.0	9.2	8.3
	5	5.1	0.0	14.3	4.5	5.3
	6	7.0	0.0	0.0	6.5	8.4
	7	4.0	0.0	0.0	1.9	6.7
	8	1.6	0.0	0.0	1.1	1.0
Advanced	3	2.2	0.0	0.0	1.1	2.3
	4	2.8	0.0	0.0	1.7	4.1
	5	2.3	0.0	14.3	0.9	3.2
	6	2.2	0.0	0.0	2.2	2.4
	7	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.9
	8	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.1

Reading/Language Arts assesses reading, listening, speaking, writing, research, and communication with technology. The first PACT assessment found a high percentage of elementary and middle grades students performing below standards and only a modest number above basic. The percentage of students scoring below basic in reading/language arts has decreased by 26.5% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 463 students below basic in grades 3 - 8 but there would have been an additional 167 at 1999 performance rates.

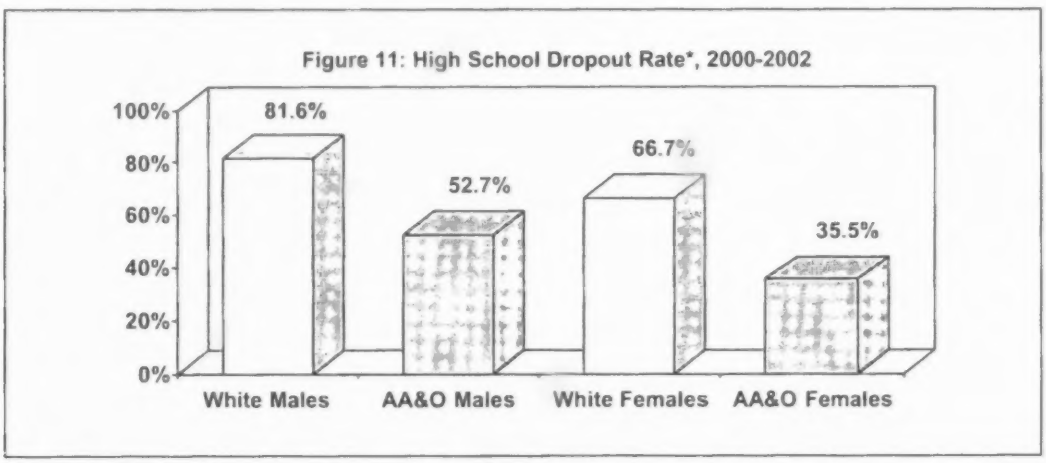
Figure 10: PACT Reading/Language Arts Below Basic in Grades 3 and 8



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
	Reading/Language Arts (%)					
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	44.3	0.0	16.7	53.5	37.2
	4	45.6	0.0	0.0	56.3	37.2
	5	55.3	0.0	28.6	67.0	44.2
	6	48.9	0.0	0.0	56.5	38.6
	7	59.4	12.5	0.0	71.4	50.9
	8	60.7	0.0	0.0	69.0	55.2
Basic	3	41.5	0.0	66.7	39.5	41.9
	4	43.2	0.0	0.0	37.8	47.9
	5	39.1	0.0	57.1	30.3	47.4
	6	37.5	0.0	0.0	33.7	44.6
	7	35.7	87.5	0.0	26.7	40.6
	8	33.0	0.0	0.0	28.7	37.5
Proficient	3	13.7	0.0	16.7	5.8	20.9
	4	11.2	0.0	0.0	5.9	14.9
	5	5.6	0.0	14.3	2.8	8.4
	6	13.0	0.0	0.0	9.8	15.7
	7	4.5	0.0	0.0	1.9	7.5
	8	5.8	0.0	0.0	2.3	6.3
Advanced	3	0.5	0.0	0.0	1.2	0.0
	4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	6	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.2
	7	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9
	8	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0

Dropout Rate - 8th grade students no longer enrolled in grade 12
(average of students for the three years ending 2000-2002)

122 students drop out annually **47.0% students drop out?**



Dropouts: Distressing numbers of students drop out and fail to graduate. An average of 32.0% of 8th graders failed to graduate** from county schools five years later during the period 1980-84, 32.8% during 1985-89, and 40.1% during 1990-94, 46.2% during 1995-97 and 44.8% during 1998-2000***.

During 2001-02, 92.2% of all who did graduate received the State High School Diploma, while the remaining 7.8% received a State Certificate for meeting the required Carnegie units but not passing the Exit Exam.

*12th grade enrollment compared to 8th grade enrollment four years earlier

** This is calculated by using 8th grade enrollment to graduation data.

*** 2001 data will be available soon and will be posted on the website.

Fortunately, many dropouts enroll in adult education programs and either earn a high school diploma or obtain a GED. During 2001-02, 0 Adult Education high school diplomas were awarded to school completers and in 2001 12 GEDs were awarded in the county. Over time, adult education high school diplomas and GEDs increase the effective school completion rate substantially. In the 2000 Census, 30.2% of county resident 25 - 34 year-olds said they had not completed either high school or a GED.

Achievement Summary: The numbers of students testing below basic on the PACT and dropping out range from 38.6% to 74.0%. Thus, far too many students fail to acquire the knowledge, skills, learning habits, and motivation necessary to compete in the economy or contribute to society in the 21st Century.

ADOLESCENT RISK BEHAVIORS

Academic achievement is greatly influenced by the prevailing youth culture which often promotes popularity with peers and partying rather than studying and doing well in school. The prevalence of adolescent risk-taking and under-achievement is illustrated by the poor grades of substance-abusing teens.

Substance Abuser Rates at Levels of Academic Performance

	Usual School Grades in Past Year					Total
	A Range	B Range	C Range	D Range	F Range	
Smoked Cigarettes (in past 30 days)	13.3%	22.4%	31.7%	42.8%	63.6%	25.3%
Drank 5 or More Drinks on One Occasion (in past 30 days)	12.4%	17.3%	22.6%	26.8%	43.5%	18.9%
Used Any Illicit Drug (in past 30 days)	11.5%	17.1%	25.1%	34.1%	53.0%	20.0%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

As influence from parents and other adults declines during adolescence, significant numbers of students engage in violence, crime, school offenses, depressive emotions and attempted suicide:

Risk Behaviors Participated in During Past 12 Months	White Male		White Female		African American Male		African American Female		Total		Total (Grade 7-12)
	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	
Carried a handgun or knife for self-defense?	22.5%	26.1%	5.3%	6.3%	14.6%	20.2%	5.0%	7.6%	12.2%	14.9%	13.7%
Carried a handgun or knife as a weapon?	6.8%	9.4%	1.3%	1.6%	9.0%	13.9%	3.0%	5.0%	4.8%	6.9%	5.9%
Been in a fight with someone?	40.1%	31.3%	18.5%	16.2%	41.4%	31.9%	29.4%	22.4%	31.7%	24.9%	28.0%
Hit your boyfriend or girlfriend?	2.0%	1.6%	6.9%	10.0%	5.7%	4.9%	17.7%	24.2%	7.4%	9.7%	8.7%
Been hit by your boyfriend or girlfriend?	7.1%	6.1%	6.1%	8.5%	11.5%	9.7%	9.5%	10.6%	8.1%	8.5%	8.3%
Rec'd detention or in-school suspension?	38.1%	37.3%	22.4%	25.0%	41.6%	37.6%	34.3%	30.7%	33.3%	32.1%	32.7%
Been suspended from school?	12.9%	13.9%	5.2%	7.2%	24.0%	22.6%	14.8%	15.4%	13.1%	13.8%	13.5%
Stolen anything worth > $5?	12.9%	17.6%	6.9%	10.7%	14.2%	15.6%	8.5%	8.4%	10.4%	13.1%	11.9%
Had an accident while driving?	NA	14.3%	NA	12.6%	NA	7.7%	NA	6.3%	NA	11.0%	NA
Been arrested and booked?	3.9%	6.1%	1.5%	2.7%	5.7%	8.1%	2.2%	2.9%	3.2%	4.7%	4.0%
Felt hopeless for two weeks or more?	14.8%	15.9%	21.8%	29.0%	14.0%	13.3%	22.0%	24.8%	18.2%	21.4%	19.9%
Seriously considered attempting suicide?	6.9%	8.4%	9.6%	14.3%	5.5%	5.4%	6.8%	8.7%	7.4%	9.7%	8.7%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

Adolescence is often a time of taking risks and asserting independence from adults. When asked whether they would tell an adult about a problem, the following percentages of state students said they would be "not likely" or "very unlikely" to tell if they:

-heard a student threaten to harm someone: 33.2% middle school, 47.0% high school;
-saw a student with a handgun at school: 22.7% middle school, 20.5% high school;
-saw a student with a knife at school: 24.7% middle school, 31.6% high school;
-saw a student with drugs at school: 33.7% middle school, 61.9% high school;

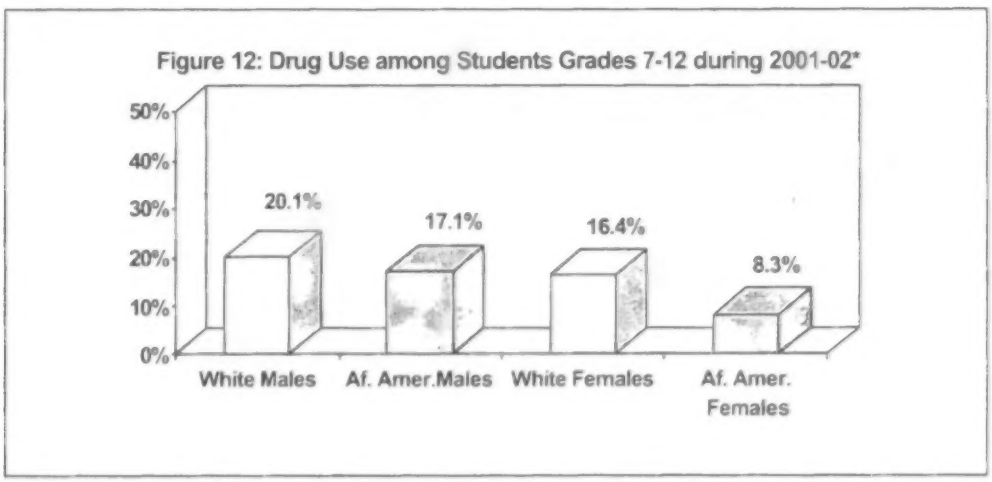
Alcohol Use:* In the state during 2001-02, 21.0% of 7th and 8th graders and 37.1% of high schoolers said they had used alcohol in the past month. Of White males in grades 7 - 12, 33.8% had used it in the past month, compared with 26.0% of African-American males; likewise, 34.5% of White females said they had used alcohol, compared with 26.4% of African-American females. Many youth first used alcohol at an early age: 14.2% had used alcohol by age 11 or younger, 33.0% by age 13, and 61.1% by age 15.

During the previous year, 21.0% of 7th and 8th graders and 30.4% of high schoolers said they had ridden with a drinking driver. Of seniors who drive, 19.4% said they had driven after drinking. Widespread use is encouraged by the ready availability and perceived low risk of alcohol use. Among students who expressed an opinion, 43.6% of eighth graders and 75.4% of seniors felt that beer was easy to get. Also, 71.6% of eighth graders and 70.7% of seniors felt there was not a great risk in drinking two drinks a day, and 47.3% of eighth graders and 53.1% of high schoolers felt there was not a great risk in drinking 5 drinks every weekend.

Heavy Drinking:* In 2001-02, 7.7% of 7th and 8th graders and 18.9% of high school students in the state repor drinking 5 or more drinks in a day during the past month. When asked how many drinks, if any, they usually consur 13.7% of all state students in grades 7 - 12 in 2001-02 responded 3 or more drinks at a time and 7.1% reported usually 5 more drinks. Among high school students, 18.6% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 10.0% 5 or mc Among seniors, 24.7% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 13.7% 5 or more; however 22.9% of seni said that they drank 5 or more drinks in a day once or more during the past month.

Drugs:* In 2001-02, 9.5% of 7th and 8th graders and 20.1% of high schoolers in the state reported using ille drugs during the previous month. Among students in grades 7 - 12, use was reported by 20.1% of White males, 16.4% Wl females, 17.1% of African-American males, and 8.3% of African-American females. Some young people initiated drug at an early age: 5.3% had experienced their first use by age 11 or sooner; 16.3% had used a drug by age 13, and 34.7% by 15.

In the past year, 10.3% of all high school students in the state who drive and 15.4% of seniors who drive said that they had driven after using drugs. Such use is encouraged by the ready availability of drugs: 22.3% of 8th graders who had an opinion said it is easy to get marijuana and 8.4% said it is easy to get cocaine or crack; 65.0% of seniors said it is easy to get marijuana and 29.5% said it was easy to get cocaine or crack.



* Schools in the county elected not to participate in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking. Therefore, data for all of South Carolina is presented here. The latest Lee County data, for 1992-93, is available on the Kids Count website at www.sckidscount.org.

Sexual Activity and Pregnancy: Many teenagers now engage in sexual activity. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) administered to a representative sample of high school students throughout South Carolina in 2001 showed that sexual activity begins at an early age: 7% of female and 21% of male students have engaged in intercourse before age 13; by age 15, 38% the females and 49% of males have engaged in sexual intercourse. Statewide, 48% of females and 50% of males in the 11th and 12th grades reported engaging in intercourse during the past three months. Furthermore, 27% of female and 33% of male 12th graders have had intercourse with four or more partners during their lifetimes.

Premature sexual activity often results in pregnancy. In the county, 23 girls between the ages of 14 and 17 became pregnant in 1999, 21 in 2000 and 17 in 2001. This represented 2.8% of all girls ages 14 – 17 in 2001; several times this percentage become pregnant at least once by age 18. The 2001 pregnancy rate for ages 14 - 17 was 1.9% for Whites and 3.2% for African-Americans and Others. Of all pregnancies of 14-17 year olds, 88.2% resulted in live births, with almost all other pregnancies ending in abortions.

Teen pregnancy rates increased substantially across the state during the 1980s; as a result, greater emphasis v devoted to preventing teen pregnancy. Since 1989, the teen pregnancy rate in Lee County has decreased by 42.1%. Overal has decreased by 26.9% for Whites, and decreased by 44.8% for African Americans and Others.

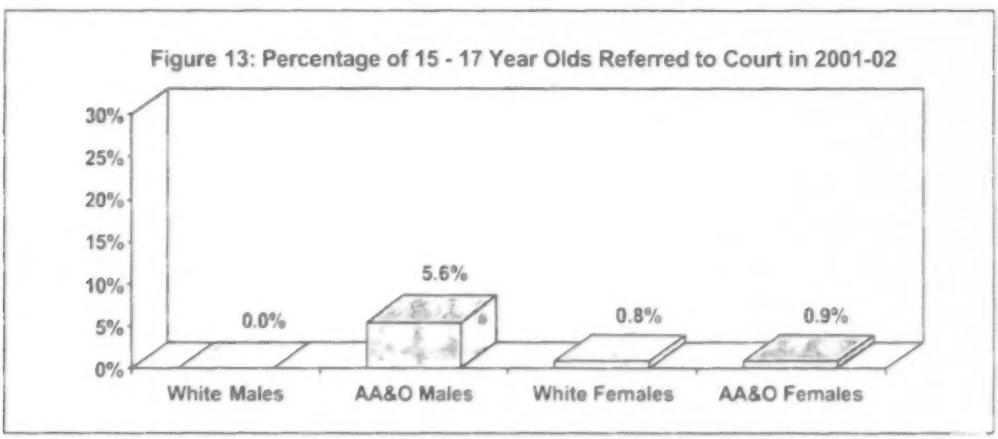
Juvenile Delinquency: In 2001-02, 48 individual juvenile offenders in the county were referred to the Solicitor for delinquency; of these, 8.3% were age 12 or younger, 41.7% were 13 or 14, and 50.0% were 15 or older.

Of the referrals to the family court, 19.4% of all referrals were for violent and serious crimes which include drug trafficking, acts against persons for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and serious property offenses for arson and burglary. Also, 1 juvenile cases constituting 1.5% of all referrals were for status offenses. Status offenses include truancy, running away, incorrigibility, and other offenses that would not be crimes for adults.

Delinquents are likely to live in families with low income: 46.8% lived in families with income under $10,000, 36.2% with $10,000-$19,999 and 17.0% with $20,000 or more. Furthermore, only 14.9% of delinquents lived with both natural parents, while 63.8% lived in a single parent household, 21.3% lived with other relatives, and 0.0% in other situations including parent plus step-parent. Delinquency or criminal activity occurs among many related family members: 25.5% had at least one family member who was delinquent or had some criminal record.

Youth referred to the family courts are likely to have been there before. In 2001-02, 83.3% had at least one prior referral and 29.2% had been referred to court 3 times or more. Many were referred at an early age. For delinquents 15 - 17 years old, 5.2% had been referred by the age of 10, 20.7% by the age of 12, and 32.8% by the age of 14.

During 2001-02, 24 youth ages 15 to 17 were referred to the family courts. In the county, 2.6% of all youth 15 to 17 were referred to court in one year and roughly double that percentage are referred at least once by age 18. Furthermore, the National Youth Survey indicates that typically across the United States the proportion of youth engaging in crime is two or three times the number ever apprehended. In 2001-02, there were 9 juveniles committed from the county to DJJ custody and placed in residential programs.



Not in School or Employed: During 2000, 117 teenagers ages 16-19 were idle, meaning they neither worked any hours nor were enrolled in school, even part-time. Idle teens comprised 10.6% of their age group: 5.0% for White and 12.6% African-American & Other teens. A much larger number, perhaps twice as many, were not engaged in either school full time or work full time. The data reflect a serious failure in both school completion and the critical transition from school to work, significantly affecting their development as future workers. For an in-depth description of the problems of young adults seeking to enter the labor force, visit our website at www.scyoungadults.org for our state and county reports on 18-29 year olds.

Deaths: During 1997-2001, 7 youth ages 15 to 19 died. Historically, automobile accidents have been the major cause, resulting in 3 deaths between 1996 and 2000; homicides killed 1 youth 15 to 19 years old during the five-year period, and 1 youth committed suicide. Alcohol use is often a significant factor in deaths among teenagers.

Summary

Facing the Scope of Problems: The data on families, economic status, health, readiness, school achievement, and adolescent risk behaviors provide a troublesome picture of the condition of children in Lee County. The 41.9% of children in single-parent families, 25.8% in poverty, 44.8% not graduating from school, 37.1% of high school students using alcohol and 20.1% using drugs each month, and other data profiled in this report suggest that too many children are at risk of not growing up to become self-supporting adults, good family members, and responsible community citizens.

Emphasizing the Positive: South Carolina Kids Count reports have been developed to describe the problems of children in each of the counties. Fortunately, the majority of children and youth are doing well, and some very well. One simple description is the percentage of children who do not fall into the problem categories reported. For the county, 82.0% of children are born to non-teen mothers ages 20 or older, 36.3% are born to married parents, and 58.1% lived in two-parent families; 74.2% were not poor and 40.5% lived in families with incomes above twice the poverty level for a family of three, $30,040 in 2002; 89.8% of babies were born with normal birthweights; 78.6% were assessed as ready for the first grade, 26.0% scored basic or better on PACT for 8th grade math and 39.3% for 8th grade reading, 41.5% passed all parts of the Exit Exam in the 10th grade, and 55.2% graduated with their class. In a typical month, 62.9% of high school students do not drink alcohol, 79.9% do not use drugs, and 74.7% do not smoke. Unfortunately, the absence of a problem is not always an indicator of success. Some data is available for exemplary performance: for example, 14.2% of 3rd graders and 6.3% of 8th graders scored proficient or advanced on PACT in reading and 11.4% of 3rd graders and 3.7% of 8th graders in math. Unfortunately, data on success is not generally available.

Despite the limitations of success data, we must emphasize the positive in providing good support and appropriate influences for children and youth. Recent philosophy and publications such as those of the Search Institute (700 South Third Street, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN, 55415-1138, tel. 1-800-888-7828, www.search-institute.org), emphasize the critical importance of "developmental assets" to promote and support positive development. One short book from the Search Institute, (What Kids Need to Succeed, by Peter J. Benson, Judy Gailbraith, and Pamela Espeland, 1995) presents an excellent array of suggestions for promoting developmental assets through families, community, faith congregations, and schools. If each family, school, religious congregation and community organization assertively worked to build such assets, the problems described in this report would be reduced dramatically. Such positive family-school-community efforts could improve South Carolina's national Kids Count ranking from the bottom 10 to the average or even into the top 10 by prevention of unnecessary problems affecting children and youth, as shown on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

All data presented in this report is the most recent available at the date it goes to the printer. This version of the Kids Count report will be revised as more recent and additional data become available. Please send us your corrections and suggestions for improvement. We welcome your ideas for ways to make the state and county reports more useful and accurate. Please utilize local data sources whenever possible to supplement the profile provided through our report.

Data related inquiries should be directed to:

Anne Wilson, Data Manager (awilson@drss.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-4810

Calls for **copies of reports** for other counties and inquiries regarding more recent reports should be made to:

Kim Hazel-Lohr, Project Manager (khazel@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-1295

For **policy questions and general comments**, please contact:

Dr. A. Baron Holmes, Project Director (bholmes@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-2291

Comparable reports for all 46 counties and for the state can also be found on the World Wide Web at

www.sckidscount.org

Our website also provides: links to other websites for indicators in our report; high to low rankings for individual indicators; information on how to improve SC's national rank; and a glossary of definitions.

The national Kids Count Report can be found on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website at

www.aecf.org

Lee County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Indicators	Most Recent Year	Number 1980*	Number 1990*	Most Recent Data	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	Percent 1980	Percent 1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	R 1980 Rank	R 199
Health													
Low Birth Weight	2001	46	38	29	-37.0%	-23.7%	14.5	12.7	10.2	-29.7%	-19.5%	46	
White babies	*2001*	*4*	*4*	*6*	*+50.0%*	*+50.0%*	*5.3*	*5.9*	*9.4*	*77.4%*	*59.8%*	*15*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*42*	*34*	*23*	*-45.2%*	*-32.4%*	*17.4*	*14.7*	*10.5*	*-40.0%*	*-28.7%*	*46*	
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	2001	150	139	95	+36.7%	-31.7%	47.3	46.3	33.5	-29.2%	-27.7%	37	
White babies	*2001*	*19*	*16*	*20*	*+5.3%*	*+25.0%*	*25.0*	*23.5*	*31.3*	*25.2%*	*33.0%*	*19*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*131*	*123*	*75*	*-42.7%*	*-39.0%*	*54.4*	*53.0*	*34.1*	*-37.3%*	*-35.7%*	*22*	
Infant Mortality	2001	29	22	12	-58.6%	-45.5%	2.9	2.5	1.5	-48.3%	-40.5%	45	
White babies	*2001*	*3*	*3*	*1*	*-66.7%*	*-66.7%*	*1.2*	*1.5*	*0.5*	*-53.5%*	*-63.6%*	*25*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*26*	*19*	*11*	*-57.7%*	*-42.1%*	*3.4*	*2.8*	*1.8*	*-48.9%*	*-36.8%*	*44*	
Family													
Baths to mothers under 18	2001	32	16	15	-53.1%	-6.3%	10.1	5.3	5.3	-47.5%	-0.6%	34	
White babies	*2001*	*5*	*1*	*3*	*-40.0%*	*+200.0%*	*6.6*	*1.5*	*4.7*	*-28.6%*	*219.6%*	*34*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*27*	*15*	*12*	*-55.6%*	*-20.0%*	*11.2*	*6.5*	*5.5*	*-51.3%*	*-15.6%*	*12*	
Baths to mothers under 20	2001	64	61	51	-20.3%	-16.4%	20.2	20.3	18.0	-10.8%	-11.5%	19	
White babies	*2001*	*15*	*9*	*8*	*-46.7%*	*-11.1%*	*19.7*	*13.2*	*12.5*	*-36.7%*	*-5.6%*	*39*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*49*	*52*	*43*	*-12.2%*	*+17.3%*	*20.3*	*22.4*	*19.5*	*-3.9%*	*-12.8%*	*5*	
Baths to mothers with less than a high school education	2001	127	76	73	-42.5%	-3.9%	40.1	25.3	25.7	-35.9%	1.4%	37	
White babies	*2001*	*21*	*18*	*14*	*-33.3%*	*-22.2%*	*27.6*	*26.5*	*21.9*	*-20.7%*	*-17.3%*	*20*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*106*	*58*	*59*	*-44.3%*	*+1.7%*	*44.0*	*25.0*	*26.8*	*-39.0%*	*7.3%*	*11*	
Baths to single mothers****	2001	118	146	181	+53.4%	+24.0%	37.2	48.7	63.7	71.1%	30.9%	42	
White babies	*2001*	*1*	*9*	*18*	*+1700.0%*	*+100.0%*	*1.3*	*13.2*	*28.1*	*2035.6%*	*112.3%*	*1*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*117*	*137*	*163*	*+39.3%*	*+19.0%*	*48.5*	*59.1*	*74.1*	*52.6%*	*25.5%*	*31*	
Children in single parent families	2000	1,253	1,506	1,694	+35.2%	+12.5%	21.8	33.7	41.9	92.0%	24.2%	36	
White	*2000*	*163*	*154*	*213*	*+30.7%*	*+38.3%*	*8.6*	*11.4*	*18.1*	*110.2%*	*58.6%*	*10*	
African American and Other	*2000*	*1,088*	*1,349*	*1,481*	*+36.1%*	*+9.8%*	*27.1*	*43.3*	*51.6*	*86.4%*	*19.2%*	*16*	
Education													
Not Ready for Grade 1	2001	79	91	50	-36.7%	-45.1%	29.9	26.8	21.4	-28.4%	-20.1%	5	
White males	*2001*	*4*	*3*	*2*	*-50.0%*	*-33.3%*	*22.2*	*11.1*	*28.6*	*28.8%*	*157.7%*	*6*	
White females	*2001*	*1*	*4*	*4*	*+300.0%*	*+0.0%*	*7.1*	*17.4*	*36.4*	*412.7%*	*109.2%*	*2*	
African American and Other males	*2001*	*38*	*48*	*28*	*-26.3%*	*-41.7%*	*38.4*	*34.3*	*25.5*	*-33.6%*	*-25.7%*	*2*	
African American and Other females	*2001*	*36*	*36*	*16*	*-55.6%*	*-55.6%*	*27.1*	*24.2*	*15.1*	*-44.3%*	*-37.6%*	*2*	
Repeating Grades 1-3	2000	3	71	38	+1166.7%	-46.5%	1.1	22.3	13.8	1154.5%	-38.1%	1	
White males	*2000*	*2*	*3*	*2*	*+0.0%*	*-33.3%*	*11.1*	*10.3*	*18.2*	*64.0%*	*76.7%*	*4*	
White females	*2000*	*-*	*2*	*-*	*NA*	*-100.0%*	*-*	*9.1*	*0.0*	*NA*	*-100.0%*	*1*	
African American and Other males	*2000*	*1*	*46*	*24*	*+2300.0%*	*-47.8%*	*1.0*	*33.4*	*18.4*	*1740.0%*	*-44.9%*	*1*	
African American and Other females	*2000*	*-*	*20*	*12*	*NA*	*-40.0%*	*-*	*15.1*	*10.3*	*NA*	*-31.8%*	*1*	
Grade 3 Math below standards*****	2002	134	82	94	-29.9%	+14.6%	49.5	30.3	50.8	2.6%	67.7%	36	
White males	*2002*	*6*	*3*	*-*	*-100.0%*	*-100.0%*	*26.1*	*16.7*	*-*	*-100.0%*	*-100.0%*	*15*	
White females	*2002*	*6*	*6*	*3*	*-50.0%*	*-50.0%*	*28.6*	*31.6*	*50.0*	*74.8%*	*58.2%*	*26*	
African American and Other males	*2002*	*67*	*38*	*48*	*-28.4%*	*+26.3%*	*62.0*	*34.2*	*54.5*	*-12.1%*	*59.4%*	*29*	
African American and Other females	*2002*	*49*	*33*	*42*	*-14.3%*	*+27.3%*	*44.1*	*27.5*	*48.8*	*10.7%*	*77.5%*	*11*	
Grade 3 Reading below standards*****	2002	113	66	81	-28.3%	+22.7%	41.5	24.4	44.3	6.7%	81.6%	33	
White males	*2002*	*5*	*4*	*1*	*-80.0%*	*-75.0%*	*21.7*	*22.2*	*0.0*	*-100.0%*	*-100.0%*	*6*	
White females	*2002*	*1*	*2*	*1*	*+0.0%*	*-50.0%*	*4.5*	*10.5*	*16.7*	*271.1%*	*59.0%*	*1*	
African American and Other males	*2002*	*58*	*39*	*46*	*-20.7%*	*+17.9%*	*53.7*	*35.1*	*53.5*	*-0.4%*	*52.4%*	*15*	
African American and Other females	*2002*	*43*	*20*	*32*	*-25.6%*	*+60.0%*	*38.7*	*16.7*	*37.2*	*-3.9%*	*122.8%*	*17*	
Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT Grade 4	1998	127	160	118	-7.1%	-26.3%	51.2	55.2	54.9	7.2%	-0.5%	45	
White males	*1998*	*7*	*10*	*1*	*-85.7%*	*-90.0%*	*41.2*	*50.0*	*25.0*	*-39.3%*	*-50.0%*	*44*	
White females	*1998*	*7*	*6*	*1*	*-85.7%*	*-83.3%*	*41.2*	*54.6*	*16.7*	*-59.5%*	*-69.4%*	*45*	
African American and Other males	*1998*	*65*	*73*	*67*	*+3.1%*	*-8.2%*	*52.0*	*60.8*	*69.1*	*21.2%*	*13.7%*	*34*	
African American and Other females	*1998*	*41*	*71*	*49*	*+19.5%*	*-31.0%*	*46.6*	*51.1*	*45.8*	*-1.7%*	*-10.4%*	*39*	

*Year of data is approximate in many cases.
**1 is best, 46 is worst.
*** Data include paternity acknowledgements.
**** BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Lee County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Education (continued)

Indicators		Number					Percent				
	Most Recent Year	1980*	1990*	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres
Grade 8 Math below state standards**	2002	210	130	142	-32.4%	+9.2%	81.4	48.3	74.0	-9.1%	53.2%
White males	*2002*	*13*	*7*	*1*	*-92.3%*	*-85.7%*	*61.9*	*31.8*	*-*	*-100.0%*	*-100.0%*
White females	*2002*	*14*	*7*	*2*	*-85.7%*	*-71.4%*	*73.7*	*50.0*	*-*	*-100.0%*	*-100.0%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*96*	*64*	*66*	*-31.3%*	*+3.1%*	*82.8*	*55.2*	*75.9*	*-8.3%*	*37.5%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*87*	*52*	*72*	*-17.2%*	*+38.5%*	*85.3*	*44.4*	*74.2*	*-13.0%*	*67.1%*
Grade 8 Reading below state standards**	2002	192	99	116	-39.6%	+17.2%	73.9	36.7	60.7	-17.9%	65.4%
White males	*2002*	*14*	*2*	*-*	*-100.0%*	*-100.0%*	*63.6*	*9.1*	*-*	*-100.0%*	*-100.0%*
White females	*2002*	*9*	*5*	*2*	*-77.8%*	*-60.0%*	*47.4*	*35.7*	*-*	*-100.0%*	*-100.0%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*92*	*55*	*60*	*-34.8%*	*+9.1%*	*79.3*	*47.0*	*69.0*	*-13.0%*	*46.8%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*77*	*37*	*53*	*-31.2%*	*+43.2%*	*74.8*	*31.6*	*55.2*	*-26.2%*	*74.7%*
Grade 9 Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT	1998	NA	127	174	NA	+37.0%	NA	51.6	59.2	NA	14.7%
White males	*1998*	*NA*	*9*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*36*	*33.3*	*NA*	*-7.5%*
White females	*1998*	*NA*	*4*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*28.6*	*33.3*	*NA*	*16.4%*
African American and Other males	*1998*	*NA*	*66*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*66.7*	*65.3*	*NA*	*-2.1%*
African American and Other females	*1998*	*NA*	*48*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*44.4*	*54.6*	*NA*	*23.0%*
Exit Exam (not passing all parts on 1st attempt)	2002	167	81	100	-40.1%	+23.5%	67.3	42.6	58.5	-13.1%	37.3%
White males	*2002*	*12*	*1*	*0*	*-100.0%*	*-100.0%*	*63.2*	*9.1*	*0.0*	*-100.0%*	*-100.0%*
White females	*2002*	*9*	*2*	*0*	*-100.0%*	*-100.0%*	*45.0*	*14.3*	*0.0*	*-100.0%*	*-100.0%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*79*	*33*	*48*	*-39.2%*	*+45.5%*	*71.8*	*50.8*	*66.7*	*-7.1%*	*31.3%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*67*	*45*	*52*	*-22.4%*	*+15.6%*	*67.7*	*45.0*	*54.2*	*-19.9%*	*20.4%*
Dropout Rate (8th graders no longer enrolled in 12th grade 4 years later)	2000-02	77	91	122	+58.9%	+34.4%	28.4	30.6	47.0	65.5%	53.6%
White males	*2000-02*	*18*	*9*	*10*	*-41.0%*	*+21.6%*	*71.4*	*34.7*	*81.6*	*14.2%*	*135.1%*
White females	*2000-02*	*5*	*3*	*6*	*+20.0%*	*+100.0%*	*25.6*	*16.7*	*66.7*	*160.0%*	*300.0%*
African American and Other males	*2000-02*	*22*	*52*	*65*	*+202.3%*	*+25.0%*	*18.9*	*38.1*	*52.7*	*178.2%*	*38.3%*
African American and Other females	*2000-02*	*33*	*28*	*41*	*+24.2%*	*+49.1%*	*29.1*	*23.2*	*35.5*	*22.3%*	*53.2%*
Young Adults Not Completing High School (18-24)	2000	795	631	765	-3.8%	+21.2%	31.7	35.0	30.2	-4.7%	-13.7%
White males	*NA*	*123*	*108*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*28.8*	*34.8*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
White females	*NA*	*148*	*51*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*40.8*	*14.9*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other males	*NA*	*307*	*283*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*35.7*	*52.8*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other females	*NA*	*217*	*189*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*25.3*	*30.7*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
Economics											
Poverty Rate	2000	2,554	2,182	1,324	-48.2%	-39.3%	38.7	38.6	25.8	-33.3%	-33.2%
White children	*2000*	*227*	*46*	*25*	*-89.0%*	*-45.7%*	*11.8*	*3.2*	*1.9*	*-83.9%*	*-40.6%*
African American and Other children	*2000*	*2,327*	*2,136*	*1,299*	*-44.2%*	*-39.2%*	*49.8*	*50.8*	*33.8*	*-32.2%*	*-33.5%*
Income of Families w/children (1999 $)	2000	$ 36,443	$ 32,940	$ 38,627	+6.0%	+17.3%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
White families	*2000*	*$ 54,753*	*$ 46,543*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other families	*2000*	*$ 25,661*	*$ 25,138*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
Adolescent Risk Factors											
Teenage Pregnancy (ages 14-17)	2001	37	22	17	-54.1%	-22.7%	4.6	3.5	2.8	-38.7%	-20.0%
White	*2001*	*6*	*2*	*3*	*-50.0%*	*+50.0%*	*2.5*	*1.3*	*1.9*	*-24.0%*	*46.2%*
African American and Other	*2001*	*31*	*20*	*14*	*-54.8%*	*-30.0%*	*5.4*	*4.2*	*3.2*	*-41.2%*	*-23.8%*
Delinquency	2002	19	44	24	+26.3%	-45.5%	1.6	4.7	2.6	61.3%	-45.1%
White males	*2002*	*2*	*7*	*-*	*-100.0%*	*-100.0%*	*1.1*	*4.5*	*0.0*	*-100.0%*	*-100.0%*
White females	*2002*	*3*	*1*	*1*	*-66.7%*	*+0.0%*	*1.8*	*0.7*	*0.8*	*-53.7%*	*19.0%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*11*	*30*	*20*	*+81.8%*	*-33.3%*	*2.7*	*9.6*	*5.6*	*105.8%*	*-42.1%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*3*	*6*	*3*	*+0.0%*	*-50.0%*	*0.7*	*1.9*	*0.9*	*29.9%*	*-52.2%*

*Closest available data to this year was used in many cases.
**BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Kids Count 2003

Lexington County

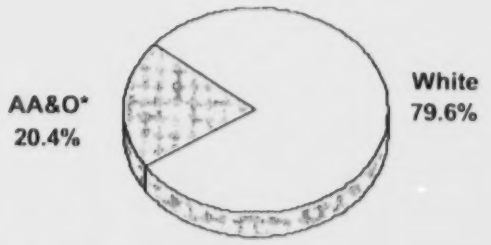
DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2000 there were an estimated 56,313 children under age 18 in the county. Of these, 44,817 were White, 9,219 were African-American, and 2,277 were other races. There were 44,557 children under age 18 in 1990, 43,423 in 1980, 33,132 in 1970, and 24,588 in 1960.

Children represent a shrinking portion of the county's population. Those under 18 constituted 26.1% of the population in 2000, down from 40.5% in 1960, 37.2% in 1970, and 30.9% in 1980.

In 2000 the 17,831 pre-schoolers under age 6 were 8.3% of the overall population: 7.6% of Whites and 11.5% of African Americans.

Figure 1: Population Ages 0-17 in 2000



* In all charts African-American is combined with other races, and often abbreviated as AA&O. Other races comprise 4.0% of children in the county, with "two or more races" at 1.7% and Asian Alone at 1.1% as the largest Other groups.

FAMILY

Families have always been the most important influence in a child's life. Children depend on their families for material needs, stimulation and guidance. Family life is different in numerous ways from previous generations, and many families now face exceptional challenges.

Families with children now make up a smaller share of all households. Only 35.5% of all households in 2000, as compared with 53.0% of households in 1960, had children below the age of 18.

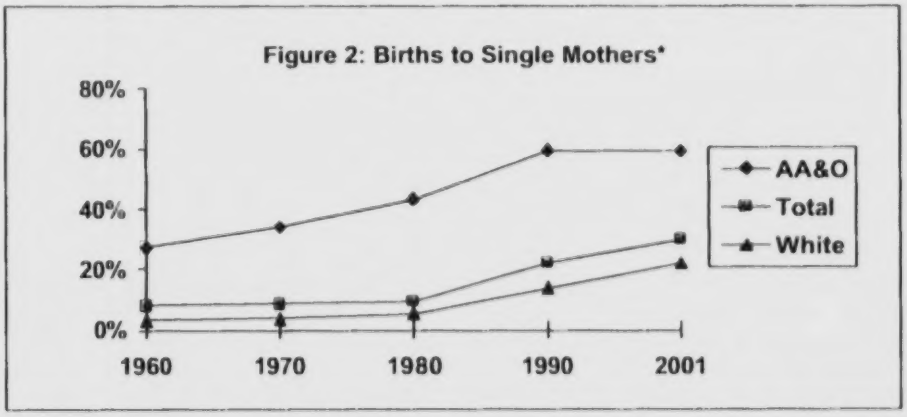
Births to Teen Mothers: In 2001, 115 babies were born to mothers younger than age 18. They were 3.9% of all babies born in the county; 3.3% of all White and 6.2% of all African-American and Other babies were born to teen mothers under the age of 18. Of the babies born to these teens in 2001, 86.1% were born to single mothers, including babies whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers.

In 2001, 313 babies were born to mothers younger than age 20. These babies were 10.6% of all born in the county; 9.6% of all White and 14.9% of all African-American and Other babies were born to mothers under the age of 20. Of the babies born to these mothers in 2001, 77.6% were born to single mothers, including paternity acknowledeged babies.

Education of Mothers Giving Birth: Children's success is strongly influenced by the education of their parents. In 2001, 486 babies, 16.6% of all babies, were born to mothers of all ages who had not completed the 12th grade. In 2001, 15.9% of White and 19.3% of African-American and Other babies were born to mothers who had completed less than the 12th grade. This is a substantial improvement from 33.4% in 1970. In addition, during 2001, 29.6% had completed 12 grades (27.8% of Whites and 36.7% of African Americans and Others) and 53.8% had more than a high school degree (56.4% of Whites and 44.0% of African American and Others).

Births to Single Mothers: Births to single mothers have increased steadily over four decades. In 2001, 517 babies, 17.6% of all babies, were recorded as born to single mothers. A decade earlier in 1990, the percentage was 17.8% and in 1960 it was 7.8%. In 2001, 11.7% of White children and 40.5% of African-American and Other children were born to single mothers. These numbers, however, do not include paternity acknowlegement births.

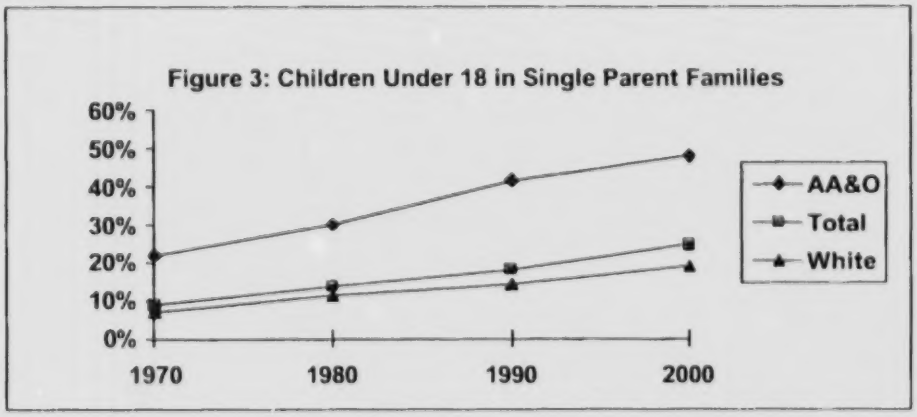
Thus, to these numbers should be added an additional group of 356 babies, 12.1% of all born in 2001, whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers. When the paternity-acknowledged babies are added, the total number born to single mothers in 2001 was 873, constituting 29.7% of all babies, 22.2% of White babies, and 59.0% of African-American and Others.



*Includes paternity acknowleged babies in 1980, 1990 and 2001. Prior to 1979, paternity acknowleged cases were not a statistical category, and thus were included in births to single mothers.

Divorce Rate: In 2001, 1,552 marriage licenses were issued, while 961 divorce decrees involving 819 children were filed. In 1970, only 297 children were in families involved in divorce.

Single-Parent Family: Increasing numbers of children live in single-parent families. In 2000, 12,649 children lived with only one parent. This was 24.5% of all children, up from 17.9% in 1990, 13.6% in 1980, and 8.8% in 1970. In 2000, 19.0% of White and 48.0% of African-American and Other children lived in single-parent families. Also in 2000, 3,440 or 22.5% of children under age 6 lived in single parent families: 15.5% of White and 49.3% of African American and Other pre-schoolers.



Parents Working and Child Care: Increasingly, parents must divide their time between children and employers. In order to meet family financial needs, most parents must work and thus have less time for family life. In 2000, 65.7% of mothers with children under 6 and 74.6% with children 6 - 17 were in the labor force. This has increased substantially from 1960 when 39.2% of mothers with children under 6 were in the labor force. Most fathers also work: 61.4% of children under 6 are in families where the single parent or both parents work. Caring for children is a problem for parents unable to obtain quality, affordable daycare while they are at work.

Overall, there are 10,321 spaces in state-regulated childcare facilities* in the county, 93.9% of these are in licensed programs and 6.1% are in registered programs. Of the spaces, 84.3% are in licensed childcare centers serving more than 12 children, 5.6% are in registered or licensed family childcare homes serving six or fewer children, 2.1% are in licensed group childcare homes serving 7-12 children, and 8.0% are in registered or licensed church programs.

The homes and centers are severely constrained by the limited ability of parents to pay. In the county, the average weekly charge is $ 90.18 for centers and $ 80.48 for homes. Consequently, center wages are low: 26.1% of centers with pre-school staff and 21.1% of centers with assistant pre-school staff report paying these staff under $6 per hour. Paying $6-$8 per hour are 69.6% of centers with pre-school staff and 78.9% of centers with assistants. Low wages attract workers with limited education. In 54.3% of centers, most pre-school staff and in 68.4% of centers most assistants have only a high school degree. In 73.9% of centers few to none of the pre-school staff have early childhood credentials. In childcare homes, 64.8% of lead providers have no more education than a high school degree or GED; 15.5% have less than a high school degree.

Family Violence: In 2000, 1,827 domestic assaults were recorded by law enforcement officials. These domestic assaults comprised 38.1% of all assaults, which include aggravated assaults, simple assaults, and intimidation. Overall, 66.6% of all domestic assaults involve spouse abuse which constitutes 25.4% of all assaults. Since most family violence is not reported, the true incidence of family disruption is much more widespread than even the large number of reported cases would indicate.

Separation from Parents: Some children do not live with their natural parents. In 2000, 4.6% of all children did not live with their natural parents. Approximately 1,688 or 3.0% of all children lived with relatives, 810 or 1.4% lived with non-relatives, 56 or 0.1% were householders or spouses, and 27 or 0.0% were in institutional facilities.

Abuse and Neglect: In 2000-01, there were 969 investigations into reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children. Through its investigations, the Department of Social Services (DSS) determined that 242 of the investigations were indicated for abuse or neglect: 16.9% for physical abuse, 7.5% for sexual abuse, 1.5% for mental injury, 25.2% for physical neglect, 5.3% for educational neglect, 2.3% for medical neglect, 41.0% for threat of harm for physical/sexual abuse, and 0.4% for other types of abuse.

In the indicated cases of abuse and neglect, DSS determined there were 423 children who were victims of abuse or neglect. Of these, 49.8% were male, 50.3% were female; 70.0% were White, 30.0% were African-American and Other. By age, 41.0% were ages 0 - 5, 44.2% were ages 6 - 12, and 14.8% were ages 13 - 17. In the indicated cases, 39.5% of the children lived in two-parent families, 36.4% in single parent families, 14.9% with unmarried couples, and 9.2% in other circumstances.

Out of Home Placements: As of June 2001, 164 children lived in foster care. The median age at first placement in the county is 5.7 years. The ages of children in foster care were 18.3% 0-2, 14.6% 3-5, 22.6% 6-10, 15.2% 11-13, and 29.3% 14 and above. The foster care population is 51.2% males and 48.8% females. Regarding their future, 36.6% were under a plan for placement in adoptive homes, 31.1% for return to a parent or guardian, 2.4% for placement with a relative, 11.6% for independent living, 17.1% for permanent foster care, and 1.2% for other circumstances.

Adult/Child Ratio: A measure of potential adult attention for children from family and community is the ratio of adults to children and youth. In 2000 there were 2.84 adults for every person below age 18. This was up substantially from 1960, when there were only 1.47 adults for every person under the age 18. This indicates that today there are more adults potentially available to provide attention and care for each child than in the past.

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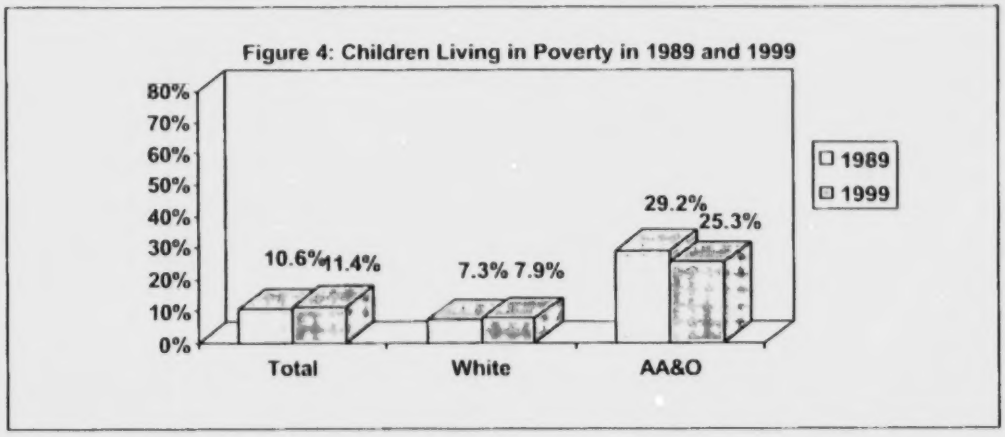
* This data is the best currently available; however, an effort is being made to check the coverage and improve the accuracy. As soon as more recent and complete data becomes available, it will be posted on the website.

ECONOMIC STATUS

Low income makes it difficult for many families to provide the material and environmental enrichment necessary for healthy child development.

Poverty: In 1999, 6,373 children and youth under the age of 18 lved in 3,019 families with incomes below poverty, comprising 11.4% of all children and youth: 7.9% of Whites and 25.3% of African-Americans and Others. A rough estimate of child poverty in 2001 calculated by the Census Bureau was 23.0%.



Poverty has always been a serious problem. While the rate among children under age 18 in 1989 was 10.6%, it was 11.1% in 1979 and 16.4% in 1969.

Children and the elderly are the age groups most seriously affected by poverty. In 1999, 13.2% of children 0 - 5 (7.7% White, 32.3% African-American and Other), and 9.9% of children 6 - 17 (7.2% White, 21.6% African-American and Other), lived in poverty; 9.3% of persons 65 years and older lived in poverty. Historically, the poverty rate among the elderly was much higher. During the last three decades, federal policy actions have substantially improved the economic status of older persons but have not done so for children.

Single-parent families are most likely to be poor. In 1999, 30.3% of children in single-parent families lived in poverty, but only 4.4% of children in married-couple families were poor. Children in single-parent families made up 60.7% of all the county's children living in poverty.

In 2002, the poverty level was $15,020 for a family of three and $18,100 for a family of four. The poverty threshold is often criticized as an arbitrary number. People can still be poor but may be just above the poverty level. Federal programs utilize varying thresholds. For example, in 1999 there were 17,715 children ages 0-17 who were less than 200 percent of poverty; thus an additional 11,342 children were above the poverty level but could still be considered poor or near-poor with incomes below $30,040 and $36,200 respectively for 3 and 4 person families.

Children Under 18 in Poverty in 1999

Percent of Poverty	Total		White		African American & Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 50%	2,922	5.2%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 100%	6,373	11.4%	3,548	7.9%	2,825	25.3%
Under 125%	8,803	15.8%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 150%	11,924	21.4%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 175%	14,845	26.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 185%	16,098	28.8%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 200%	17,715	31.7%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total Children	56,313		44,817		11,496	

Note: Missing data will be released by the Census Bureau later in 2003, and will be posted on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

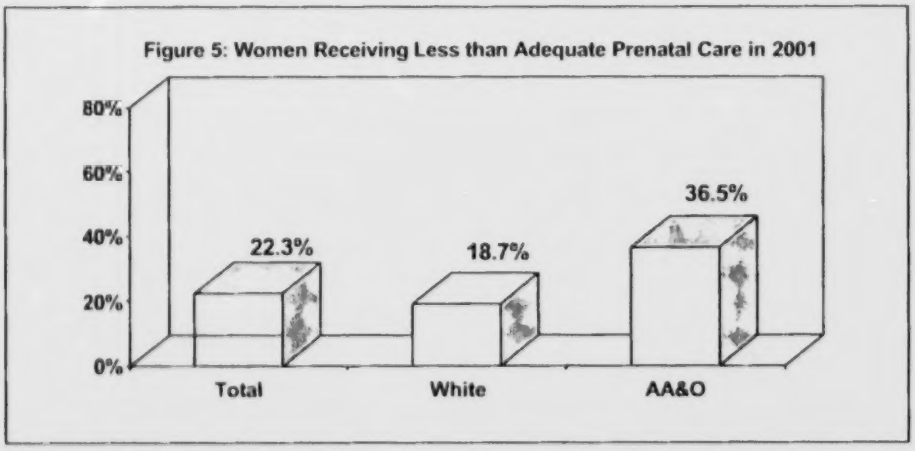
Income: The mean income of families with children in 1999 was $58,328. In 1989 it was $55,133, and 1979, it was $49,399, adjusted for inflation (i.e., in 1999 dollars). The mean income of single-parent families with children was $28,678 for single parents in 1999, as compared with $68,325 in married-couple families with children. From 1999 to 2000, Lexington County real dollar per capita income (eliminating inflation) increased by 0.9%.

Child Support Payments: There were 1,208* families receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families in fiscal year 2002, but only 22.8 % had child support court orders. Their average monthly payment of child support was $ 281 including child support receipts and tax refund intercepts. In addition, during fiscal year 2002, an estimated 2,258 parents in non-TANF families were obligated to pay a monthly average of $ 251. Information is not available regarding the amount actually paid.

HEALTH

Good health during a child's formative years helps children to reach their maximum potential. Good health requires healthy lifestyles and effective primary care, starting during the prenatal period and continuing through adolescence into adulthood. Children's health reflects the well-being of the community, as well as how adequately they are protected.

Prenatal Care: Early and continuous prenatal care can make a significant difference in assuring births of healthy babies. Delayed or insufficient prenatal care is associated with low birthweight and other health risks for infants. In 2001, 535, or 18.2% of pregnant women received no prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy. In 2001, 657 or 22.3% of pregnant women received less than adequate prenatal care: 439 or 18.7% of Whites and 218 or 36.5% of African-Americans and Others. In that same year, 22 women received no prenatal care at all.



Low Birthweight: Low birthweight of less than 5.5 pounds and very low birthweight of less than 3.3 pounds are associated with health risks and growth and development problems. In 2001, 232 or 7.9% of all babies in the county were born with low birthweight: 12.4% of African-American and Other babies and 6.7% of White babies. During 1999-2001, approximately 160 or 1.8% of all babies were born with very low birthweight and had the most serious complications: 1.5% of White babies and 3.1% of African-American and Other babies. The cost of hospitalization for each newborn low birthweight baby in the county in 1999 - 2001 was $17,077 and $95,643 for each very low birthweight baby, compared with $2,400 for a baby of normal birthweight. The result was excess cost in the county of $5,513,454 for all low birthweight babies, of which $3,605,413 was for very low birthweight babies.

Infant Mortality: During the decade since 1989-91, the overall infant mortality rate decreased by 27.4% from 10.8 to 7.9 per 1000 live births. For Whites, the rate decreased 23.6% from 9.7 to 7.4 per 1000 live births, while for African-Americans and Others the rate decreased 39.7% from 16.0 to 9.7 per 1000 live births. Over the three-year period 1999-2001, 53 White and 17 African-American and Other infants died before age one. By comparison, 65 White and 23 African-American and Other infants died during 1989-91.

* Number is an unduplicated count for the entire fiscal year.

Child Injuries and Deaths: Childhood deaths and injuries reflect whether communities are safe for children. In 2001, children in the Lexington County went to the emergency room 5,361 times because of injuries. Boys are injured more often than girls. Children visit the emergency room at comparable rates for each age from 0 to 17.

In South Carolina, the major causes of death among young children are unintentional injuries, cancer, homicide, and congenital anomalies. Over the three year period 1999-2001, 24 White and 8 African-American and Other children ages 1-14 died in the county. During 1989-91, 28 White and 7 African-American and Other children died.

Immunization: Immunization rates are an important indication of whether young children are receiving adequate preventive health care. During FY 1989-90, 58.3% of children less than two years old seen in public health clinics were not fully immunized against such preventable diseases as Polio, Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Haemophilus Influenza B and Whooping Cough. After a concerted statewide campaign to increase immunizations, the percentage of children seen in public health clinics who were not fully immunized in January 2001 had declined in the county to 16.1%. The DHEC statewide birth registry survey of all two year old children found that 88.1% were fully immunized in 2001. This success demonstrates the potential to improve the status of children when the leadership of the state and its communities act decisively together.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Children and youth are infected with sexually transmitted diseases through sexual abuse or irresponsible sexual activity. National prevalence rates indicate: a 1 in 8 chance that sexually active 15 year-old girls will develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), the most rapidly increasing cause of infertility; 10% of sexually active adolescent girls and boys are infected with chlamydia, the most common cause of PID; and as many as 15% of teen girls are infected with human papilloma virus, often with strains linked to cervical cancer. Furthermore, research evidence indicates that susceptibility to HIV/AIDS increases by 3 to 8 times through prior infection with various STDs.

According to national studies, approximately 1 in 4 sexually experienced youth aged 13-19 acquires a STD eve year; since two-thirds of all high school students have had sexual intercourse and half engage in intercourse over a thr month period, this would suggest that 10-15% of teens are infected with STDs annually. For 2000, this would indicate th an estimated 2,077 to 3,116 youth ages 13-19 in the county were infected with a STD. Many infections are either n identified for treatment or not reported. In the county, there were 3 reported cases of children under age 15 and 40 you ages 15 - 19 infected with gonorrhea; 7 youth under 15 and 97 ages 15 - 19 were reported infected with chlamyd Youth with undiagnosed and untreated STDs often spread their infections.

Healthy Lifestyles: Although no county data is available, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2001 found that ma high school students are not following good health habits. The YRBS revealed that 26% felt that they were overweight; 42 were trying to lose weight: 27% of boys and 57% of girls. Although during a week 79% of high school students ate fru 59% ate salad, and over 83% ate vegetables, only 17% ate the recommended five or more servings of fruit and vegetab per day. During a week, 49% did stretching or muscle strengthening exercises, and 59% exercised three or more times 20 minutes in sports that made them sweat or breathe hard. However, 11% of students engaged in no vigorous or moder activity at all during a week: 8% of boys and 13% of girls.

Tobacco Use:* Cigarette smoking starts at a young age and often becomes habitual. In the county during 2002 among all students 15 and older, 17.4% first smoked by age 11, 38.3% by age 13, and 53.2% by age 15. In a typical month, 13.5% of 7th and 8th graders and 28.1% of high school students smoked cigarettes. White youths were much more likely than African-Americans to smoke: 22.0% of White male and 21.8% of White female 7th to 12th graders used cigarettes, as compared with 16.8% of African-American males and 13.9% of African American females. A smaller but significant group of high school students (7.5%) used smokeless tobacco monthly; it was used primarily by White males (15.8% compared with 0.8% of all other race and sex groups).

* County participation in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking was not complete but county data is presented to provide the best available picture of teen risk-taking attitudes and behavior in Lexington County. Four of 5 districts participated, but there was partial participation by one district (District 3) and only grades 6 - 8 in District 5.

Disabilities: No data are collected on the true prevalence of disabilities within the county. According to national reported estimates, over 10% of children and youth have developmental disabilities at any point in time, and more than 17 are affected at some time before age 18 by deafness, blindness, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, speech defects, developmenta delays, learning disabilities, and emotional or behavioral problems. For 2000 this suggests that at least 5,631 children an youth under age 18 in the county are currently affected by disabilities.

Approximately 5% of children and youth nationally have serious disabilities which have lifelong implications fo work, social life and community living. Typically among children and youth, there are 1 - 2% who are mentally retarded, - 3% with serious emotional disturbances, over 1% with orthopedic or multiple disabilities, including cerebral palsy an many hereditary conditions, and under 1% with visual or hearing impairments.

Other chronic health problems also affect the lives of many children. Over 3% of children have one or more these limitations. Such serious chronic conditions affect 1 - 2% who have respiratory problems (asthma and chron bronchitis), 0.5 - 1.0% with neurological problems (epilepsy and seizures), and less than 1% with circulatory problem (congenital heart defects and acquired diseases).

Other disabilities are identified primarily in school performance. These would include 2,878 students in grades 12 with learning disabilities and 1,964 students in grades 1-12 with speech/language deficits.

Disabilities are caused by genetics, disease, poor prenatal conditions, injuries, and environmental factors. For example, lead exposure, primarily from paint dust, was detected in over 1% of all children screened, including 2 in Lexington County.

Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: While over 20% of 9-17 year olds meet diagnostic criteria for some form of mental disorder, the number with serious emotional disturbance and impaired functioning in family, school, or community activities is: 9-13% for substantial functional impairment and 5-9% for extreme functional impairment. The rates among poor children are at the higher end of these ranges. Based on a federal formula for estimating prevalence, in the county there are 12% or 3,456 seriously emotionally disturbed 9-17 year olds with substantial functional impairment and 8% or 2,304 with extreme functional impairment during the course of a year. Conduct disorders, attention deficit, depression, and anxiety disorders are the most prevalent, each affecting 3% or more of school-aged children. These disorders may occur simultaneously in a child. The prevalence rates are highest among males, adolescents, and disadvantaged persons in communities under stress and lacking social cohesion; depression, however, is more prevalent among females. On the YRBS, 20% of boys and 33% of girls in high school reported that during the past year they felt so sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that they stopped doing some usual activities. Another indicator of emotional problems is the 8% of high school students in South Carolina who reported that they had "attempted suicide" in the past year: 5% of boys and 10% of girls. Suicide attempts resulted in 4% of high school students reporting that they required treatment by a doctor or nurse for injury, poisoning, or overdose.

Inadequate Healthcare: No county level data is routinely collected regarding the number of children and youth with inadequate healthcare. According to estimates for 2000-02 by the Bureau of the Census through the annual Current Population Survey, the statewide average rate of uninsured children and youth under age 18 in families with incomes under 200% of poverty in South Carolina was 16.6%, and 9.9% above 200% of poverty. If these rates are applied to the county, there are 2,945 children in the county below 200% of poverty with no health insurance, and 3,830 children above 200% of poverty with no health insurance, for a total of 6,775 uninsured children in Lexington County. The number lacking basic accessible primary care is at least double the number lacking insurance. Those lacking primary care are often dependent on health services at school. The ratio of students to nurses recommended nationally is 750:1. In the county, this would suggest the need for 62 nurses, compared with 53 currently working in the schools.

Medicaid: For several years, the State of South Carolina has emphasized enrolling eligible children into Medicaid. In late 1997, South Carolina implemented its version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program Partners for Healthy Children (PHC), and aggressively pursued outreach enrollment for PHC and Medicaid. As a result enrollment of children ages 0 through 18 in Lexington County has increased by 94.7% from June 1997 to June 2001; thus Medicaid and PHC were serving 30.2% of all children in that age range. The total Medicaid expenditures in South Carolina for services provided to children ages 0 through 18 for state fiscal year 2002 were $991 million, at an average statewide expenditure of $2,343 per child enrolled, approximate Medicaid expenditure for children in the county would be $39.8 million.

In June 2001, the total number of Lexington County children, birth through 18, enrolled in Medicaid was 16,988. The total can be broken down into the following age and race groupings:

	White	African American	Hispanic	Other	Total
Children under 1	943	465	60	48	1,516
Children 1 - 5	3,166	1,781	100	254	5,301
Children 6 - 14	4,460	2,872	77	322	7,731
Children 15 - 18	1,525	834	14	67	2,440
Total	10,094	5,952	251	691	16,988

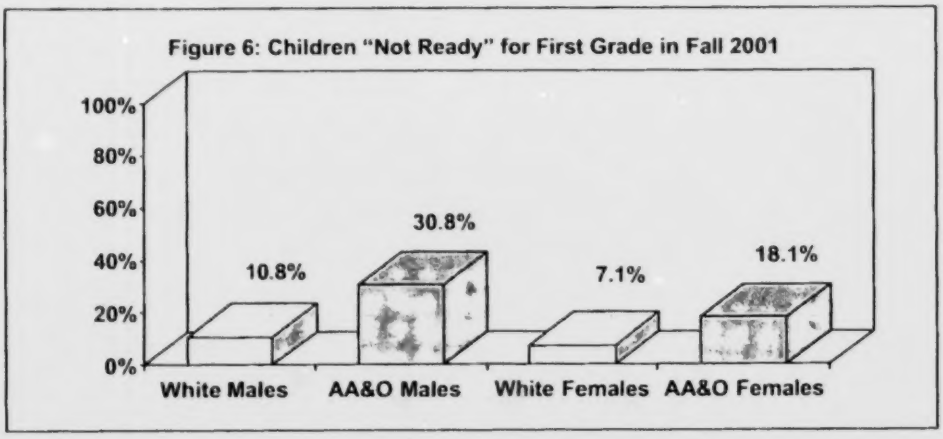
Ambulatory Care: When children lack adequate primary care, whether through lack of insurance, through limite access, or through failing to utilize available care, preventable and treatable conditions become serious and requi hospitalization. A useful indicator of inadequate primary care is the percentage of all hospitalizations that could typicall have been avoided through ambulatory care, especially for pneumonia, asthma, diarrhea and vomiting, dehydration, ar severe ear, nose, and throat infections. The share of hospitalizations for these types of conditions could normally be ke below 20%; for children in the county under the age of 18 during 2001, the share was 23.2% for Whites and 23.1% f African-Americans and Others.

READINESS AND EARLY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Too many children reach school without the readiness skills needed for success in learning, such as language, soci skills, visual and auditory discrimination, memory recall, and knowledge of colors, letters, numbers, names of objects, et Likewise, some schools are not ready to respond appropriately to the varying developmental levels of children in the ear grades. As a result, too many students do not experience the success needed to create the motivation and engagement th sustain learning.

1st Grade "Readiness" on 2001-02 Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB):

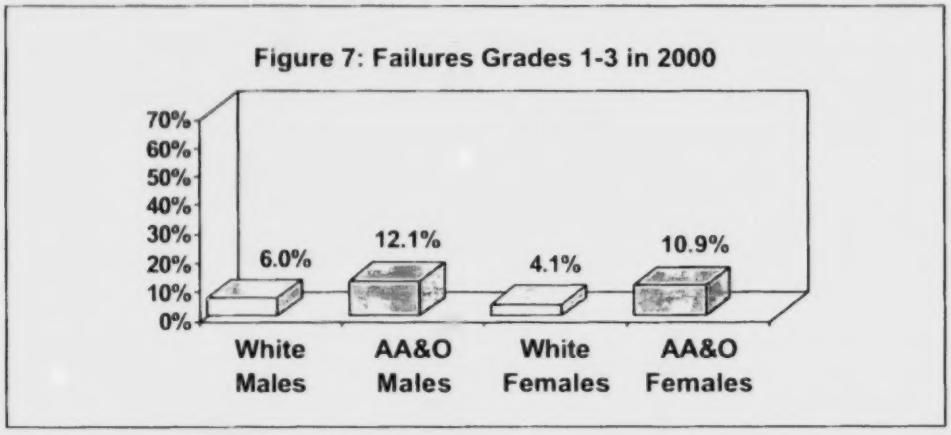
436 children not ready 12.8% children not ready



1st Grade Failures in 2002:

137 children failing 3.8% children failing

Failures Grades 1-3 in 2002 (approximate cumulative percentage of grades one, two and three):	
241 children failing	6.6% children failing



Over-age for Grade 3 in 2001	
352 children over-age	10.3% children over-age

Special Education: Large numbers of children are placed in special education classes. In elementary school, 1,243 six and seven year olds and 1,388 eight and nine year-olds were enrolled in special education classes during 2001-02, approximately 17.8% and 18.6% of their age groups respectively: 18.9% of White 8 – 9 year olds were in special education and 17.6% of African American and Others.

Readiness Summary: A serious problem exists in terms of student readiness and school success in the early grades. With 12.8% assessed not ready for the 1st grade, 10.3% over age in grade 3, and 18.6% of eight and nine year-olds placed in special education, unacceptably large numbers of students still begin school without good prospects of success in future school achievement and graduation; however, great improvement has occurred since the mid 1990s.

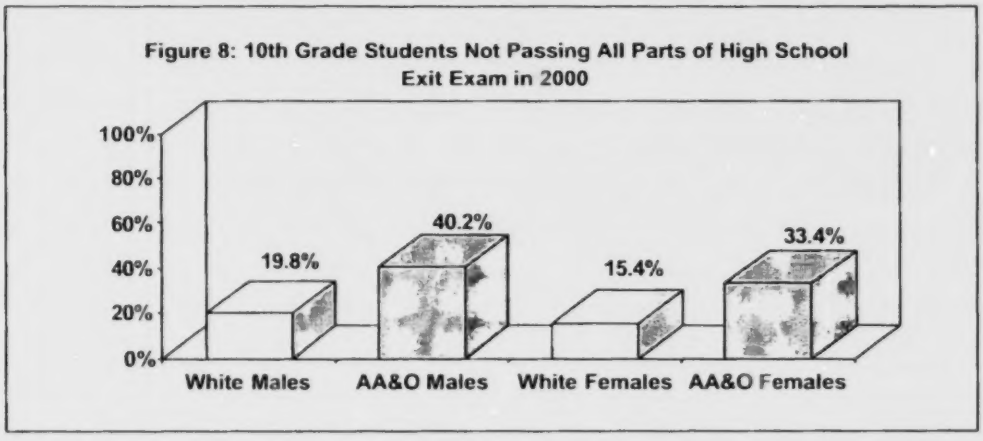
SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

By the end of elementary school, significant numbers of students perform below minimum standards. The following standardized test measures, comparing student performance to state minimum standards, should be used in combination with routine classroom assessments more reflective of real-world performance skills.

Special Education: Special education placements reflect both the significant number of children with serious handicapping conditions and a large number of students with mild learning and behavioral problems that have not been accommodated successfully by the regular educational program. The result is a large system of self-contained, resource, and itinerant services to meet the needs of 1,964 speech and language impaired, 2,878 learning disabled, 339 emotionally disabled, 607 mentally impaired, and 467 physically handicapped, deaf, blind, and other handicapped students. Special education classes served approximately 13.5% of all students in grades 1 - 12 during 2001-2002.

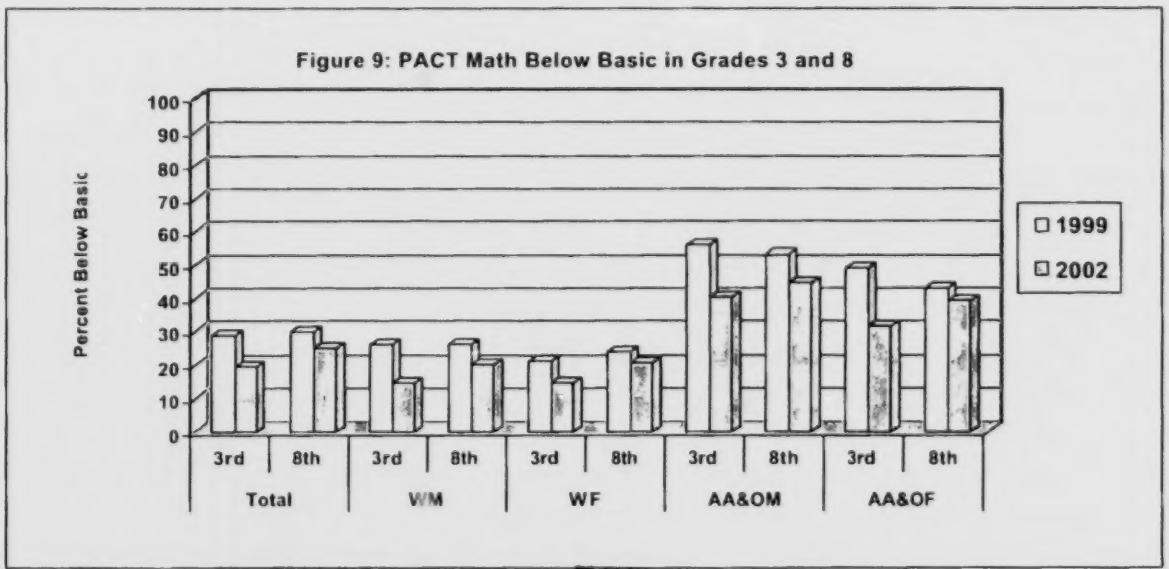
Exit Exam - not passing all parts of Exit Exam on first attempt in the 10th grade in 2002

645 students did not pass all parts	21.3% of students did not pass all parts



Achievement Trends: How has performance on standardized achievement tests changed over the past 20 years? During the 1980s, student performance on the BSAP tests improved dramatically. Between 1981 and 1990, the percentage of 8th grade students in Lexington County who did not meet standards declined from 38.3% to 16.8% in math and from 28.4% to 15.5% in reading. During the 1990's the BSAP trend changed, with 19% not meeting 8th grade math standards in 1998 and 17.8% in reading. On standardized tests, the first year when South Carolina students take the exam is comparable to the challenge encountered by the national norm group which took the test only once. Looking at first year data, the percentage of 4th grade students at or below the 25th percentile of national norms was 17.1% in 1983 on the CTBS, 22.2% in 1990 on the Stanford, and 17.4% in 1995 on the Metropolitan; for 9th graders, the percentage in the bottom quarter was 22.4% in 1990 and 15.7% in 1995. Although not comparable, the percent below basic on the 4th grade PACT in 1999, the first year of administration, was 27.4%, but in 2002 16.5% of 4th graders were below basic in reading and math; the percentage of 8th graders below basic in reading and math averaged 26.5% in 1999 and 22.6% in 2002.

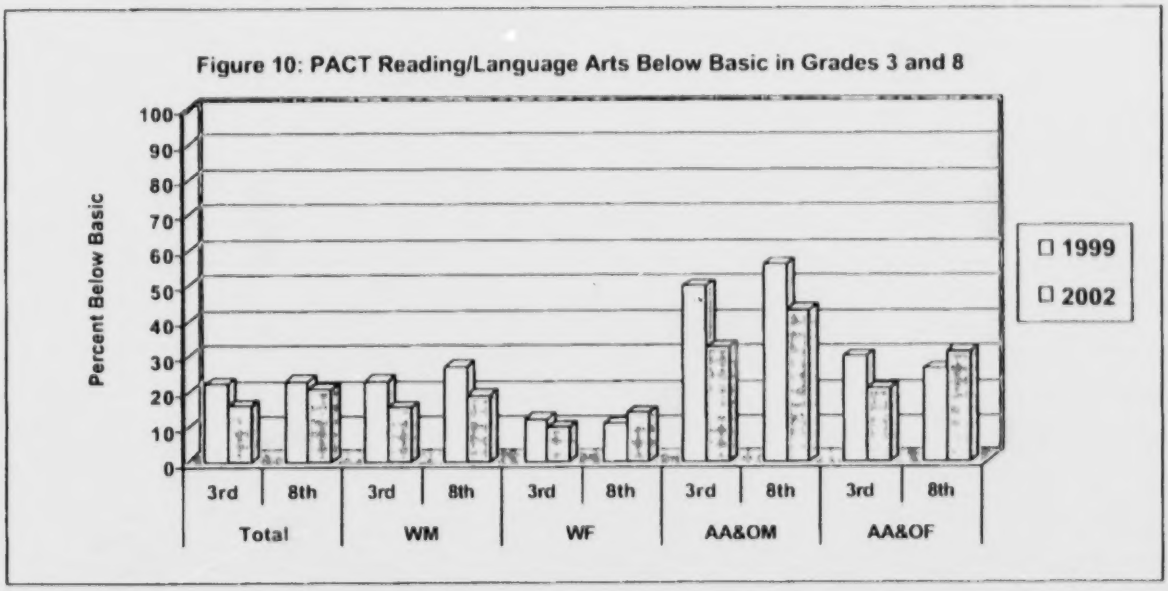
PACT: The Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) was first administered in 1999 for grades 3 - 8 in math and reading/language arts. Math assesses skills in numbers, numerical and algebraic concepts, patterns and functions, geometry, measurement, probability and statistics. The percentage of students scoring below basic in math has decreased by 18.9% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 2,809 students below basic in grades 3-8 but there would have been an additional 654 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
		Math (%)				
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	19.6	14.7	14.6	40.2	31.5
	4	17.3	11.6	12.9	37.7	31.3
	5	22.3	17.9	16.8	43.5	34.2
	6	21.2	17.6	14.0	43.9	36.7
	7	26.5	24.4	19.7	43.9	40.1
	8	24.8	20.1	20.8	44.8	39.0
Basic	3	38.0	38.0	36.5	38.7	41.9
	4	34.9	30.7	36.3	38.0	42.4
	5	39.0	36.8	39.7	38.2	46.1
	6	37.7	35.9	38.5	40.2	39.4
	7	30.3	27.6	31.8	33.5	31.0
	8	42.5	41.4	45.8	34.2	42.0
Proficient	3	23.8	25.5	26.4	14.5	19.6
	4	24.9	28.1	26.0	15.3	19.2
	5	20.6	24.1	21.3	13.9	13.4
	6	22.7	24.5	26.8	9.1	15.7
	7	20.7	22.5	22.8	11.6	16.6
	8	18.5	20.6	19.9	10.3	13.2
Advanced	3	18.7	21.8	22.5	6.6	7.0
	4	23.0	29.7	24.7	9.0	7.1
	5	18.0	21.3	22.2	4.4	6.3
	6	18.4	22.1	20.7	6.8	8.2
	7	22.5	25.5	25.8	11.1	12.3
	8	14.2	17.9	13.5	10.6	5.8

Reading/Language Arts assesses reading, listening, speaking, writing, research, and communication with technology. The first PACT assessment found a high percentage of elementary and middle grades students performing below standards and only a modest number above basic. The percentage of students scoring below basic in reading/language arts has decreased by 20.4% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 2,255 students below basic in grades 3 - 8 but there would have been an additional 578 at 1999 performance rates.

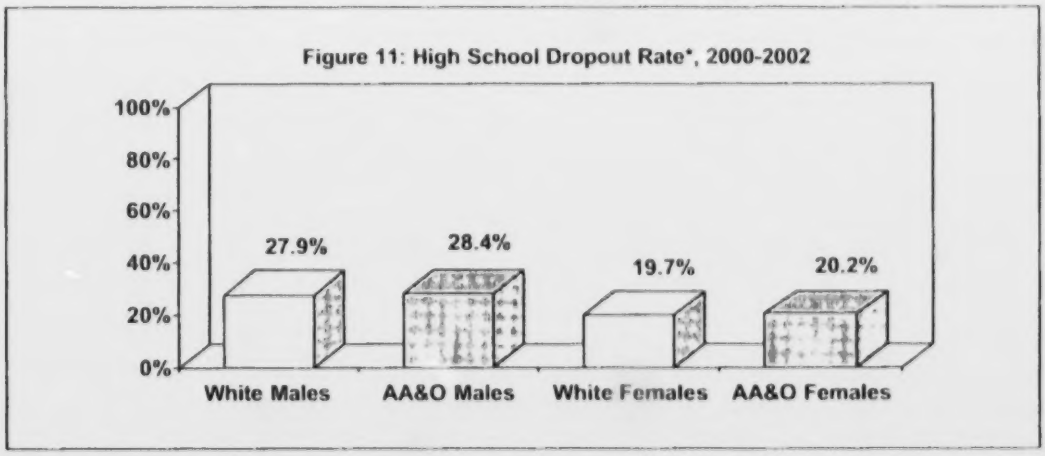
Figure 10: PACT Reading/Language Arts Below Basic in Grades 3 and 8



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
		Reading/Language Arts (%)				
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	16.0	15.6	9.8	32.4	20.5
	4	15.7	15.5	8.5	33.9	22.1
	5	20.7	19.8	11.7	44.3	29.6
	6	23.4	23.2	12.9	51.0	32.0
	7	18.3	18.9	9.3	38.8	26.5
	8	20.5	18.8	13.8	42.9	31.1
Basic	3	32.7	31.9	27.4	42.5	41.7
	4	39.3	38.2	35.7	47.3	46.8
	5	45.7	48.0	44.0	43.6	46.3
	6	32.5	34.5	28.6	33.0	38.1
	7	42.6	44.6	39.1	47.0	43.3
	8	42.2	45.3	39.0	40.0	43.5
Proficient	3	45.3	47.4	53.1	24.1	35.5
	4	41.1	43.3	49.2	18.5	29.5
	5	31.0	30.2	40.0	11.5	23.3
	6	31.4	33.0	38.0	13.2	21.5
	7	32.5	32.1	40.7	13.0	25.7
	8	29.9	29.5	36.9	12.6	21.8
Advanced	3	6.0	5.1	9.8	1.0	2.3
	4	3.9	3.0	6.6	0.2	1.6
	5	2.6	2.0	4.3	0.5	0.8
	6	12.7	9.3	20.5	2.8	8.4
	7	6.6	4.4	10.9	1.2	4.5
	8	7.4	6.4	10.4	4.4	3.6

Dropout Rate - 8th grade students no longer enrolled in grade 12
(average of students for the three years ending 2000-2002)

836 students drop out annually **24.0% students drop out?**



Dropouts: Distressing numbers of students drop out and fail to graduate. An average of 26.9% of 8th graders failed to graduate** from county schools five years later during the period 1980-84, 23.5% during 1985-89, and 22.6% during 1990-94, 24.9% during 1995-97 and 23.9% during 1998-2000***.

During 2001-02, 99.5% of all who did graduate received the State High School Diploma, while the remaining 0.5% received a State Certificate for meeting the required Carnegie units but not passing the Exit Exam.

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*12th grade enrollment compared to 8th grade enrollment four years earlier

** This is calculated by using 8th grade enrollment to graduation data.

*** 2001 data will be available soon and will be posted on the website.

Fortunately, many dropouts enroll in adult education programs and either earn a high school diploma or obtain a GED. During 2001-02, 70 Adult Education high school diplomas were awarded to school completers and in 2001 489 GEDs were awarded in the county. Over time, adult education high school diplomas and GEDs increase the effective school completion rate substantially. In the 2000 Census, 13.5% of county resident 25 - 34 year-olds said they had not completed either high school or a GED.

Achievement Summary: The numbers of students testing below basic on the PACT and dropping out range from 15.7% to 36.7%. Thus, far too many students fail to acquire the knowledge, skills, learning habits, and motivation necessary to compete in the economy or contribute to society in the 21st Century.

ADOLESCENT RISK BEHAVIORS

Academic achievement is greatly influenced by the prevailing youth culture which often promotes popularity with peers and partying rather than studying and doing well in school. The prevalence of adolescent risk-taking and under-achievement is illustrated by the poor grades of substance-abusing teens.

Substance Abuser Rates at Levels of Academic Performance

	Usual School Grades in Past Year					Total
	A Range	B Range	C Range	D Range	F Range	
Smoked Cigarettes (in past 30 days)	13.1%	24.4%	38.7%	48.3%	74.0%	28.0%
Drank 5 or More Drinks on One Occasion (in past 30 days)	12.6%	21.8%	28.4%	29.5%	40.0%	22.4%
Used Any Illicit Drug (in past 30 days)	11.2%	18.3%	30.4%	43.3%	59.9%	22.0%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

As influence from parents and other adults declines during adolescence, significant numbers of students engage in violence, crime, school offenses, depressive emotions and attempted suicide:

Risk Behaviors Participated in During Past 12 Months	White Male		White Female		African American Male		African American Female		Total		Total (Grade 7-12)
	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	
Carried a handgun or knife for self-defense?	18.7%	24.4%	3.7%	6.4%	15.3%	18.7%	5.6%	9.4%	11.2%	15.0%	13.0%
Carried a handgun or knife as a weapon?	5.4%	9.4%	0.8%	1.5%	7.3%	10.5%	3.1%	5.7%	3.4%	5.6%	4.4%
Been in a fight with someone?	38.8%	31.2%	16.6%	16.2%	47.1%	31.7%	29.8%	23.3%	29.4%	23.8%	26.8%
Hit your boyfriend or girlfriend?	1.6%	1.4%	5.5%	10.5%	5.0%	2.9%	13.8%	22.5%	4.3%	6.7%	5.5%
Been hit by your boyfriend or girlfriend?	6.2%	6.0%	4.8%	9.1%	10.7%	6.3%	7.3%	10.5%	6.0%	7.7%	6.8%
Rec'd detention or in-school suspension?	36.7%	42.6%	19.5%	27.0%	48.0%	44.1%	32.7%	42.6%	29.9%	35.4%	32.5%
Been suspended from school?	8.7%	14.0%	3.2%	6.3%	16.9%	23.2%	8.7%	16.2%	7.0%	10.9%	8.8%
Stolen anything worth > $5?	12.8%	20.7%	5.9%	9.9%	19.0%	15.3%	11.3%	9.0%	10.2%	14.9%	12.4%
Had an accident while driving?	NA	16.3%	NA	14.5%	NA	8.1%	NA	7.2%	NA	14.7%	NA
Been arrested and booked?	2.6%	4.7%	0.8%	2.1%	6.5%	9.2%	2.5%	3.1%	2.1%	3.6%	2.8%
Felt hopeless for two weeks or more?	15.0%	16.5%	19.0%	30.3%	14.6%	17.0%	20.8%	28.8%	17.1%	23.6%	20.1%
Seriously considered attempting suicide?	7.2%	8.8%	8.9%	15.4%	7.5%	8.2%	6.6%	11.5%	7.9%	12.0%	9.8%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

Adolescence is often a time of taking risks and asserting independence from adults. When asked whether they would tell an adult about a problem, the following percentages of county students said they would be "not likely" or "very unlikely" to tell if they:

-heard a student threaten to harm someone: 29.2% middle school, 41.8% high school;
-saw a student with a handgun at school: 14.3% middle school, 11.3% high school;
-saw a student with a knife at school: 17.1% middle school, 22.8% high school;
-saw a student with drugs at school: 26.0% middle school, 57.7% high school;

Alcohol Use:* In the county during 2001-02, 18.8% of 7th and 8th graders and 42.5% of high schoolers said they had used alcohol in the past month. Of White males in grades 7 - 12, 31.9% had used it in the past month, compared with 24.0% of African-American males; likewise, 32.8% of White females said they had used alcohol, compared with 28.7% of African-American females. Many youth first used alcohol at an early age: 15.0% had used alcohol by age 11 or younger, 36.5% by age 13, and 65.3% by age 15.

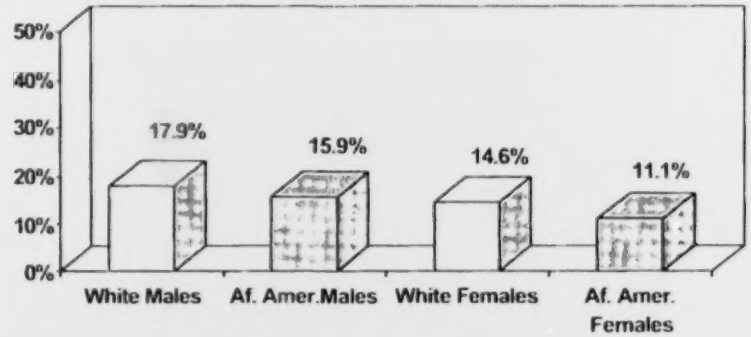
During the previous year, 20.8% of 7th and 8th graders and 34.4% of high schoolers said they had ridden with a drinking driver. Of seniors who drive, 23.2% said they had driven after drinking. Widespread use is encouraged by the ready availability and perceived low risk of alcohol use. Among students who expressed an opinion, 50.6% of eighth graders and 81.2% of seniors felt that beer was easy to get. Also, 73.4% of eighth graders and 76.8% of seniors felt there was not a great risk in drinking two drinks a day, and 48.6% of eighth graders and 61.4% of high schoolers felt there was not a great risk in drinking 5 drinks every weekend.

Heavy Drinking:* In 2001-02, 6.2% of 7th and 8th graders and 22.5% of high school students in the county repor drinking 5 or more drinks in a day during the past month. When asked how many drinks, if any, they usually consur 15.2% of all county students in grades 7 - 12 in 2001-02 responded 3 or more drinks at a time and 8.4% reported usually 5 more drinks. Among high school students, 23.9% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 13.6% 5 or mc Among seniors, 35.6% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 19.5% 5 or more; however 31.0% of seni said that they drank 5 or more drinks in a day once or more during the past month.

Drugs:* In 2001-02, 9.2% of 7th and 8th graders and 22.1% of high schoolers in the county reported using ille drugs during the previous month. Among students in grades 7 - 12, use was reported by 17.9% of White males, 14.6% Wl females, 15.9% of African-American males, and 11.1% of African-American females. Some young people initiated drug at an early age: 5.6% had experienced their first use by age 11 or sooner; 19.7% had used a drug by age 13, and 38.4% by 15.

In the past year, 12.2% of all high school students in the county who drive and 18.0% of seniors who drive said that they had driven after using drugs. Such use is encouraged by the ready availability of drugs: 21.8% of 8th graders who had an opinion said it is easy to get marijuana and 8.0% said it is easy to get cocaine or crack; 63.5% of seniors said it is easy to get marijuana and 29.0% said it was easy to get cocaine or crack.

Figure 12: Drug Use among Students Grades 7-12 during 2001-02*



* Schools in the county elected not to participate in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking. Therefore, data for all of South Carolina is presented here. Lexington County data, for 1992-93, is available on the Kids Count website at www.sckidscount.org.

Sexual Activity and Pregnancy: Many teenagers now engage in sexual activity. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) administered to a representative sample of high school students throughout South Carolina in 2001 showed that sexual activity begins at an early age: 7% of female and 21% of male students have engaged in intercourse before age 13; by age 15, 38% the females and 49% of males have engaged in sexual intercourse. Statewide, 48% of females and 50% of males in the 11th and 12th grades reported engaging in intercourse during the past three months. Furthermore, 27% of female and 33% of male 12th graders have had intercourse with four or more partners during their lifetimes.

Premature sexual activity often results in pregnancy. In the county, 166 girls between the ages of 14 and 17 became pregnant in 1999, 169 in 2000 and 163 in 2001. This represented 2.7% of all girls ages 14 – 17 in 2001; several times this percentage become pregnant at least once by age 18. The 2001 pregnancy rate for ages 14 - 17 was 2.2% for Whites and 4.8% for African-Americans and Others. Of all pregnancies of 14-17 year olds, 69.9% resulted in live births, with almost all other pregnancies ending in abortions.

Teen pregnancy rates increased substantially across the state during the 1980s; as a result, greater emphasis v devoted to preventing teen pregnancy. Since 1989, the teen pregnancy rate in Lexington County has decreased by 35.6 Overall, it has decreased by 38.9% for Whites, and decreased by 41.5% for African Americans and Others.

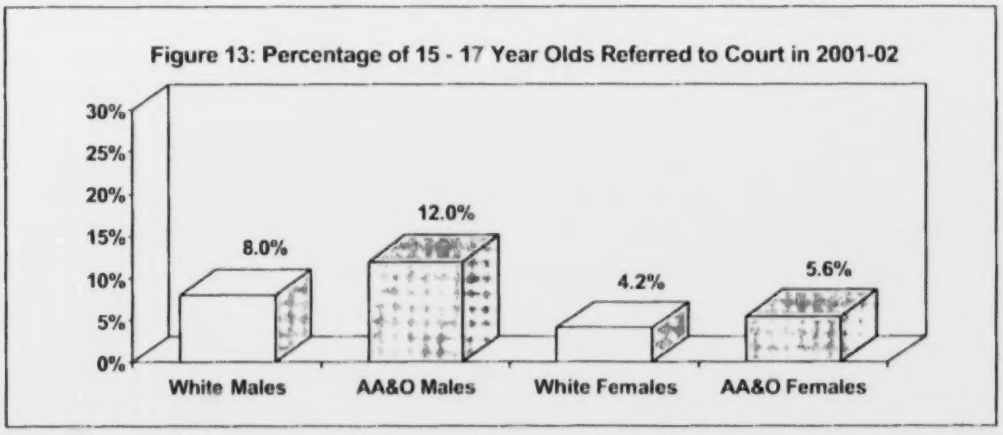
Juvenile Delinquency: In 2001-02, 1,178 individual juvenile offenders in the county were referred to the Solicitor for delinquency; of these, 15.8% were age 12 or younger, 33.6% were 13 or 14, and 50.6% were 15 or older.

Of the referrals to the family court, 5.1% of all referrals were for violent and serious crimes which include drug trafficking, acts against persons for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and serious property offenses for arson and burglary. Also, 268 juvenile cases constituting 15.2% of all referrals were for status offenses. Status offenses include truancy, running away, incorrigibility, and other offenses that would not be crimes for adults.

Delinquents are likely to live in families with low income: 21.7% lived in families with income under $10,000, 27.3% with $10,000-$19,999 and 51.1% with $20,000 or more. Furthermore, only 24.3% of delinquents lived with both natural parents, while 50.9% lived in a single parent household, 22.5% lived with other relatives, and 2.3% in other situations including parent plus step-parent. Delinquency or criminal activity occurs among many related family members: 33.0% had at least one family member who was delinquent or had some criminal record.

Youth referred to the family courts are likely to have been there before. In 2001-02, 53.1% had at least one prior referral and 18.4% had been referred to court 3 times or more. Many were referred at an early age. For delinquents 15 - 17 years old, 1.2% had been referred by the age of 10, 7.9% by the age of 12, and 25.1% by the age of 14.

During 2001-02, 594 youth ages 15 to 17 were referred to the family courts. In the county, 6.6% of all youth 15 to 17 were referred to court in one year and roughly double that percentage are referred at least once by age 18. Furthermore, the National Youth Survey indicates that typically across the United States the proportion of youth engaging in crime is two or three times the number ever apprehended. In 2001-02, there were 172 juveniles committed from the county to DJJ custody and placed in residential programs.



Not in School or Employed: During 2000, 863 teenagers ages 16-19 were idle, meaning they neither worked any hours nor were enrolled in school, even part-time. Idle teens comprised 7.9% of their age group: 7.1% for White and 11.0% African-American & Other teens. A much larger number, perhaps twice as many, were not engaged in either school full time or work full time. The data reflect a serious failure in both school completion and the critical transition from school to work, significantly affecting their development as future workers. For an in-depth description of the problems of young adults seeking to enter the labor force, visit our website at www.scyoungadults.org for our state and county reports on 18-29 year olds.

Deaths: During 1997-2001, 55 youth ages 15 to 19 died. Historically, automobile accidents have been the major cause, resulting in 25 deaths between 1996 and 2000; homicides killed 8 youth 15 to 19 years old during the five-year period, and 9 youth committed suicide. Alcohol use is often a significant factor in deaths among teenagers.

Summary

Facing the Scope of Problems: The data on families, economic status, health, readiness, school achievement, and adolescent risk behaviors provide a troublesome picture of the condition of children in Lexington County. The 24.5% of children in single-parent families, 11.4% in poverty, 23.9% not graduating from school, 37.1% of high school students using alcohol and 20.1% using drugs each month, and other data profiled in this report suggest that too many children are at risk of not growing up to become self-supporting adults, good family members, and responsible community citizens.

Emphasizing the Positive: South Carolina Kids Count reports have been developed to describe the problems of children in each of the counties. Fortunately, the majority of children and youth are doing well, and some very well. One simple description is the percentage of children who do not fall into the problem categories reported. For the county, 89.4% of children are born to non-teen mothers ages 20 or older, 70.3% are born to married parents, and 75.5% lived in two-parent families; 88.6% were not poor and 68.3% lived in families with incomes above twice the poverty level for a family of three, $30,040 in 2002; 92.1% of babies were born with normal birthweights; 87.2% were assessed as ready for the first grade, 75.2% scored basic or better on PACT for 8th grade math and 79.5% for 8th grade reading, 78.7% passed all parts of the Exit Exam in the 10th grade, and 76.1% graduated with their class. In a typical month, 57.5% of high school students do not drink alcohol, 77.9% do not use drugs, and 71.9% do not smoke. Unfortunately, the absence of a problem is not always an indicator of success. Some data is available for exemplary performance: for example, 51.3% of 3rd graders and 37.3% of 8th graders scored proficient or advanced on PACT in reading and 42.5% of 3rd graders and 32.7% of 8th graders in math. Unfortunately, data on success is not generally available.

Despite the limitations of success data, we must emphasize the positive in providing good support and appropriate influences for children and youth. Recent philosophy and publications such as those of the Search Institute (700 South Third Street, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN, 55415-1138, tel. 1-800-888-7828, www.search-institute.org), emphasize the critical importance of "developmental assets" to promote and support positive development. One short book from the Search Institute, (What Kids Need to Succeed, by Peter J. Benson, Judy Gailbraith, and Pamela Espeland, 1995) presents an excellent array of suggestions for promoting developmental assets through families, community, faith congregations, and schools. If each family, school, religious congregation and community organization assertively worked to build such assets, the problems described in this report would be reduced dramatically. Such positive family-school-community efforts could improve South Carolina's national Kids Count ranking from the bottom 10 to the average or even into the top 10 by prevention of unnecessary problems affecting children and youth, as shown on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

All data presented in this report is the most recent available at the date it goes to the printer. This version of the Kids Count report will be revised as more recent and additional data become available. Please send us your corrections and suggestions for improvement. We welcome your ideas for ways to make the state and county reports more useful and accurate. Please utilize local data sources whenever possible to supplement the profile provided through our report.

Data related inquiries should be directed to:

Anne Wilson, Data Manager (awilson@drss.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-4810

Calls for **copies of reports** for other counties and inquiries regarding more recent reports should be made to:

Kim Hazel-Lohr, Project Manager (khazel@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-1295

For **policy questions and general comments**, please contact:

Dr. A. Baron Holmes, Project Director (bholmes@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-2291

Comparable reports for all 46 counties and for the state can also be found on the World Wide Web at

www.sckidscount.org

Our website also provides: links to other websites for indicators in our report; high to low rankings for individual indicators; information on how to improve SC's national rank; and a glossary of definitions.

The national Kids Count Report can be found on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website at www.aecf.org

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Lexington County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Indicators	Most Recent Year	Number					Percent					R	
		1980*	1990*	Most Recent Data	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980 Rank	199
Health													
Low Birth Weight	2001	120	215	232	+93.3%	+7.9%	6.0	7.7	7.9	32.3%	3.3%	3	
White babies	2001	91	154	158	+73.6%	+2.6%	5.3	6.6	6.7	26.4%	0.9%	15	
African American and Other babies	2001	29	61	74	+155.2%	+21.3%	9.6	12.4	12.4	28.4%	-0.6%	10	
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	2001	457	996	657	-43.8%	-34.0%	22.7	35.4	22.3	-1.8%	-37.1%	1	
White babies	2001	325	719	439	+35.1%	-38.9%	19.0	31.0	18.7	-1.6%	-39.7%	7	
African American and Other babies	2001	132	277	218	+65.2%	-21.3%	43.9	58.5	36.5	-17.0%	-35.5%	7	
Infant Mortality	2001	64	88	70	+9.4%	-20.5%	1.1	1.1	0.8	-25.9%	-27.4%	1	
White babies	2001	47	65	53	+12.8%	-18.5%	0.9	1.0	0.7	-19.8%	-23.6%	10	
African American and Other babies	2001	17	23	17	+0.0%	-26.1%	1.8	1.6	1.0	-45.8%	-39.7%	9	
Family													
Births to mothers under 18	2001	104	156	115	+10.6%	-26.3%	5.2	5.6	3.9	-24.6%	-29.8%	1	
White babies	2001	70	105	78	+11.4%	-25.7%	4.1	4.5	3.3	-19.4%	-27.1%	10	
African American and Other babies	2001	34	51	37	+8.8%	-27.5%	11.3	10.4	6.2	-45.2%	-40.6%	13	
Births to mothers under 20	2001	290	395	313	+7.9%	-20.8%	14.4	14.1	10.6	-26.5%	-24.6%	1	
White babies	2001	216	281	224	+3.7%	+20.3%	12.6	12.1	9.6	-24.0%	-20.7%	8	
African American and Other babies	2001	74	114	89	+20.3%	+21.9%	24.6	23.3	14.9	-39.5%	-36.0%	14	
Births to mothers with less than a high school education	2001	410	515	486	+18.5%	-5.6%	20.4	18.3	16.5	-19.1%	-10.0%	2	
White babies	2001	307	410	371	+20.8%	-9.5%	18.0	17.7	15.8	-12.0%	-10.6%	3	
African American and Other babies	2001	103	105	115	+11.7%	+9.5%	34.2	21.4	19.2	-43.8%	-10.3%	15	
Births to single mothers***	2001	222	614	873	+293.2%	+42.2%	11.0	21.9	29.7	168.9%	35.9%	2	
White babies	2001	92	323	520	+465.2%	+61.0%	5.4	13.9	22.2	312.4%	59.5%	14	
African American and Other babies	2001	130	291	353	+171.5%	+21.3%	43.2	59.4	59.0	36.7%	-0.6%	10	
Children in single parent families	2000	5,584	7,346	12,649	+126.5%	+72.2%	13.6	17.9	24.5	80.1%	36.8%	4	
White	2000	4,207	5,060	7,979	+89.7%	+57.7%	11.1	14.2	19.0	71.5%	34.1%	37	
African American and Other	2000	1,353	2,229	4,670	+245.2%	+109.5%	29.8	41.6	48.0	60.9%	15.3%	24	
Education													
Not Ready for Grade 1	2001	682	639	436	-36.1%	-31.8%	26.8	20.1	12.8	-52.2%	-36.3%	2	
White males	2001	288	270	145	-49.7%	-46.3%	25.6	19.4	10.8	-57.8%	-44.3%	11	
White females	2001	188	155	89	-52.7%	-42.6%	18.5	12.7	7.1	-61.6%	-44.1%	16	
African American and Other males	2001	116	122	128	+10.3%	+4.9%	55.5	40.5	30.8	-44.5%	-24.0%	27	
African American and Other females	2001	90	90	72	-20.0%	-20.0%	46.1	34.7	18.1	-60.7%	-47.8%	21	
Repeating Grades 1-3	2000	304	339	234	-23.0%	-31.0%	12.0	11.1	6.5	-45.8%	-41.4%	7	
White males	2000	150	160	91	-39.3%	-43.1%	13.4	12.1	6.0	-55.2%	-50.4%	9	
White females	2000	83	76	56	-32.5%	-26.3%	8.1	6.3	4.1	-49.4%	-34.9%	15	
African American and Other males	2000	39	61	47	+20.5%	-23.0%	20.4	23.5	12.1	-40.7%	-48.5%	12	
African American and Other females	2000	31	41	38	+22.6%	-7.3%	17.0	16.5	10.9	-35.9%	-33.9%	20	
Grade 3 Math below standards****	2002	686	290	666	-2.9%	+129.7%	26.6	10.2	19.6	-26.3%	92.2%	3	
White males	2002	287	97	200	-30.3%	+106.2%	24.8	8.0	14.7	-40.7%	83.8%	9	
White females	2002	247	89	179	-27.5%	+101.1%	22.6	7.6	14.6	-35.4%	92.1%	8	
African American and Other males	2002	86	43	164	+90.7%	+281.4%	49.1	21.0	40.2	-18.1%	91.4%	9	
African American and Other females	2002	64	61	122	+90.6%	+100.0%	43.0	25.3	31.5	-26.7%	24.5%	9	
Grade 3 Reading below standards****	2002	449	187	543	+20.9%	+190.4%	17.4	6.6	16.0	-8.0%	142.4%	1	
White males	2002	212	87	212	+0.0%	+143.7%	18.3	7.2	15.6	-14.8%	116.7%	2	
White females	2002	122	45	120	-1.6%	+166.7%	11.2	3.9	9.8	-12.5%	151.3%	6	
African American and Other males	2002	73	31	132	+80.8%	+325.8%	41.7	15.3	32.4	-22.3%	111.8%	3	
African American and Other females	2002	41	24	79	+92.7%	+229.2%	27.5	10.0	20.5	-25.5%	105.0%	3	
Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT Grade 4	1998	434	614	492	+13.4%	-19.9%	17.1	22.2	14.9	-12.9%	-32.9%	1	
White males	1998	186	271	170	-8.6%	-37.3%	17.2	23.3	12.3	-28.5%	-47.2%	6	
White females	1998	98	174	136	+41.7%	-21.8%	9.1	14.7	10.2	12.1%	-30.6%	6	
African American and Other males	1998	88	105	105	+19.3%	+0.0%	53.3	46.1	36.8	-31.0%	-20.2%	27	
African American and Other females	1998	55	59	80	+45.5%	+35.6%	30.7	31.7	29.8	-2.9%	-6.0%	9	

*Year of data is approximate in many cases.
**1 is best, 46 is worst.
*** Data include paternity acknowledgements.
**** BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Lexington County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Education (continued)

Indicators		Number					Percent				
	Most Recent Year	1980*	1990*	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres
Grade 8 Math below state standards**	2002	987	446	861	-12.8%	+93.0%	38.3	16.8	24.8	-35.2%	47.6%
White males	*2002*	*404*	*163*	*284*	*-29.7%*	*+74.2%*	*33.2*	*14.0*	*20.1*	*-39.5%*	*43.6%*
White females	*2002*	*349*	*143*	*283*	*-18.9%*	*+97.9%*	*33.5*	*13.1*	*20.8*	*-37.9%*	*58.8%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*118*	*67*	*152*	*+28.8%*	*+126.9%*	*73.7*	*35.3*	*44.8*	*-39.2%*	*26.9%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*115*	*71*	*142*	*+23.5%*	*+100.0%*	*75.2*	*34.6*	*39.0*	*-48.1%*	*12.7%*
Grade 8 Reading below state standards**	2002	735	413	713	-3.0%	+72.6%	28.4	15.5	20.5	-27.8%	32.3%
White males	*2002*	*325*	*188*	*267*	*-17.8%*	*+42.0%*	*26.7*	*16.1*	*18.8*	*-29.6%*	*16.8%*
White females	*2002*	*206*	*116*	*187*	*-9.2%*	*+61.2%*	*19.7*	*10.6*	*13.8*	*-29.9%*	*30.2%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*112*	*60*	*146*	*+30.4%*	*+143.3%*	*69.6*	*31.4*	*42.9*	*-38.4%*	*36.6%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*91*	*48*	*113*	*+24.2%*	*+135.4%*	*59.5*	*23.3*	*31.1*	*-47.7%*	*33.5%*
Grade 9 Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT	1998	NA	612	560	NA	-8.5%	NA	22.4	16.4	NA	-26.8%
White males	*1998*	*NA*	*257*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*21.8*	*14.2*	*NA*	*-34.9%*
White females	*1998*	*NA*	*168*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*14.6*	*9.5*	*NA*	*-34.9%*
African American and Other males	*1998*	*NA*	*108*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*51.2*	*37.6*	*NA*	*-26.6%*
African American and Other females	*1998*	*NA*	*79*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*41.4*	*31.7*	*NA*	*-23.4%*
Exit Exam (not passing all parts on 1st attempt)	2002	799	396	645	-19.3%	+62.9%	29.1	16.1	21.3	-26.8%	32.3%
White males	*2002*	*312*	*176*	*236*	*-24.4%*	*+34.1%*	*25.9*	*16.0*	*19.8*	*-23.6%*	*23.8%*
White females	*2002*	*244*	*101*	*190*	*-22.1%*	*+88.1%*	*20.9*	*9.8*	*15.4*	*-26.3%*	*57.1%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*135*	*53*	*106*	*-21.5%*	*+100.0%*	*66.5*	*37.1*	*40.2*	*-39.5%*	*8.4%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*105*	*66*	*112*	*+6.7%*	*+69.7%*	*63.6*	*37.1*	*33.4*	*-47.5%*	*-10.0%*
Dropout Rate (8th graders no longer enrolled in 12th grade 4 years later)	2000-02	565	601	836	+48.0%	+39.2%	19.7	20.6	24.0	21.7%	16.6%
White males	*2000-02*	*266*	*272*	*410*	*+54.3%*	*+50.6%*	*20.4*	*21.0*	*27.9*	*36.4%*	*33.0%*
White females	*2000-02*	*218*	*238*	*274*	*+25.8%*	*+15.3%*	*17.9*	*19.0*	*19.7*	*10.1%*	*3.7%*
African American and Other males	*2000-02*	*54*	*64*	*89*	*+67.0%*	*+40.7%*	*30.1*	*32.2*	*28.4*	*-5.8%*	*-11.9%*
African American and Other females	*2000-02*	*28*	*27*	*63*	*+123.8%*	*+132.1%*	*16.6*	*15.5*	*20.2*	*21.7%*	*30.6%*
Young Adults Not Completing High School (18-24)	2000	4,501	3,973	4,209	-6.5%	+5.9%	25.9	23.9	13.5	-47.7%	-43.3%
White males	*NA*	*2,131*	*1,799*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*28.0*	*25.7*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
White females	*NA*	*1,519*	*1,443*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*20.1*	*20.1*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other males	*NA*	*404*	*432*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*42.0*	*35.2*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other females	*NA*	*447*	*299*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*34.9*	*24.3*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*

Economics

Poverty Rate	2000	4,785	4,647	6,373	+33.2%	+37.1%	11.1	10.6	11.4	2.7%	7.5%
White children	*2000*	*2,756*	*2,735*	*3,548*	*+28.7%*	*+29.7%*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.9*	*8.2%*	*8.2%*
African American and Other children	*2000*	*1,963*	*1,912*	*2,825*	*+43.9%*	*+47.8%*	*37.2*	*29.2*	*25.3*	*-31.9%*	*-13.2%*
Income of Families w/children (1999 $)	2000	$ 49,399	$ 55,133	$ 58,328	+18.1%	+5.8%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
White families	*2000*	*$ 51,182*	*$ 57,776*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other families	*2000*	*$ 31,685*	*$ 35,446*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*

Adolescent Risk Factors

Teenage Pregnancy (ages 14-17)	2001	216	230	163	-24.5%	-29.1%	4.2	4.7	2.7	-36.2%	-42.6%
White	*2001*	*172*	*164*	*112*	*-34.9%*	*-31.7%*	*3.9*	*4.0*	*2.2*	*-42.9%*	*-45.0%*
African American and Other	*2001*	*44*	*66*	*51*	*+15.9%*	*-22.7%*	*6.9*	*9.4*	*4.8*	*-30.2%*	*-48.9%*
Delinquency	2002	194	434	594	+206.2%	+36.9%	2.5	5.5	6.6	165.2%	20.5%
White males	*2002*	*102*	*225*	*288*	*+182.4%*	*+28.0%*	*3.0*	*6.4*	*8.0*	*165.9%*	*24.7%*
White females	*2002*	*70*	*120*	*150*	*+114.3%*	*+25.0%*	*2.1*	*3.5*	*4.2*	*99.5%*	*19.7%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*14*	*75*	*107*	*+664.3%*	*+42.7%*	*3.2*	*17.0*	*12.0*	*275.7%*	*-29.3%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*8*	*14*	*49*	*+512.5%*	*+250.0%*	*1.7*	*2.9*	*5.6*	*227.5%*	*92.0%*

*Closest available data to this year was used in many cases.
**BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Kids Count 2003

McCormick County

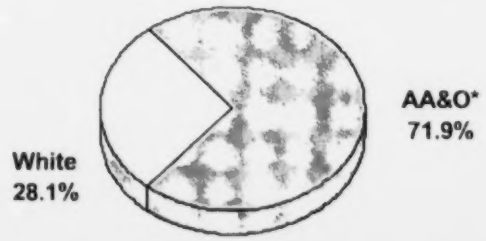
DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2000 there were an estimated 1,937 children under age 18 in the county. Of these, 545 were White, 1,347 were African-American, and 45 were other races. There were 2,139 children under age 18 in 1990, 2,568 in 1980, 3,353 in 1970, and 4,077 in 1960.

Children represent a shrinking portion of the county's population. Those under 18 constituted 19.5% of the population in 2000, down from 47.2% in 1960, 42.1% in 1970, and 32.9% in 1980.

In 2000 the 498 pre-schoolers under age 6 were 5.0% of the overall population: 2.9% of Whites and 6.5% of African Americans.

Figure 1: Population Ages 0-17 in 2000



* In all charts African-American is combined with other races, and often abbreviated as AA&O. Other races comprise 2.3% of children in the county, with "two or more races" at 1.0% and "some other race alone" at 0.9% as the largest Other groups.

FAMILY

Families have always been the most important influence in a child's life. Children depend on their families for material needs, stimulation and guidance. Family life is different in numerous ways from previous generations, and many families now face exceptional challenges.

Families with children now make up a smaller share of all households. Only 94.2% of all households in 2000, as compared with 47.0% of households in 1960, had children below the age of 18.

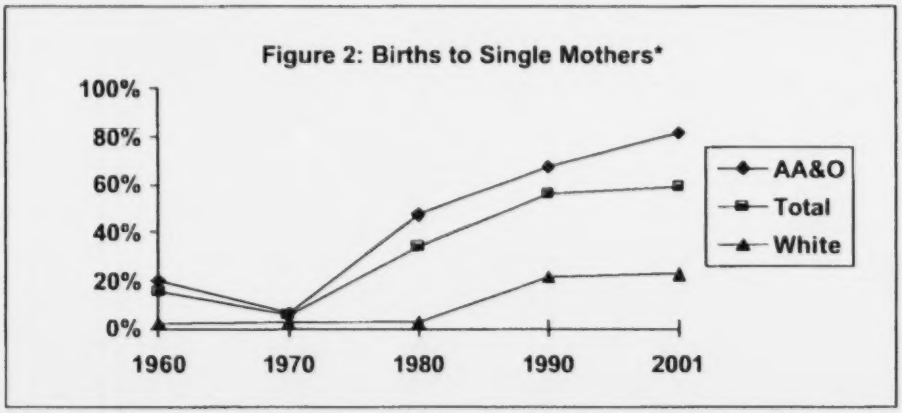
Births to Teen Mothers: In 2001, 3 babies were born to mothers younger than age 18. They were 3.8% of all babies born in the county; 0.0% of all White and 6.1% of all African-American and Other babies were born to teen mothers under the age of 18. Of the babies born to these teens in 2001, 100.0% were born to single mothers, including babies whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers.

In 2001, 12 babies were born to mothers younger than age 20. These babies were 15.0% of all born in the county; 3.2% of all White and 22.4% of all African-American and Other babies were born to mothers under the age of 20. Of the babies born to these mothers in 2001, 100.0% were born to single mothers, including paternity acknowledeged babies.

Education of Mothers Giving Birth: Children's success is strongly influenced by the education of their parents. In 2001, 10 babies, 12.7% of all babies, were born to mothers of all ages who had not completed the 12th grade. In 2001, 6.7% of White and 16.3% of African-American and Other babies were born to mothers who had completed less than the 12th grade. This is a substantial improvement from 39.8% in 1970. In addition, during 2001, 54.4% had completed 12 grades (43.3% of Whites and 61.2% of African Americans and Others) and 32.9% had more than a high school degree (50.0% of Whites and 22.4% of African American and Others).

Births to Single Mothers: Births to single mothers have increased steadily over four decades. In 2001, 36 babies, 45.0% of all babies, were recorded as born to single mothers. A decade earlier in 1990, the percentage was 53.4% and in 1960 it was 15.7%. In 2001, 19.4% of White children and 61.2% of African-American and Other children were born to single mothers. These numbers, however, do not include paternity acknowlegement births.

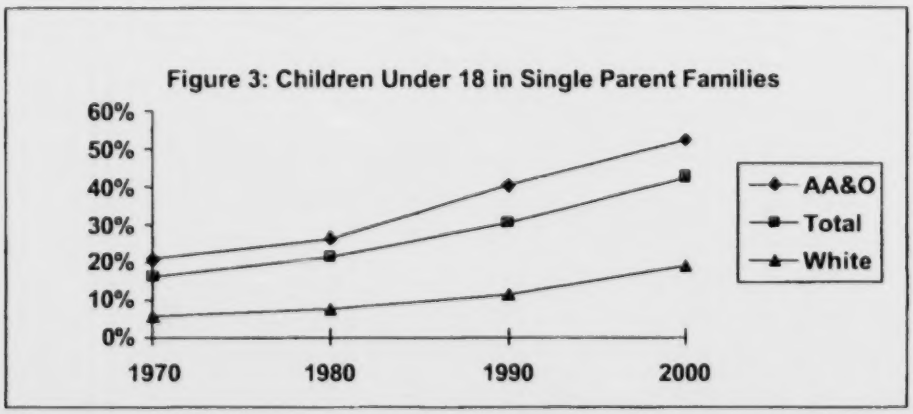
Thus, to these numbers should be added an additional group of 11 babies, 13.8% of all born in 2001, whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers. When the paternity-acknowledged babies are added, the total number born to single mothers in 2001 was 47, constituting 58.8% of all babies, 22.6% of White babies and 81.6% of African-American and Others.



*Includes paternity acknowleged babies in 1980, 1990 and 2001. Prior to 1979, paternity acknowleged cases were not a statistical category, and thus were included in births to single mothers.

Divorce Rate: In 2001, 139 marriage licenses were issued, while 11 divorce decrees involving 6 children were filed. In 1970, only 2 children were in families involved in divorce.

Single-Parent Family: Increasing numbers of children live in single-parent families. In 2000, 624 children lived with only one parent. This was 42.6% of all children, up from 30.3% in 1990, 21.2% in 1980, and 16.0% in 1970. In 2000, 18.8% of White and 52.5% of African-American and Other children lived in single-parent families. Also in 2000, 163 of 39.3% of children under age 6 lived in single parent families: 12.0% of White and 51.0% of African American and Other pre-schoolers.



Parents Working and Child Care: Increasingly, parents must divide their time between children and employers. In order to meet family financial needs, most parents must work and thus have less time for family life. In 2000, 77.3% of mothers with children under 6 and 76.0% with children 6 - 17 were in the labor force. This has increased substantially from 1960 when 28.9% of mothers with children under 6 were in the labor force. Most fathers also work: 72.5% of children under 6 are in families where the single parent or both parents work. Caring for children is a problem for parents unable to obtain quality, affordable daycare while they are at work.

Overall, there are 143 spaces in state-regulated childcare facilities* in the county, 91.6% of these are in licensed programs and 8.4% are in registered programs. Of the spaces, 91.6% are in licensed childcare centers serving more than 12 children, 8.4% are in registered or licensed family childcare homes serving six or fewer children, 0.0% are in licensed group childcare homes serving 7-12 children, and 0.0% are in registered or licensed church programs.

The homes and centers are severely constrained by the limited ability of parents to pay. In the area, the average weekly charge is $ 65.83 for centers and $ 57.63 for homes. Consequently, center wages are low: 0% of centers with pre-school staff and 100% of centers with assistant pre-school staff report paying these staff under $6 per hour. Paying $6-$8 per hour are 0% of centers with pre-school staff and 0% of centers with assistants. Low wages attract workers with limited education. In 0% of centers, most pre-school staff and in 0% of centers most assistants have only a high school degree. In 0% of centers few to none of the pre-school staff have early childhood credentials. In childcare homes, 100% of lead providers have no more education than a high school degree or GED; 50% have less than a high school degree.

Family Violence: In 2000, 69 domestic assaults were recorded by law enforcement officials. These domestic assaults comprised 30.4% of all assaults, which include aggravated assaults, simple assaults, and intimidation. Overall, 55.1% of all domestic assaults involve spouse abuse which constitutes 16.7% of all assaults. Since most family violence is not reported, the true incidence of family disruption is much more widespread than even the large number of reported cases would indicate.

Separation from Parents: Some children do not live with their natural parents. In 2000, 8.6% of all children did not live with their natural parents. Approximately 6 or 0.3% of all children lived with relatives, 31 or 1.6% lived with non-relatives, 4 or 0.2% were householders or spouses, and 126 or 6.5% were in institutional facilities.

Abuse and Neglect: In 2000-01, there were 29 investigations into reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children. Through its investigations, the Department of Social Services (DSS) determined that 12 of the investigations were indicated for abuse or neglect: 30.8% for physical abuse, 0.0% for sexual abuse, 0.0% for mental injury, 53.8% for physical neglect, 0.0% for educational neglect, 0.0% for medical neglect, 15.4% for threat of harm for physical/sexual abuse, and 0.0% for other types of abuse.

In the indicated cases of abuse and neglect, DSS determined there were 19 children who were victims of abuse or neglect. Of these, 47.4% were male, 52.6% were female; 21.1% were White, 79.0% were African-American and Other. By age, 33.3% were ages 0 - 5, 55.6% were ages 6 - 12, and 11.1% were ages 13 - 17. In the indicated cases, 15.8% of the children lived in two-parent families, 63.2% in single parent families, 21.1% with unmarried couples, and 0.0% in other circumstances.

Out of Home Placements: As of June 2001, 10 children lived in foster care. The median age at first placement in the county is 2.1 years. The ages of children in foster care were 20.0% 0-2, 10.0% 3-5, 30.0% 6-10, 20.0% 11-13, and 20.0% 14 and above. The foster care population is 70.0% males and 30.0% females. Regarding their future, 30.0% were under a plan for placement in adoptive homes, 30.0% for return to a parent or guardian, 10.0% for placement with a relative, 10.0% for independent living, 20.0% for permanent foster care, and 0.0% for other circumstances.

Adult/Child Ratio: A measure of potential adult attention for children from family and community is the ratio of adults to children and youth. In 2000 there were 4.14 adults for every person below age 18. This was up substantially from 1960, when there were only 1.12 adults for every person under the age 18. This indicates that today there are more adults potentially available to provide attention and care for each child than in the past.

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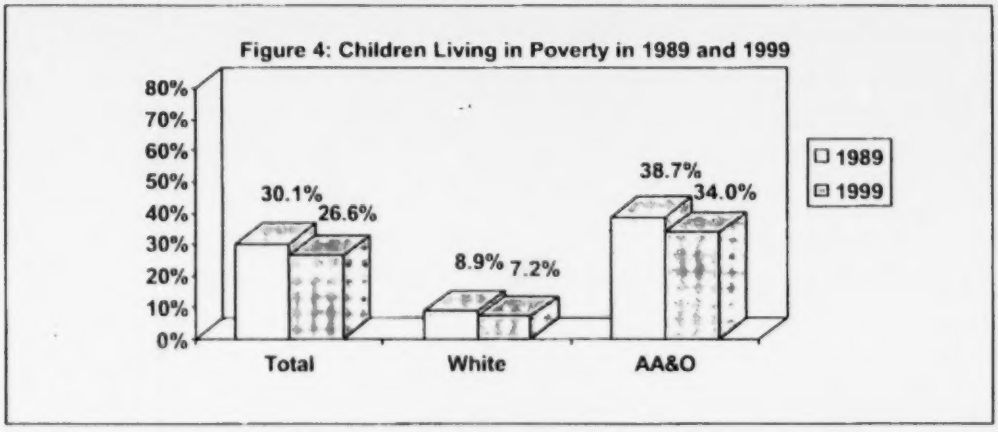
* This data is the best currently available; however, an effort is being made to check the coverage and improve the accuracy. As soon as more recent and complete data becomes available, it will be posted on the website.

ECONOMIC STATUS

Low income makes it difficult for many families to provide the material and environmental enrichment necessary for healthy child development.

Poverty: In 1999, 506 children and youth under the age of 18 lived in 255 families with incomes below poverty, comprising 26.6% of all children and youth: 7.2% of Whites and 34.0% of African-Americans and Others. A rough estimate of child poverty in 2001 calculated by the Census Bureau was 23.0%.



Poverty has always been a serious problem. While the rate among children under age 18 in 1989 was 30.1%, it was 35.2% in 1979 and 49.6% in 1969.

Children and the elderly are the age groups most seriously affected by poverty. In 1999, 30.2% of children 0 - 5 (11.6% White, 34.4% African-American and Other), and 24.6% of children 6 - 17 (6.3% White, 32.4% African-American and Other), lived in poverty; 11.9% of persons 65 years and older lived in poverty. Historically, the poverty rate among the elderly was much higher. During the last three decades, federal policy actions have substantially improved the economic status of older persons but have not done so for children.

Single-parent families are most likely to be poor. In 1999, 40.7% of children in single-parent families lived in poverty, but only 14.2% of children in married-couple families were poor. Children in single-parent families made up 68.7% of all the county's children living in poverty.

In 2002, the poverty level was $15,020 for a family of three and $18,100 for a family of four. The poverty threshold is often criticized as an arbitrary number. People can still be poor but may be just above the poverty level. Federal programs utilize varying thresholds. For example, in 1999 there were 1,054 children ages 0-17 who were less than 200 percent of poverty; thus an additional 548 children were above the poverty level but could still be considered poor or near-poor with incomes below $30,040 and $36,200 respectively for 3 and 4 person families.

Children Under 18 in Poverty in 1999

Percent of Poverty	Total		White		African American & Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 50%	221	11.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 100%	506	26.6%	38	7.2%	468	34.0%
Under 125%	634	33.4%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 150%	825	43.4%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 175%	948	49.9%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 185%	972	51.1%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 200%	1,054	55.4%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total Children	1,937		545		1,392	

Note: Missing data will be released by the Census Bureau later in 2003, and will be posted on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

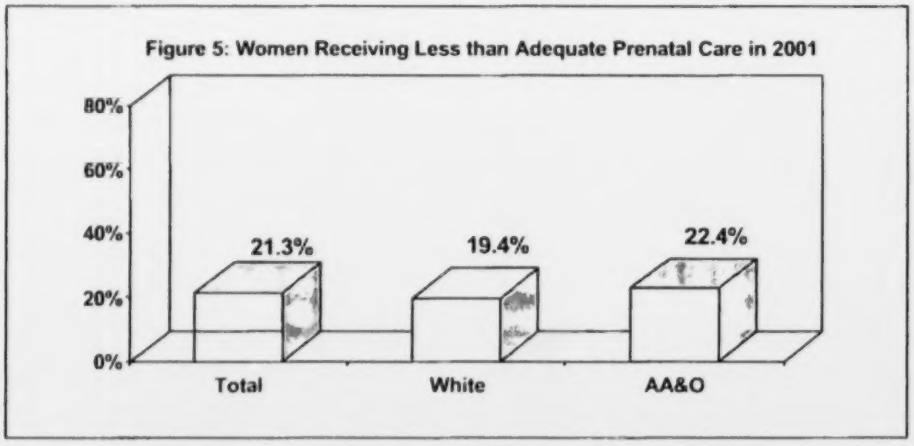
Income: The mean income of families with children in 1999 was $33,532. In 1989 it was $36,556, and 1979, it was $32,370, adjusted for inflation (i.e., in 1999 dollars). The mean income of single-parent families with children was $18,500 for single parents in 1999, as compared with $46,704 in married-couple families with children. From 1999 to 2000, McCormick County real dollar per capita income (eliminating inflation) increased by 1.3%.

Child Support Payments: There were 89[7] families receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families in fiscal year 2002, but only 31.5 % had child support court orders. Their average monthly payment of child support was $ 228, including child support receipts and tax refund intercepts. In addition, during fiscal year 2002, an estimated 173 parents in non-TANF families were obligated to pay a monthly average of $ 220. Information is not available regarding the amount actually paid.

HEALTH

Good health during a child's formative years helps children to reach their maximum potential. Good health requires healthy lifestyles and effective primary care, starting during the prenatal period and continuing through adolescence into adulthood. Children's health reflects the well-being of the community, as well as how adequately they are protected.

Prenatal Care: Early and continuous prenatal care can make a significant difference in assuring births of healthy babies. Delayed or insufficient prenatal care is associated with low birthweight and other health risks for infants. In 2001, 12, or 15.0% of pregnant women received no prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy. In 2001, 17, or 21.3% of pregnant women received less than adequate prenatal care: 6 or 19.4% of Whites and 11 or 22.4% of African-Americans and Others. In that same year, women received no prenatal care at all.



Low Birthweight: Low birthweight of less than 5.5 pounds and very low birthweight of less than 3.3 pounds are associated with health risks and growth and development problems. In 2001, 7 or 8.8% of all babies in the county were born with low birthweight: 10.2% of African-American and Other babies and 6.5% of White babies. During 1999-2001, approximately 9 or 3.5% of all babies were born with very low birthweight and had the most serious complications: 2.3% of White babies and 4.2% of African-American and Other babies. The cost of hospitalization for each newborn low birthweight baby in the county in 1999 - 2001 was $9,772 and $51,741 for each very low birthweight baby, compared with $1,777 for a baby of normal birthweight. The result was excess cost in the county of $164,549 for all low birthweight babies, of which $116,582 was for very low birthweight babies.

Infant Mortality: During the decade since 1989-91, the overall infant mortality rate increased by 159.1% from 6.1 to 15.7 per 1000 live births. For Whites, the rate decreased 100.0% from 10.9 to 0.0 per 1000 live births, while for African-Americans and Others the rate increased 471.1% from 4.2 to 24.1 per 1000 live births. Over the three-year period 1999-2001, 0 White and 4 African-American and Other infants died before age one. By comparison, 1 White and 1 African-American and Other infants died during 1989-91.

[7] Number is an unduplicated count for the entire fiscal year.

Child Injuries and Deaths: Childhood deaths and injuries reflect whether communities are safe for children. In 2001, children in the McCormick County went to the emergency room 153 times because of injuries. Boys are injured more often than girls. Children visit the emergency room at comparable rates for each age from 0 to 17.

In South Carolina, the major causes of death among young children are unintentional injuries, cancer, homicide, and congenital anomalies. Over the three year period 1999-2001, White and African-American and Other children ages 1-14 died in the county. During 1989-91, White and 2 African-American and Other children died.

Immunization: Immunization rates are an important indication of whether young children are receiving adequate preventive health care. During FY 1989-90, 51% of children less than two years old seen in public health clinics were not fully immunized against such preventable diseases as Polio, Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Haemophilus Influenza B and Whooping Cough. After a concerted statewide campaign to increase immunizations, the percentage of children seen in public health clinics who were not fully immunized in January 2001 had declined in the county to 4.9%. The DHEC statewide birth registry survey of all two year old children found that 88.1% were fully immunized in 2001. This success demonstrates the potential to improve the status of children when the leadership of the state and its communities act decisively together.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Children and youth are infected with sexually transmitted diseases through sexual abuse or irresponsible sexual activity. National prevalence rates indicate: a 1 in 8 chance that sexually active 15 year-old girls will develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), the most rapidly increasing cause of infertility; 10% of sexually active adolescent girls and boys are infected with chlamydia, the most common cause of PID; and as many as 15% of teen girls are infected with human papilloma virus, often with strains linked to cervical cancer. Furthermore, research evidence indicates that susceptibility to HIV/AIDS increases by 3 to 8 times through prior infection with various STDs.

According to national studies, approximately 1 in 4 sexually experienced youth aged 13-19 acquires a STD eve year; since two-thirds of all high school students have had sexual intercourse and half engage in intercourse over a thr month period, this would suggest that 10-15% of teens are infected with STDs annually. For 2000, this would indicate th an estimated 91 to 136 youth ages 13-19 in the county were infected with a STD. Many infections are either not identifi for treatment or not reported. In the county, there were 6 reported cases of children under age 15 and 25 youth ages 1 19 infected with gonorrhea; 4 youth under 15 and 56 ages 15 - 19 were reported infected with chlamydia. Youth wi undiagnosed and untreated STDs often spread their infections.

Healthy Lifestyles: Although no county data is available, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2001 found that ma high school students are not following good health habits. The YRBS revealed that 26% felt that they were overweight; 42 were trying to lose weight: 27% of boys and 57% of girls. Although during a week 79% of high school students ate fru 59% ate salad, and over 83% ate vegetables, only 17% ate the recommended five or more servings of fruit and vegetabl per day. During a week, 49% did stretching or muscle strengthening exercises, and 59% exercised three or more times f 20 minutes in sports that made them sweat or breathe hard. However, 11% of students engaged in no vigorous or modera activity at all during a week: 8% of boys and 13% of girls.

Tobacco Use:* Cigarette smoking starts at a young age and often becomes habitual. In the state during 2002 among all students 15 and older, 16.7% first smoked by age 11, 36.3% by age 13, and 51.4% by age 15. In a typical month, 17.1% of 7th and 8th graders and 25.3% of high school students smoked cigarettes. White youths were much more likely than African-Americans to smoke: 26.4% of White male and 27.2% of White female 7th to 12th graders used cigarettes, as compared with 18.9% of African-American males and 12.2% of African American females. A smaller but significant group of high school students (5.4%) used smokeless tobacco monthly; it was used primarily by White males (15.9% compared with 1.1% of all other race and sex groups).

* Schools in the county elected not to participate in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking. Therefore, data for all of South Carolina is presented here.

Disabilities: No data are collected on the true prevalence of disabilities within the county. According to national reported estimates, over 10% of children and youth have developmental disabilities at any point in time, and more than 17 are affected at some time before age 18 by deafness, blindness, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, speech defects, development delays, learning disabilities, and emotional or behavioral problems. For 2000 this suggests that at least 194 children ar youth under age 18 in the county are currently affected by disabilities.

Approximately 5% of children and youth nationally have serious disabilities which have lifelong implications fo work, social life and community living. Typically among children and youth, there are 1 - 2% who are mentally retarded, - 3% with serious emotional disturbances, over 1% with orthopedic or multiple disabilities, including cerebral palsy an many hereditary conditions, and under 1% with visual or hearing impairments.

Other chronic health problems also affect the lives of many children. Over 3% of children have one or more these limitations. Such serious chronic conditions affect 1 - 2% who have respiratory problems (asthma and chron bronchitis), 0.5 - 1.0% with neurological problems (epilepsy and seizures), and less than 1% with circulatory problen (congenital heart defects and acquired diseases).

Other disabilities are identified primarily in school performance. These would include 58 students in grades 1- with learning disabilities and 41 students in grades 1-12 with speech/language deficits.

Disabilities are caused by genetics, disease, poor prenatal conditions, injuries, and environmental factors. For example, lead exposure, primarily from paint dust, was detected in over 1% of all children screened, including 1 in McCormick County.

Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: While over 20% of 9-17 year olds meet diagnostic criteria for some form of mental disorder, the number with serious emotional disturbance and impaired functioning in family, school, or community activities is: 9-13% for substantial functional impairment and 5-9% for extreme functional impairment. The rates among poor children are at the higher end of these ranges. Based on a federal formula for estimating prevalence, in the county there are 12% or 135 seriously emotionally disturbed 9-17 year olds with substantial functional impairment and 8% or 90 with extreme functional impairment during the course of a year. Conduct disorders, attention deficit, depression, and anxiety disorders are the most prevalent, each affecting 3% or more of school-aged children. These disorders may occur simultaneously in a child. The prevalence rates are highest among males, adolescents, and disadvantaged persons in communities under stress and lacking social cohesion; depression, however, is more prevalent among females. On the YRBS, 20% of boys and 33% of girls in high school reported that during the past year they felt so sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that they stopped doing some usual activities. Another indicator of emotional problems is the 8% of high school students in South Carolina who reported that they had "attempted suicide" in the past year: 5% of boys and 10% of girls. Suicide attempts resulted in 4% of high school students reporting that they required treatment by a doctor or nurse for injury, poisoning, or overdose.

Inadequate Healthcare: No county level data is routinely collected regarding the number of children and youth with inadequate healthcare. According to estimates for 2000-02 by the Bureau of the Census through the annual Current Population Survey, the statewide average rate of uninsured children and youth under age 18 in families with incomes under 200% of poverty in South Carolina was 16.6%, and 9.9% above 200% of poverty. If these rates are applied to the county, there are 175 children in the county below 200% of poverty with no health insurance, and 88 children above 200% of poverty with no health insurance, for a total of 263 uninsured children in McCormick County. The number lacking basic accessible primary care is at least double the number lacking insurance. Those lacking primary care are often dependent on health services at school. The ratio of students to nurses recommended nationally is 750:1. In the county, this would suggest the need for 1 nurses, compared with 1 currently working in the schools.

Medicaid: For several years, the State of South Carolina has emphasized enrolling eligible children into Medicaid. In late 1997, South Carolina implemented its version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, Partners for Healthy Children (PHC), and aggressively pursued outreach enrollment for PHC and Medicaid. As a result, enrollment of children ages 0 through 18 in McCormick County has increased by 81.8% from June 1997 to June 2001; thus Medicaid and PHC were serving 51.2% of all children in that age range. The total Medicaid expenditures in South Carolina for services provided to children ages 0 through 18 for state fiscal year 2002 were $991 million, at an average statewide expenditure of $2,343 per child enrolled, approximate Medicaid expenditure for children in the county would be $2.3 million.

In June 2001, the total number of McCormick County children, birth through 18, enrolled in Medicaid was 991. The total can be broken down into the following age and race groupings:

	White	African American	Hispanic	Other	Total
Children under 1	21	56	0	0	77
Children 1 - 5	47	225	0	7	279
Children 6 - 14	67	381	0	9	457
Children 15 - 18	23	153	0	2	178
Total	158	815	0	18	991

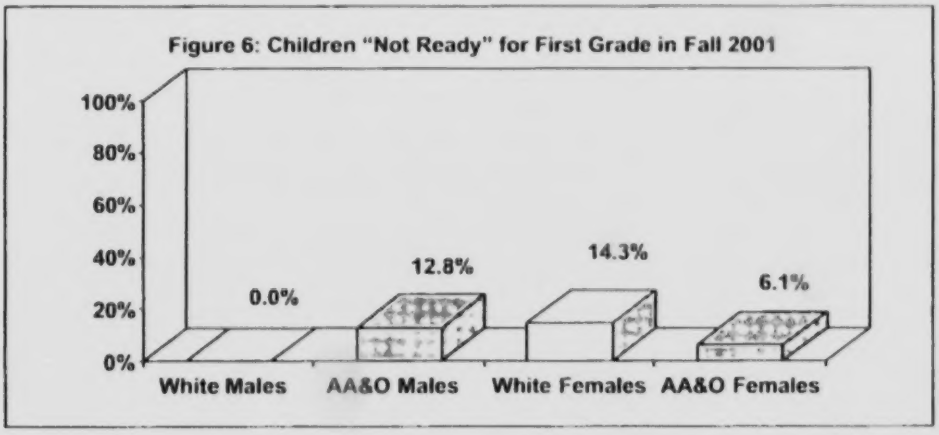
Ambulatory Care: When children lack adequate primary care, whether through lack of insurance, through limite access, or through failing to utilize available care, preventable and treatable conditions become serious and requi hospitalization. A useful indicator of inadequate primary care is the percentage of all hospitalizations that could typicall have been avoided through ambulatory care, especially for pneumonia, asthma, diarrhea and vomiting, dehydration, a severe ear, nose, and throat infections. The share of hospitalizations for these types of conditions could normally be ke below 20%; for children in the county under the age of 18 during 2001, the share was 33.3% for Whites and 17.1% f African-Americans and Others.

READINESS AND EARLY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Too many children reach school without the readiness skills needed for success in learning, such as language, soc skills, visual and auditory discrimination, memory recall, and knowledge of colors, letters, numbers, names of objects, et Likewise, some schools are not ready to respond appropriately to the varying developmental levels of children in the ear grades. As a result, too many students do not experience the success needed to create the motivation and engagement th sustain learning.

1st Grade "Readiness" on 2001-02 Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB):

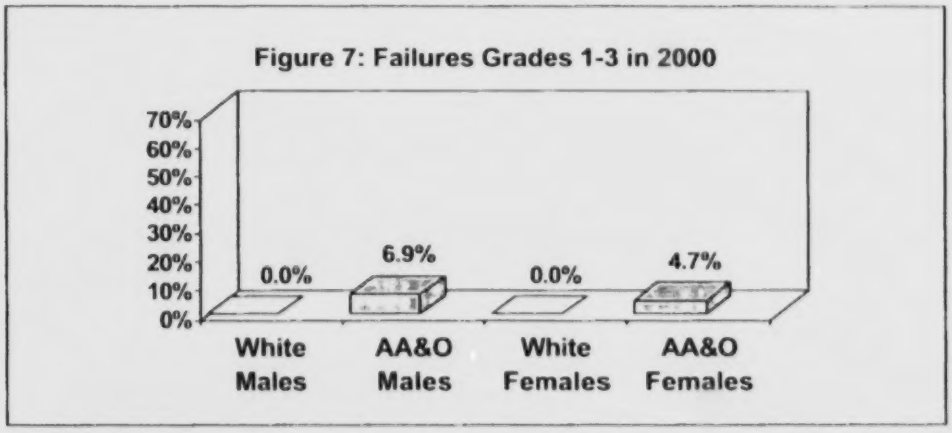
8 children not ready 9.5% children not ready



1st Grade Failures in 2002:

4 children failing 4.5% children failing

Failures Grades 1-3 in 2002 (approximate cumulative percentage of grades one, two and three):	
6 children failing	7.0% children failing



Over-age for Grade 3 in 2001	
14 children over-age	17.7% children over-age

Special Education: Large numbers of children are placed in special education classes. In elementary school, 24 six and seven year olds and 26 eight and nine year-olds were enrolled in special education classes during 2001-02, approximately 15.5% and 16.5% of their age groups respectively: 13.6% of White 8 – 9 year olds were in special education and 16.9% of African American and Others.

Readiness Summary: A serious problem exists in terms of student readiness and school success in the early grades. With 9.5% assessed not ready for the 1st grade, 17.7% over age in grade 3, and 16.5% of eight and nine year-olds placed in special education, unacceptably large numbers of students still begin school without good prospects of success in future school achievement and graduation; however, great improvement has occurred since the mid 1990s.

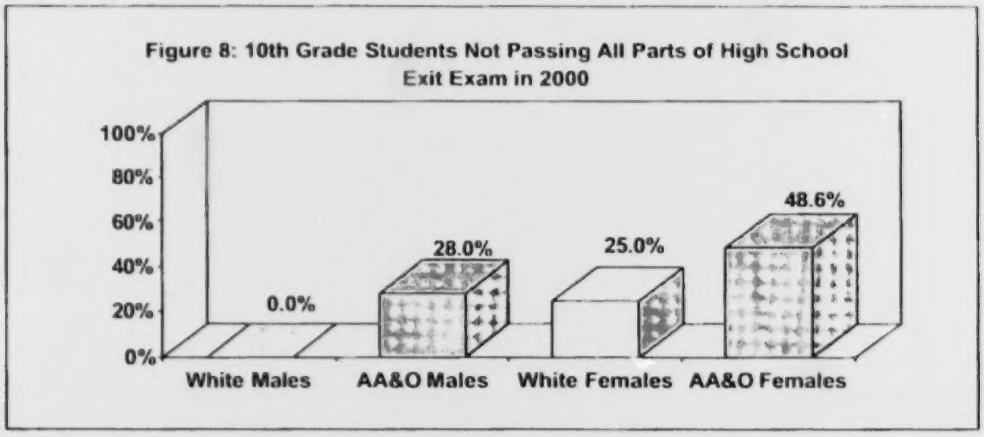
School Achievement

By the end of elementary school, significant numbers of students perform below minimum standards. The following standardized test measures, comparing student performance to state minimum standards, should be used in combination with routine classroom assessments more reflective of real-world performance skills.

Special Education: Special education placements reflect both the significant number of children with serious handicapping conditions and a large number of students with mild learning and behavioral problems that have not been accommodated successfully by the regular educational program. The result is a large system of self-contained, resource, and itinerant services to meet the needs of 41 speech and language impaired, 58 learning disabled, 11 emotionally disabled, 33 mentally impaired, and 10 physically handicapped, deaf, blind, and other handicapped students. Special education classes served approximately 14.3% of all students in grades 1 - 12 during 2001-2002.

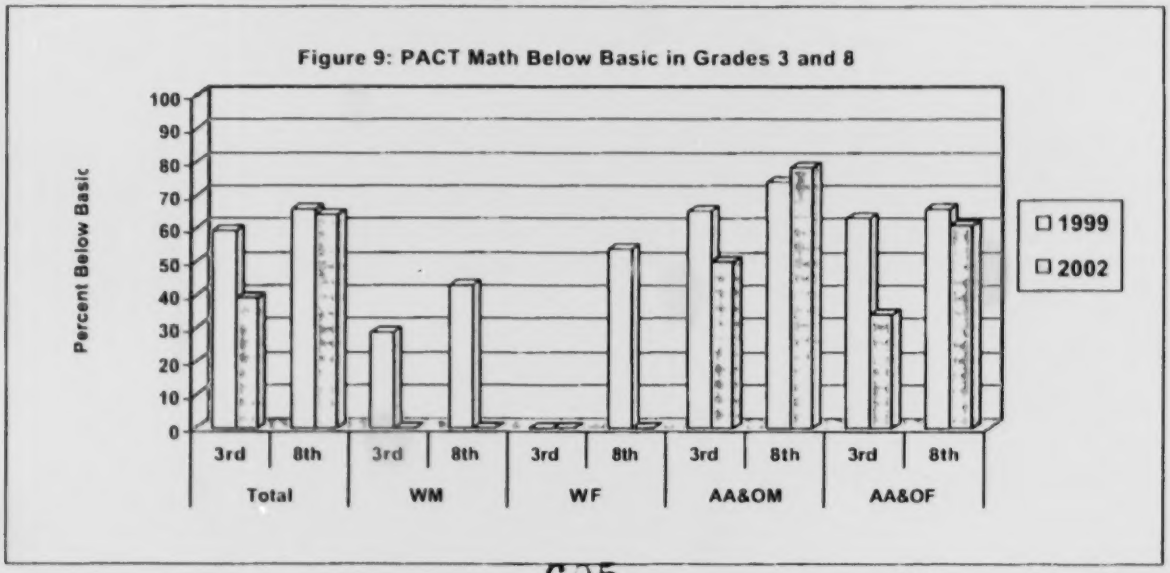
Exit Exam - not passing all parts of Exit Exam on first attempt in the 10th grade in 2002

27 students did not pass all parts — 37.0% of students did not pass all parts



Achievement Trends: How has performance on standardized achievement tests changed over the past 20 years? During the 1980s, student performance on the BSAP tests improved dramatically. Between 1981 and 1990, the percentage of 8th grade students in McCormick County who did not meet standards declined from 53.6% to 27.8% in math and from 70.9% to 32.2% in reading. During the 1990's the BSAP trend changed, with 35.8% not meeting 8th grade math standards in 1998 and 45.7% in reading. On standardized tests, the first year when South Carolina students take the exam is comparable to the challenge encountered by the national norm group which took the test only once. Looking at first year data, the percentage of 4th grade students at or below the 25th percentile of national norms was 52.8% in 1983 on the CTBS, 47.4% in 1990 on the Stanford, and 40.4% in 1995 on the Metropolitan; for 9th graders, the percentage in the bottom quarter was 56.8% in 1990 and 55.5% in 1995. Although not comparable, the percent below basic on the 4th grade PACT in 1999, the first year of administration, was 59.1%, but in 2002 41.9% of 4th graders were below basic in reading and math; the percentage of 8th graders below basic in reading and math averaged 53.1% in 1999 and 59.3% in 2002.

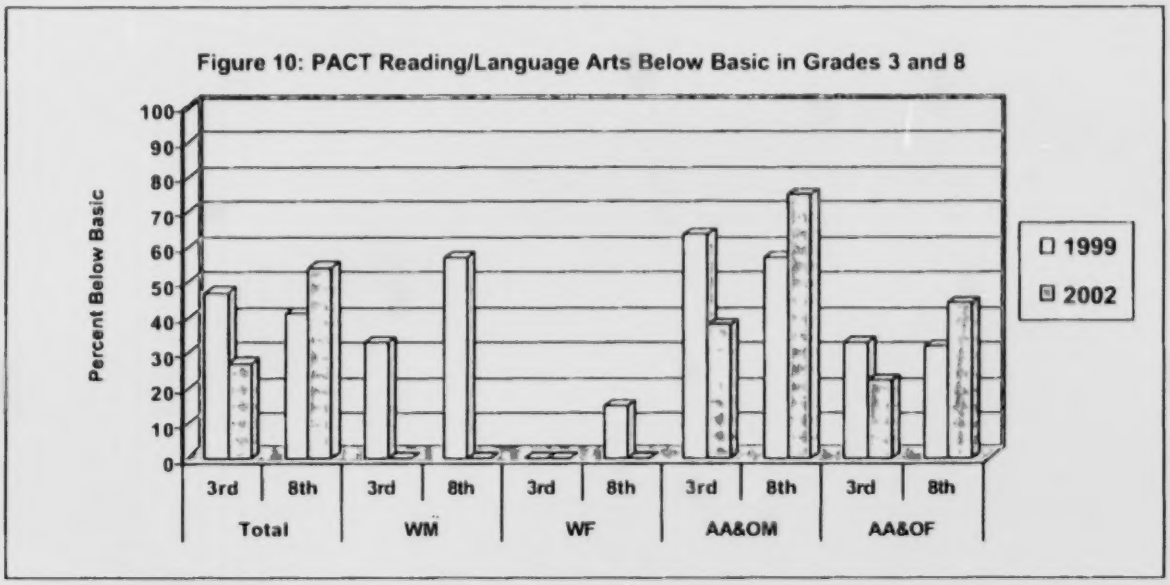
PACT: The Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) was first administered in 1999 for grades 3 - 8 in math and reading/language arts. Math assesses skills in numbers, numerical and algebraic concepts, patterns and functions, geometry, measurement, probability and statistics. The percentage of students scoring below basic in math has decreased by 10.7% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 185 students below basic in grades 3-8 but there would have been an additional 22 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
		Math (%)				
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	39.2	0.0	0.0	50.0	34.4
	4	48.6	0.0	0.0	51.4	48.3
	5	55.2	30.8	14.3	68.6	61.3
	6	50.6	0.0	0.0	54.5	47.5
	7	73.6	0.0	0.0	84.4	73.3
	8	64.3	0.0	0.0	78.6	61.1
Basic	3	40.5	0.0	0.0	41.2	46.9
	4	35.1	0.0	0.0	32.4	41.4
	5	36.8	38.5	57.1	31.4	35.5
	6	40.5	0.0	0.0	42.4	37.5
	7	18.1	0.0	0.0	12.5	16.7
	8	32.9	0.0	0.0	17.9	38.9
Proficient	3	20.3	0.0	0.0	8.8	18.8
	4	10.8	0.0	0.0	16.2	0.0
	5	5.7	23.1	14.3	0.0	3.2
	6	7.6	0.0	0.0	3.0	12.5
	7	6.9	0.0	0.0	3.1	6.7
	8	2.9	0.0	0.0	3.6	0.0
Advanced	3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	4	5.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.3
	5	2.3	7.7	14.3	0.0	0.0
	6	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.5
	7	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.3
	8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Reading/Language Arts assesses reading, listening, speaking, writing, research, and communication with technology. The first PACT assessment found a high percentage of elementary and middle grades students performing below standards and only a modest number above basic. The percentage of students scoring below basic in reading/language arts has decreased by 31.8% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 125 students below basic in grades 3 - 8 but there would have been an additional 58 at 1999 performance rates.

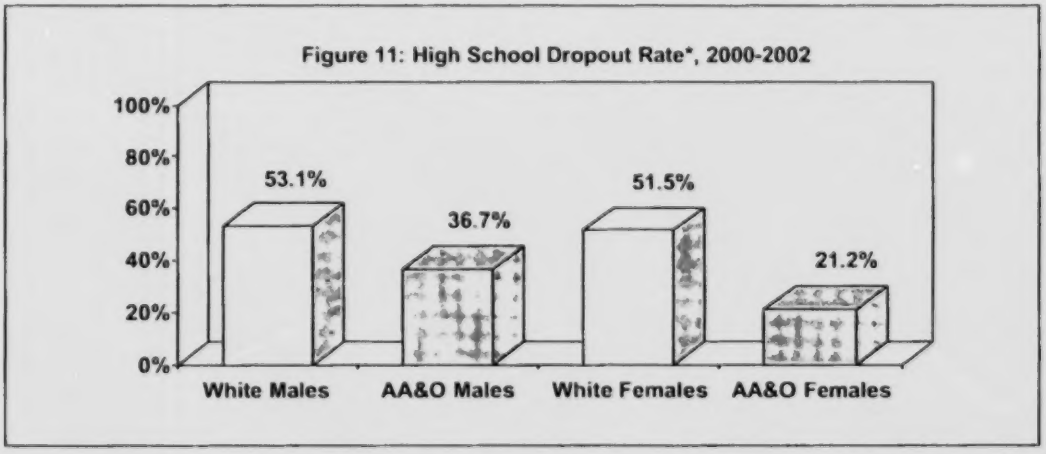
Figure 10: PACT Reading/Language Arts Below Basic in Grades 3 and 8



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
		Reading/Language Arts (%)				
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	27.0	0.0	0.0	38.2	21.9
	4	35.1	0.0	0.0	43.2	31.0
	5	46.0	38.5	14.3	62.9	38.7
	6	45.6	0.0	0.0	57.6	32.5
	7	37.5	0.0	0.0	46.9	33.3
	8	54.3	0.0	0.0	75.0	44.4
Basic	3	47.3	0.0	0.0	52.9	50.0
	4	50.0	0.0	0.0	56.8	41.4
	5	41.4	23.1	57.1	31.4	54.8
	6	39.2	0.0	0.0	33.3	47.5
	7	48.6	0.0	0.0	46.9	53.3
	8	40.0	0.0	0.0	25.0	47.2
Proficient	3	23.0	0.0	0.0	8.8	28.1
	4	14.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	27.6
	5	12.6	38.5	28.6	5.7	6.5
	6	15.2	0.0	0.0	9.1	20.0
	7	13.9	0.0	0.0	6.3	13.3
	8	4.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.6
Advanced	3	2.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	8	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.8

Dropout Rate - 8th grade students no longer enrolled in grade 12
(average of students for the three years ending 2000-2002)

33 students drop out annually **34.1% students drop out?**



Dropouts: Distressing numbers of students drop out and fail to graduate. An average of 24.7% of 8th graders failed to graduate** from county schools five years later during the period 1980-84, 33.0% during 1985-89, and 50.3% during 1990-94, 39.8% during 1995-97 and 45.6% during 1998-2000***.

During 2001-02, 94.9% of all who did graduate received the State High School Diploma, while the remaining 5.1% received a State Certificate for meeting the required Carnegie units but not passing the Exit Exam.

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*12th grade enrollment compared to 8th grade enrollment four years earlier

** This is calculated by using 8th grade enrollment to graduation data.

*** 2001 data will be available soon and will be posted on the website.

Fortunately, many dropouts enroll in adult education programs and either earn a high school diploma or obtain a GED. During 2001-02, 50 Adult Education high school diplomas were awarded to school completers and in 2001 5 GEDs were awarded in the county. Over time, adult education high school diplomas and GEDs increase the effective school completion rate substantially. In the 2000 Census, 36.2% of county resident 25 - 34 year-olds said they had not completed either high school or a GED.

Achievement Summary: The numbers of students testing below basic on the PACT and dropping out range from 27.0% to 73.6%. Thus, far too many students fail to acquire the knowledge, skills, learning habits, and motivation necessary to compete in the economy or contribute to society in the 21st Century.

ADOLESCENT RISK BEHAVIORS

Academic achievement is greatly influenced by the prevailing youth culture which often promotes popularity with peers and partying rather than studying and doing well in school. The prevalence of adolescent risk-taking and under-achievement is illustrated by the poor grades of substance-abusing teens.

Substance Abuser Rates at Levels of Academic Performance

	Usual School Grades in Past Year					Total
	A Range	B Range	C Range	D Range	F Range	
Smoked Cigarettes (in past 30 days)	13.3%	22.4%	31.7%	42.8%	63.6%	25.3%
Drank 5 or More Drinks on One Occasion (in past 30 days)	12.4%	17.3%	22.6%	26.8%	43.5%	18.9%
Used Any Illicit Drug (in past 30 days)	11.5%	17.1%	25.1%	34.1%	53.0%	20.0%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

As influence from parents and other adults declines during adolescence, significant numbers of students engage in violence, crime, school offenses, depressive emotions and attempted suicide:

Risk Behaviors Participated in During Past 12 Months	White Male		White Female		African American Male		African American Female		Total		Total (Grade 7-12)
	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	
Carried a handgun or knife for self-defense?	22.5%	26.1%	5.3%	6.3%	14.6%	20.2%	5.0%	7.6%	12.2%	14.9%	13.7%
Carried a handgun or knife as a weapon?	6.8%	9.4%	1.3%	1.6%	9.0%	13.9%	3.0%	5.0%	4.8%	6.9%	5.9%
Been in a fight with someone?	40.1%	31.3%	18.5%	16.2%	41.4%	31.9%	29.4%	22.4%	31.7%	24.9%	28.0%
Hit your boyfriend or girlfriend?	2.0%	1.6%	6.9%	10.0%	5.7%	4.9%	17.7%	24.2%	7.4%	9.7%	8.7%
Been hit by your boyfriend or girlfriend?	7.1%	6.1%	6.1%	8.5%	11.5%	9.7%	9.5%	10.6%	8.1%	8.5%	8.3%
Rec'd detention or in-school suspension?	38.1%	37.3%	22.4%	25.0%	41.6%	37.6%	34.3%	30.7%	33.3%	32.1%	32.7%
Been suspended from school?	12.9%	13.9%	5.2%	7.2%	24.0%	22.6%	14.8%	15.4%	13.1%	13.8%	13.5%
Stolen anything worth > $5?	12.9%	17.6%	6.9%	10.7%	14.2%	15.6%	8.5%	8.4%	10.4%	13.1%	11.9%
Had an accident while driving?	NA	14.3%	NA	12.6%	NA	7.7%	NA	6.3%	NA	11.0%	NA
Been arrested and booked?	3.9%	6.1%	1.5%	2.7%	5.7%	8.1%	2.2%	2.9%	3.2%	4.7%	4.0%
Felt hopeless for two weeks or more?	14.8%	15.9%	21.8%	29.0%	14.0%	13.3%	22.0%	24.8%	18.2%	21.4%	19.9%
Seriously considered attempting suicide?	6.9%	8.4%	9.6%	14.3%	5.5%	5.4%	6.8%	8.7%	7.4%	9.7%	8.7%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

Adolescence is often a time of taking risks and asserting independence from adults. When asked whether they would tell an adult about a problem, the following percentages of state students said they would be "not likely" or "very unlikely" to tell if they:

-heard a student threaten to harm someone: 33.2% middle school, 47.0% high school;
-saw a student with a handgun at school: 22.7% middle school, 20.5% high school;
-saw a student with a knife at school: 24.7% middle school, 31.6% high school;
-saw a student with drugs at school: 33.7% middle school, 61.9% high school;

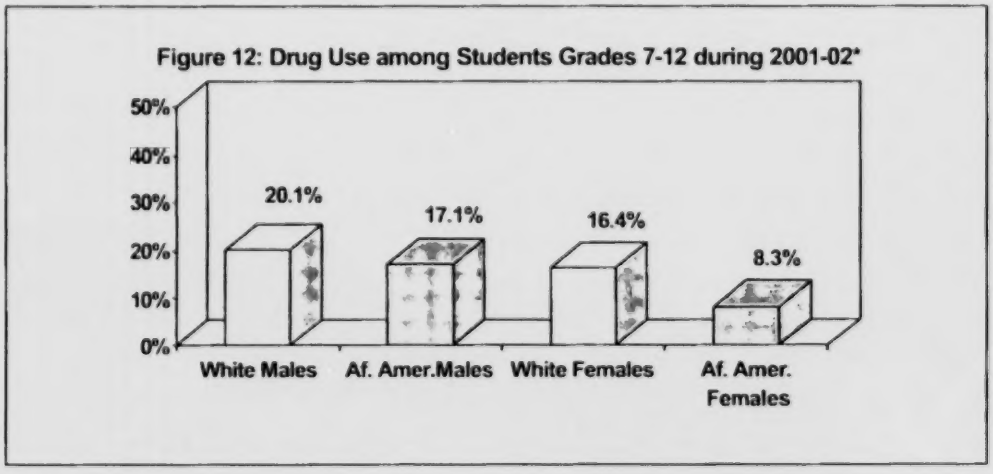
Alcohol Use:* In the state during 2001-02, 21.0% of 7th and 8th graders and 37.1% of high schoolers said they had used alcohol in the past month. Of White males in grades 7 - 12, 33.8% had used it in the past month, compared with 26.0% of African-American males; likewise, 34.5% of White females said they had used alcohol, compared with 26.4% of African-American females. Many youth first used alcohol at an early age: 14.2% had used alcohol by age 11 or younger, 33.0% by age 13, and 61.1% by age 15.

During the previous year, 21.0% of 7th and 8th graders and 30.4% of high schoolers said they had ridden with a drinking driver. Of seniors who drive, 19.4% said they had driven after drinking. Widespread use is encouraged by the ready availability and perceived low risk of alcohol use. Among students who expressed an opinion, 43.6% of eighth graders and 75.4% of seniors felt that beer was easy to get. Also, 71.6% of eighth graders and 70.7% of seniors felt there was not a great risk in drinking two drinks a day, and 47.3% of eighth graders and 53.1% of high schoolers felt there was not a great risk in drinking 5 drinks every weekend.

Heavy Drinking:* In 2001-02, 7.7% of 7th and 8th graders and 18.9% of high school students in the state repor drinking 5 or more drinks in a day during the past month. When asked how many drinks, if any, they usually consur 13.7% of all state students in grades 7 - 12 in 2001-02 responded 3 or more drinks at a time and 7.1% reported usually 5 more drinks. Among high school students, 18.6% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 10.0% 5 or mc Among seniors, 24.7% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 13.7% 5 or more; however 22.9% of seni said that they drank 5 or more drinks in a day once or more during the past month.

Drugs:* In 2001-02, 9.5% of 7th and 8th graders and 20.1% of high schoolers in the state reported using ille drugs during the previous month. Among students in grades 7 - 12, use was reported by 20.1% of White males, 16.4% Wl females, 17.1% of African-American males, and 8.3% of African-American females. Some young people initiated drug at an early age: 5.3% had experienced their first use by age 11 or sooner; 16.3% had used a drug by age 13, and 34.7% by 15.

In the past year, 10.3% of all high school students in the state who drive and 15.4% of seniors who drive said that they had driven after using drugs. Such use is encouraged by the ready availability of drugs: 22.3% of 8th graders who had an opinion said it is easy to get marijuana and 8.4% said it is easy to get cocaine or crack; 65.0% of seniors said it is easy to get marijuana and 29.5% said it was easy to get cocaine or crack.



* Schools in the county elected not to participate in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking. Therefore, data for all of South Carolina is presented here. The latest McCormick County data, for 1992-93, is available on the Kids Count website at www.sckidscount.org.

Sexual Activity and Pregnancy: Many teenagers now engage in sexual activity. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) administered to a representative sample of high school students throughout South Carolina in 2001 showed that sexual activity begins at an early age: 7% of female and 21% of male students have engaged in intercourse before age 13; by age 15, 38% the females and 49% of males have engaged in sexual intercourse. Statewide, 48% of females and 50% of males in the 11th and 12th grades reported engaging in intercourse during the past three months. Furthermore, 27% of female and 33% of male 12th graders have had intercourse with four or more partners during their lifetimes.

Premature sexual activity often results in pregnancy. In the county, 10 girls between the ages of 14 and 17 became pregnant in 1999, 9 in 2000 and 4 in 2001. This represented 1.7% of all girls ages 14 – 17 in 2001; several times this percentage become pregnant at least once by age 18. The 2001 pregnancy rate for ages 14 - 17 was 0.0% for Whites and 2.4% for African-Americans and Others. Of all pregnancies of 14-17 year olds, 75.0% resulted in live births with almost all other pregnancies ending in abortions.

Teen pregnancy rates increased substantially across the state during the 1980s; as a result, greater emphasis was devoted to preventing teen pregnancy. Since 1989, the teen pregnancy rate in McCormick County has decreased by 64.4%. Overall, it has decreased by 100.0% for Whites, and decreased by 41.5% for African Americans and Others.

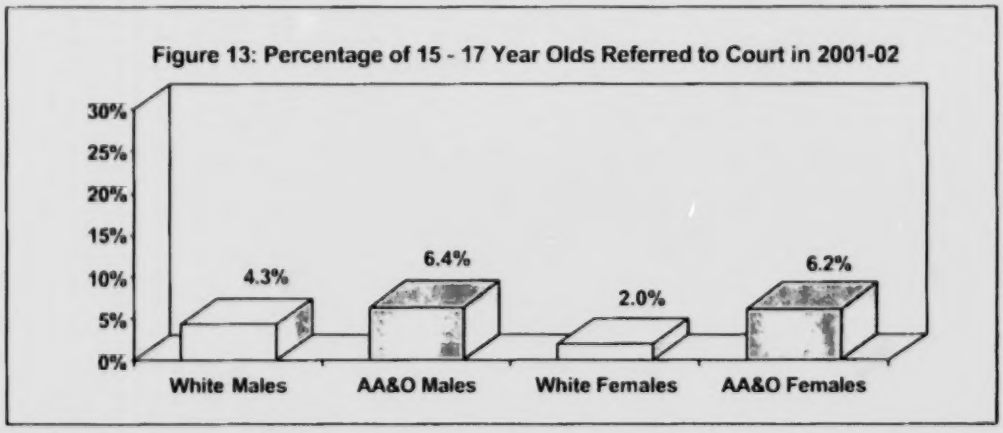
Juvenile Delinquency: In 2001-02, 38 individual juvenile offenders in the county were referred to the Solicitor for delinquency; of these, 5.3% were age 12 or younger, 39.5% were 13 or 14, and 55.3% were 15 or older.

Of the referrals to the family court, 7.5% of all referrals were for violent and serious crimes which include drug trafficking, acts against persons for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and serious property offenses for arson and burglary. Also, 4 juvenile cases constituting 7.5% of all referrals were for status offenses. Status offenses include truancy, running away, incorrigibility, and other offenses that would not be crimes for adults.

Delinquents are likely to live in families with low income: 11.1% lived in families with income under $10,000, 38.9% with $10,000-$19,999 and 50.0% with $20,000 or more. Furthermore, only 0.0% of delinquents lived with both natural parents, while 65.2% lived in a single parent household, 30.4% lived with other relatives, and 4.3% in other situations including parent plus step-parent. Delinquency or criminal activity occurs among many related family members; 31.8% had at least one family member who was delinquent or had some criminal record.

Youth referred to the family courts are likely to have been there before. In 2001-02, 42.1% had at least one prior referral and 10.5% had been referred to court 3 times or more. Many were referred at an early age. For delinquents 15 - 17 years old, 0.0% had been referred by the age of 10, 3.7% by the age of 12, and 18.5% by the age of 14.

During 2001-02, 21 youth ages 15 to 17 were referred to the family courts. In the county, 5.5% of all youth 15 to 17 were referred to court in one year and roughly double that percentage are referred at least once by age 18. Furthermore, the National Youth Survey indicates that typically across the United States the proportion of youth engaging in crime is two or three times the number ever apprehended. In 2001-02, there were 5 juveniles committed from the county to DJJ custody and placed in residential programs.



Not in School or Employed: During 2000, 96 teenagers ages 16-19 were idle, meaning they neither worked any hours nor were enrolled in school, even part-time. Idle teens comprised 18.4% of their age group: 4.2% for White and 23.9% African-American & Other teens. A much larger number, perhaps twice as many, were not engaged in either school full time or work full time. The data reflect a serious failure in both school completion and the critical transition from school to work, significantly affecting their development as future workers. For an in-depth description of the problems of young adults seeking to enter the labor force, visit our website at www.scyoungadults.org for our state and county reports on 18-29 year olds.

Deaths: During 1997-2001, 3 youth ages 15 to 19 died. Historically, automobile accidents have been the major cause, resulting in 2 deaths between 1996 and 2000; homicides killed youth 15 to 19 years old during the five-year period, and 0 youth committed suicide. Alcohol use is often a significant factor in deaths among teenagers.

Summary

Facing the Scope of Problems: The data on families, economic status, health, readiness, school achievement, and adolescent risk behaviors provide a troublesome picture of the condition of children in McCormick County. The 42.6% of children in single-parent families, 26.6% in poverty, 45.6% not graduating from school, 37.1% of high school students using alcohol and 20.1% using drugs each month, and other data profiled in this report suggest that too many children are at risk of not growing up to become self-supporting adults, good family members, and responsible community citizens.

Emphasizing the Positive: South Carolina Kids Count reports have been developed to describe the problems of children in each of the counties. Fortunately, the majority of children and youth are doing well, and some very well. One simple description is the percentage of children who do not fall into the problem categories reported. For the county, 85.0% of children are born to non-teen mothers ages 20 or older, 41.2% are born to married parents, and 57.4% lived in two-parent families; 73.4% were not poor and 44.6% lived in families with incomes above twice the poverty level for a family of three, $30,040 in 2002; 91.2% of babies were born with normal birthweights; 90.5% were assessed as ready for the first grade, 35.7% scored basic or better on PACT for 8th grade math and 45.7% for 8th grade reading, 63.0% passed all parts of the Exit Exam in the 10th grade, and 54.4% graduated with their class. In a typical month, 62.9% of high school students do not drink alcohol, 79.9% do not use drugs, and 74.7% do not smoke. Unfortunately, the absence of a problem is not always an indicator of success. Some data is available for exemplary performance: for example, 25.7% of 3rd graders and 5.7% of 8th graders scored proficient or advanced on PACT in reading and 20.3% of 3rd graders and 2.9% of 8th graders in math. Unfortunately, data on success is not generally available.

Despite the limitations of success data, we must emphasize the positive in providing good support and appropriate influences for children and youth. Recent philosophy and publications such as those of the Search Institute (700 South Third Street, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN, 55415-1138, tel. 1-800-888-7828, www.search-institute.org), emphasize the critical importance of "developmental assets" to promote and support positive development. One short book from the Search Institute, (What Kids Need to Succeed, by Peter J. Benson, Judy Gailbraith, and Pamela Espeland, 1995) presents an excellent array of suggestions for promoting developmental assets through families, community, faith congregations, and schools. If each family, school, religious congregation and community organization assertively worked to build such assets, the problems described in this report would be reduced dramatically. Such positive family-school-community efforts could improve South Carolina's national Kids Count ranking from the bottom 10 to the average or even into the top 10 by prevention of unnecessary problems affecting children and youth, as shown on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

All data presented in this report is the most recent available at the date it goes to the printer. This version of the Kids Count report will be revised as more recent and additional data become available. Please send us your corrections and suggestions for improvement. We welcome your ideas for ways to make the state and county reports more useful and accurate. Please utilize local data sources whenever possible to supplement the profile provided through our report.

Data related inquiries should be directed to:

Anne Wilson, Data Manager (awilson@drss.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-4810

Calls for **copies of reports** for other counties and inquiries regarding more recent reports should be made to:

Kim Hazel-Lohr, Project Manager (khazel@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-1295

For **policy questions and general comments**, please contact:

Dr. A. Baron Holmes, Project Director (bholmes@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-2291

Comparable reports for all 46 counties and for the state can also be found on the World Wide Web at

www.sckidscount.org

Our website also provides: links to other websites for indicators in our report; high to low rankings for individual indicators; information on how to improve SC's national rank; and a glossary of definitions.

The national Kids Count Report can be found on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website at www.aecf.org

McCormick County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Indicators		Number					Percent						
	Most Recent Year	1980*	1990*	Most Recent Data	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980 Rank	1
Health													
Low Birth Weight	2001	11	6	7	-36.4%	+16.7%	7.0	5.2	8.8	26.4%	70.1%	6	
White babies	2001	3	-	2	-33.3%	NA	7.1	-	6.5	-8.5%	NA	37	
African American and Other babies	2001	8	6	5	-37.5%	-16.7%	6.9	6.8	10.2	48.0%	49.7%	2	
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	2001	94	67	17	+81.9%	-74.6%	59.5	57.8	21.3	-64.2%	-63.1%	44	
White babies	2001	14	14	6	-57.1%	-57.1%	33.3	50.0	19.4	-41.7%	-61.2%	38	
African American and Other babies	2001	80	53	11	-86.3%	-79.2%	69.0	60.2	22.4	-67.5%	-62.7%	40	
Infant Mortality	2001	13	2	4	-69.2%	+100.0%	2.8	0.6	1.6	-44.4%	159.1%	44	
White babies	2001	1	1	-	-100.0%	-100.0%	0.9	1.1	0.0	-100.0%	-100.0%	6	
African American and Other babies	2001	12	1	4	-66.7%	+300.0%	3.5	0.4	2.4	-30.5%	471.1%	46	
Family													
Births to mothers under 18	2001	16	11	3	-81.3%	-72.7%	10.1	9.5	3.8	-62.5%	-59.9%	35	
White babies	2001	1	1	-	-100.0%	-100.0%	2.4	3.6	0.0	-100.0%	-100.0%	2	
African American and Other babies	2001	15	10	3	-80.0%	-70.0%	12.9	11.4	6.1	-52.7%	-46.1%	26	
Births to mothers under 20	2001	40	28	12	-70.0%	-57.1%	25.3	24.1	15.0	-40.8%	-37.9%	41	
White babies	2001	4	2	1	-75.0%	+50.0%	9.5	7.1	3.2	-66.4%	-55.2%	3	
African American and Other babies	2001	36	26	11	-69.4%	+57.7%	31.0	29.5	22.4	-27.7%	-24.0%	41	
Births to mothers with less than a high school education	2001	73	30	10	-86.3%	-66.7%	46.2	25.9	12.5	-72.9%	-51.7%	44	
White babies	2001	9	7	2	-77.8%	-71.4%	21.4	25.0	6.5	-69.7%	-74.0%	7	
African American and Other babies	2001	64	23	8	-87.5%	-65.2%	55.2	26.1	16.3	-70.4%	-37.5%	6	
Births to single mothers****	2001	56	65	47	-16.1%	-27.7%	35.4	56.0	58.8	65.9%	4.9%	40	
White babies	2001	1	6	7	+600.0%	+16.7%	2.4	21.4	22.6	849.2%	5.5%	3	
African American and Other babies	2001	55	59	40	-27.3%	-32.2%	47.4	67.0	81.6	72.2%	21.8%	27	
Children in single parent families	2000	485	497	624	+28.7%	+25.6%	21.2	30.3	42.8	100.9%	40.6%	35	
White	2000	49	63	81	+65.3%	+28.6%	7.4	11.2	18.8	154.0%	67.8%	4	
African American and Other	2000	436	430	543	+24.5%	+26.3%	26.3	40.3	52.5	99.7%	30.3%	1	
Education													
Not Ready for Grade 1	2001	41	30	8	-80.5%	-73.3%	31.5	29.7	9.5	-69.8%	-68.0%	8	
White males	2001	2	2	-	-100.0%	-100.0%	50.0	11.8	0.0	-100.0%	-100.0%	46	
White females	2001	-	-	1	NA	NA	-	-	14.3	NA	NA	1	
African American and Other males	2001	24	17	5	-79.2%	-70.6%	39.3	46.0	12.8	-67.4%	-72.2%	3	
African American and Other females	2001	51	11	2	-96.1%	-81.8%	26.8	26.8	6.1	-77.2%	-77.2%	1	
Repeating Grades 1-3	2000	15	11	5	-66.7%	-54.5%	11.8	10.0	5.0	-57.6%	-50.0%	6	
White males	2000	-	1	-	NA	-100.0%	-	7.1	0.0	NA	-100.0%	1	
White females	2000	-	1	-	NA	-100.0%	-	8.3	0.0	NA	-100.0%	1	
African American and Other males	2000	10	8	3	-70.0%	-62.5%	16.3	17.9	6.9	-57.7%	-61.5%	7	
African American and Other females	2000	5	1	2	-60.0%	+100.0%	8.5	2.1	4.7	-44.7%	123.8%	5	
Grade 3 Math below standards****	2002	58	15	29	-50.0%	+93.3%	44.3	13.8	39.2	-11.5%	184.1%	28	
White males	2002	3	-	-	-100.0%	NA	50.0	-	-	-100.0%	NA	45	
White females	2002	3	-	1	-66.7%	NA	37.5	-	-	-100.0%	NA	43	
African American and Other males	2002	29	7	17	-41.4%	+142.9%	50.9	12.1	50.0	-1.8%	313.2%	11	
African American and Other females	2002	23	8	11	-52.2%	+37.5%	38.3	21.1	34.4	-10.2%	63.0%	4	
Grade 3 Reading below standards****	2002	68	18	20	-70.6%	+11.1%	51.9	16.4	27.0	-48.0%	64.6%	42	
White males	2002	2	-	-	-100.0%	NA	33.3	-	0.0	-100.0%	NA	32	
White females	2002	3	-	-	-100.0%	NA	37.5	-	-	-100.0%	NA	46	
African American and Other males	2002	34	13	13	-61.8%	+0.0%	59.6	22.4	38.2	-35.9%	70.5%	28	
African American and Other females	2002	29	5	7	-75.9%	+40.0%	48.3	13.2	21.9	-54.7%	65.9%	38	
Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT Grade 4	1998	67	55	25	-62.7%	-54.5%	52.8	47.4	36.8	-30.3%	-22.4%	46	
White males	1998	1	6	1	+0.0%	-83.3%	12.5	50.0	20.0	60.0%	-60.0%	1	
White females	1998	-	1	-	NA	-100.0%	-	5.6	0.0	NA	-100.0%	1	
African American and Other males	1998	39	28	13	-66.7%	-53.6%	67.2	62.2	61.9	-7.9%	-0.5%	45	
African American and Other females	1998	27	20	11	-59.3%	-45.0%	48.2	48.8	28.9	-40.0%	-40.8%	43	

*Year of data is approximate in many cases.
**1 is best, 46 is worst.
*** Data include paternity acknowledgements.
**** BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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McCormick County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Education (continued)

Indicators		Number					Percent				
	Most Recent Year	1980*	1990*	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres
Grade 8 Math below state standards**	2002	75	25	45	-40.0%	+80.0%	53.6	27.8	64.3	20.0%	131.3%
White males	*2002*	*2*	*-*	*1*	*-50.0%*	*NA*	*33.3*	*0.0*	*-*	*-100.0%*	*NA*
White females	*2002*	*3*	*1*	*-*	*-100.0%*	*-100.0%*	*42.9*	*25.0*	*-*	*-100.0%*	*-100.0%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*30*	*18*	*22*	*-26.7%*	*+22.2%*	*43.5*	*40.9*	*78.6*	*80.7%*	*92.2%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*40*	*6*	*22*	*-45.0%*	*+266.7%*	*69.0*	*15.8*	*61.1*	*-11.4%*	*286.7%*
Grade 8 Reading below state standards**	2002	100	29	38	-62.0%	+31.0%	70.9	32.2	54.3	-23.4%	68.6%
White males	*2002*	*2*	*1*	*1*	*-50.0%*	*+0.0%*	*33.3*	*25.0*	*-*	*-100.0%*	*-100.0%*
White females	*2002*	*2*	*1*	*-*	*-100.0%*	*-100.0%*	*25.0*	*25.0*	*-*	*-100.0%*	*-100.0%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*48*	*19*	*21*	*-56.3%*	*+10.5%*	*69.6*	*43.2*	*75.0*	*7.8%*	*73.6%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*48*	*8*	*16*	*-66.7%*	*+100.0%*	*82.8*	*21.1*	*44.4*	*-46.4%*	*110.4%*
Grade 9 Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT	1998	NA	63	44	NA	-30.2%	NA	56.8	45.4	NA	-20.1%
White males	*1998*	*NA*	*3*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*33.3*	*15.4*	*NA*	*-53.8%*
White females	*1998*	*NA*	*1*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*14.3*	*-*	*NA*	*-100.0%*
African American and Other males	*1998*	*NA*	*41*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*73.2*	*56.1*	*NA*	*-23.4%*
African American and Other females	*1998*	*NA*	*18*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*46.1*	*52.8*	*NA*	*14.5%*
Exit Exam (not passing all parts on 1st attempt)	2002	116	37	27	-76.7%	-27.0%	73.0	45.7	37.0	-49.3%	-19.0%
White males	*2002*	*5*	*-*	*0*	*-100.0%*	*NA*	*50.0*	*0.0*	*0.0*	*-100.0%*	*NA*
White females	*2002*	*6*	*5*	*2*	*-66.7%*	*-60.0%*	*42.9*	*62.5*	*25.0*	*-41.7%*	*-60.0%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*55*	*17*	*7*	*-87.3%*	*-58.8%*	*82.1*	*50.0*	*28.0*	*-65.9%*	*-44.0%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*46*	*15*	*18*	*-60.9%*	*+20.0%*	*71.9*	*39.5*	*48.6*	*-32.4%*	*23.0%*
Dropout Rate (8th graders no longer enrolled in 12th grade 4 years later)	2000-02	27	46	33	+21.0%	-28.2%	18.9	36.5	34.1	80.7%	-6.6%
White males	*2000-02*	*2*	*3*	*6*	*+183.3%*	*+126.7%*	*17.4*	*38.5*	*53.1*	*205.5%*	*38.1%*
White females	*2000-02*	*4*	*4*	*6*	*+61.9%*	*+41.7%*	*36.8*	*72.7*	*51.5*	*39.8%*	*-29.2%*
African American and Other males	*2000-02*	*12*	*23*	*13*	*+11.1%*	*-40.7%*	*18.6*	*37.2*	*36.7*	*97.2%*	*-1.3%*
African American and Other females	*2000-02*	*10*	*17*	*8*	*-15.8%*	*-51.5%*	*16.5*	*31.7*	*21.2*	*28.6%*	*-33.1%*
Young Adults Not Completing High School (18-24)	2000	1,489	469	481	-67.7%	+2.6%	36.7	44.8	36.2	-1.4%	-19.2%
White males	*NA*	*338*	*140*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*37.3*	*60.6*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
White females	*NA*	*349*	*14*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*39.0*	*12.0*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other males	*NA*	*408*	*233*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*40.1*	*55.7*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other females	*NA*	*394*	*82*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*31.8*	*29.2*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*

Economics

Poverty Rate	2000	912	608	506	-44.5%	-16.8%	35.2	30.1	26.6	-24.4%	-11.6%
White children	*2000*	*0*	*52*	*38*	*NA*	*-26.9%*	*16.2*	*8.9*	*7.2*	*-55.5%*	*-19.1%*
African American and Other children	*2000*	*798*	*556*	*468*	*-41.4%*	*-15.8%*	*42.2*	*38.7*	*34.0*	*-19.3%*	*-12.1%*
Income of Families w/children (1999 $)	2000	$ 32,370	$ 36,556	$ 33,532	+3.6%	-8.3%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
White families	*2000*	*$ 36,762*	*$ 53,571*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other families	*2000*	*$ 29,694*	*$ 28,439*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*

Adolescent Risk Factors

Teenage Pregnancy (ages 14-17)	2001	17	15	4	-76.5%	-73.3%	5.5	6.0	1.7	-69.0%	-71.7%
White	*2001*	*2*	*1*	*-*	*-100.0%*	*-100.0%*	*2.2*	*1.4*	*0.0*	*-100.0%*	*-100.0%*
African American and Other	*2001*	*15*	*14*	*4*	*-73.3%*	*-71.4%*	*6.5*	*7.8*	*2.4*	*-63.2%*	*-69.2%*
Delinquency	2002	12	5	21	+75.0%	+320.0%	2.7	1.4	5.5	104.7%	294.7%
White males	*2002*	*2*	*-*	*3*	*+50.0%*	*NA*	*3.1*	*0.0*	*4.3*	*38.2%*	*NA*
White females	*2002*	*3*	*1*	*1*	*-66.7%*	*+0.0%*	*5.0*	*2.4*	*2.0*	*-60.0%*	*-16.7%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*4*	*4*	*9*	*+125.0%*	*+125.0%*	*2.5*	*2.9*	*6.4*	*157.1%*	*121.7%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*3*	*-*	*8*	*+166.7%*	*NA*	*1.9*	*0.0*	*6.2*	*223.9%*	*NA*

*Closest available data to this year was used in many cases.
**BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Kids Count 2003

Marion County

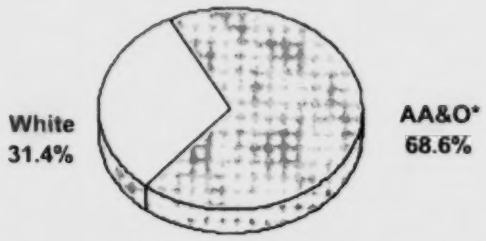
DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2000 there were an estimated 9,794 children under age 18 in the county. Of these, 3,072 were White, 6,508 were African-American, and 214 were other races. There were 10,579 children under age 18 in 1990, 11,620 in 1980, 11,941 in 1970, and 14,897 in 1960.

Children represent a shrinking portion of the county's population. Those under 18 constituted 27.6% of the population in 2000, down from 46.5% in 1960, 39.4% in 1970, and 34.0% in 1980.

In 2000 the 3,002 pre-schoolers under age 6 were 8.5% of the overall population: 6.5% of Whites and 9.8% of African Americans.

Figure 1: Population Ages 0-17 in 2000



* In all charts African-American is combined with other races, and often abbreviated as AA&O. Other races comprise 2.2% of children in the county, with "two or more races" at 0.9% and "some other race alone" at 0.8% as the largest Other groups.

FAMILY

Families have always been the most important influence in a child's life. Children depend on their families for material needs, stimulation and guidance. Family life is different in numerous ways from previous generations, and many families now face exceptional challenges.

Families with children now make up a smaller share of all households. Only 6.6% of all households in 2000, as compared with 47.0% of households in 1960, had children below the age of 18.

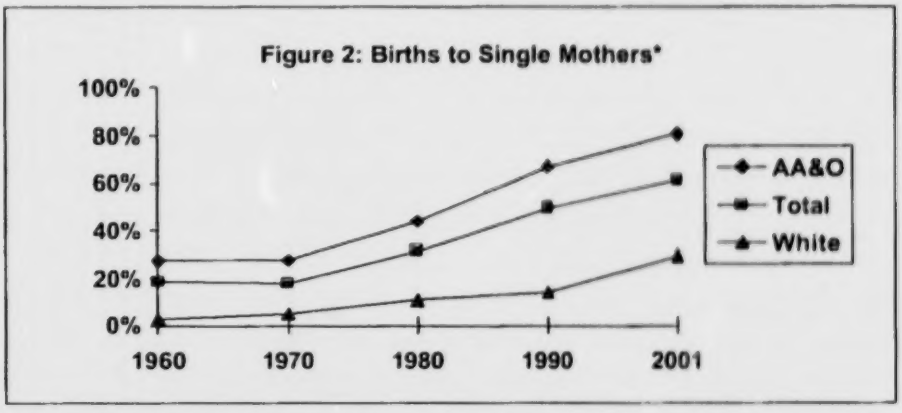
Births to Teen Mothers: In 2001, 32 babies were born to mothers younger than age 18. They were 6.4% of all babies born in the county; 2.1% of all White and 9.0% of all African-American and Other babies were born to teen mothers under the age of 18. Of the babies born to these teens in 2001, 100.0% were born to single mothers, including babies whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers.

In 2001, 100 babies were born to mothers younger than age 20. These babies were 20.1% of all born in the county; 12.8% of all White and 24.5% of all African-American and Other babies were born to mothers under the age of 20. Of the babies born to these mothers in 2001, 90.0% were born to single mothers, including paternity acknowledged babies.

Education of Mothers Giving Birth: Children's success is strongly influenced by the education of their parent In 2001, 121 babies, 24.4% of all babies, were born to mothers of all ages who had not completed the 12th grade. In 200 20.4% of White and 26.9% of African-American and Other babies were born to mothers who had completed less than th 12th grade. This is a substantial improvement from 53.8% in 1970. In addition, during 2001, 45.3% had completed 1 grades (39.2% of Whites and 48.9% of African Americans and Others) and 30.3% had more than a high school degre (40.3% of Whites and 24.3% of African American and Others).

Births to Single Mothers: Births to single mothers have increased steadily over four decades. In 2001, 25 babies, 50.9% of all babies, were recorded as born to single mothers. A decade earlier in 1990, the percentage was 40.4 and in 1960 it was 18.4%. In 2001, 17.1% of White children and 71.3% of African-American and Other children wer born to single mothers. These numbers, however, do not include paternity acknowlegement births.

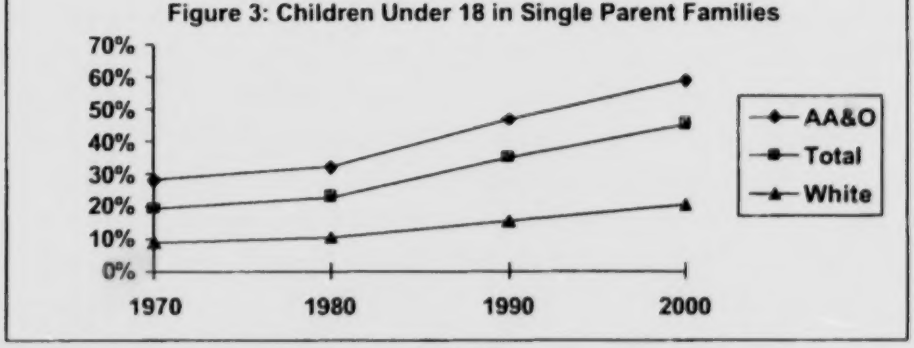
Thus, to these numbers should be added an additional group of 52 babies, 10.5% of all born in 2001, whos fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers. When the paternity-acknowledged babies a added, the total number born to single mothers in 2001 was 305, constituting 61.4% of all babies, 29.4% of White babie and 80.6% of African-American and Others.



*Includes paternity acknowleged babies in 1980, 1990 and 2001. Prior to 1979, paternity acknowleged cases were not a statistical category, and thus were included in births to single mothers.

Divorce Rate: In 2001, 257 marriage licenses were issued, while 120 divorce decrees involving 97 childre were filed. In 1970, only 50 children were in families involved in divorce.

Single-Parent Family: Increasing numbers of children live in single-parent families. In 2000, 3,508 childre lived with only one parent. This was 45.2% of all children, up from 34.8% in 1990, 22.9% in 1980, and 19.4% in 1970. 2000, 20.5% of White and 58.7% of African-American and Other children lived in single-parent families. Also in 200 1,067 or 45.6% of children under age 6 lived in single parent families: 17.4% of White and 63.2% of African American an Other pre-schoolers.



Parents Working and Child Care: Increasingly, parents must divide their time between children and employers. In order to meet family financial needs, most parents must work and thus have less time for family life. In 2000, 71.1% of mothers with children under 6 and 73.7% with children 6 - 17 were in the labor force. This has increased substantially from 1960 when 43.0% of mothers with children under 6 were in the labor force. Most fathers also work: 65.5% of children under 6 are in families where the single parent or both parents work. Caring for children is a problem for parents unable to obtain quality, affordable daycare while they are at work.

Overall, there are 1,350 spaces in state-regulated childcare facilities* in the county, 91.3% of these are in licensed programs and 8.7% are in registered programs. Of the spaces, 80.7% are in licensed childcare centers serving more than 12 children, 7.6% are in registered or licensed family childcare homes serving six or fewer children, 10.7% are in licensed group childcare homes serving 7-12 children, and 1.1% are in registered or licensed church programs.

The homes and centers are severely constrained by the limited ability of parents to pay. In the county, the average weekly charge is $ 57.82 for centers and $ 68.13 for homes. Consequently, center wages are low: 45.5% of centers with pre-school staff and 50% of centers with assistant pre-school staff report paying these staff under $6 per hour. Paying $6-$8 per hour are 36.4% of centers with pre-school staff and 50% of centers with assistants. Low wages attract workers with limited education. In 63.6% of centers, most pre-school staff and in 62.5% of centers most assistants have only a high school degree. In 27.3% of centers few to none of the pre-school staff have early childhood credentials. In childcare homes, 55.6% of lead providers have no more education than a high school degree or GED; 27.8% have less than a high school degree.

Family Violence: In 2000, 277 domestic assaults were recorded by law enforcement officials. These domestic assaults comprised 23.0% of all assaults, which include aggravated assaults, simple assaults, and intimidation. Overall, 44.4% of all domestic assaults involve spouse abuse which constitutes 10.2% of all assaults. Since most family violence is not reported, the true incidence of family disruption is much more widespread than even the large number of reported cases would indicate.

Separation from Parents: Some children do not live with their natural parents. In 2000, 11.2% of all children did not live with their natural parents. Approximately 900 or 9.2% of all children lived with relatives, 172 or 1.8% lived with non-relatives, 16 or 0.2% were householders or spouses, and 4 or 0.0% were in institutional facilities.

Abuse and Neglect: In 2000-01, there were 281 investigations into reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children. Through its investigations, the Department of Social Services (DSS) determined that 86 of the investigations were indicated for abuse or neglect: 9.0% for physical abuse, 3.4% for sexual abuse, 1.1% for mental injury, 43.8% for physical neglect, 3.4% for educational neglect, 11.2% for medical neglect, 28.1% for threat of harm for physical/sexual abuse, and 0.0% for other types of abuse.

In the indicated cases of abuse and neglect, DSS determined there were 151 children who were victims of abuse or neglect. Of these, 51.7% were male, 48.3% were female; 15.2% were White, 84.8% were African-American and Other. By age, 38.7% were ages 0 - 5, 42.0% were ages 6 - 12, and 19.3% were ages 13 - 17. In the indicated cases, 13.9% of the children lived in two-parent families, 75.5% in single parent families, 6.0% with unmarried couples, and 4.6% in other circumstances.

Out of Home Placements: As of June 2001, 86 children lived in foster care. The median age at first placement in the county is 5.9 years. The ages of children in foster care were 11.6% 0-2, 18.6% 3-5, 33.7% 6-10, 9.3% 11-13, and 26.7% 14 and above. The foster care population is 48.8% males and 51.2% females. Regarding their future, 30.2% were under a plan for placement in adoptive homes, 43.0% for return to a parent or guardian, 5.8% for placement with a relative, 14.0% for independent living, 7.0% for permanent foster care, and 0.0% for other circumstances.

Adult/Child Ratio: A measure of potential adult attention for children from family and community is the ratio of adults to children and youth. In 2000 there were 2.62 adults for every person below age 18. This was up substantially from 1960, when there were only 1.15 adults for every person under the age 18. This indicates that today there are more adults potentially available to provide attention and care for each child than in the past.

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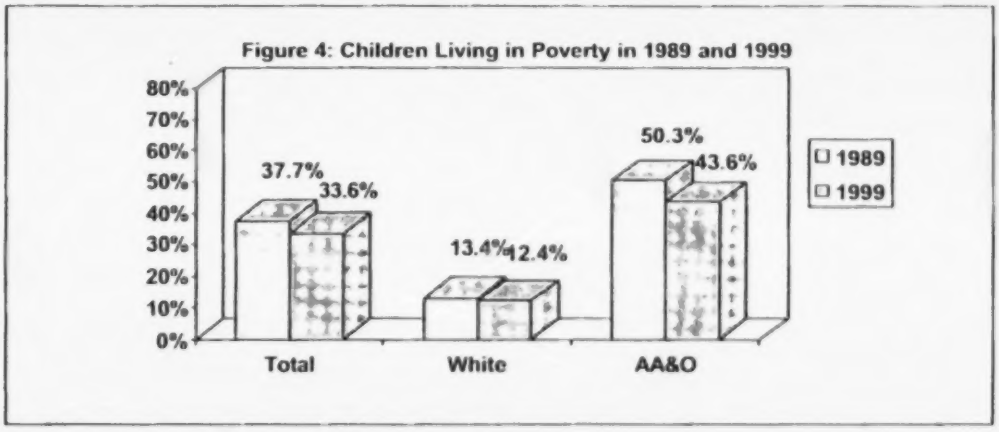
* This data is the best currently available; however, an effort is being made to check the coverage and improve the accuracy. As soon as more recent and complete data becomes available, it will be posted on the website.

ECONOMIC STATUS

Low income makes it difficult for many families to provide the material and environmental enrichment necessary for healthy child development.

Poverty: In 1999, 3,217 children and youth under the age of 18 lived in 1,364 families with incomes below poverty, comprising 33.6% of all children and youth: 12.4% of Whites and 43.6% of African-Americans and Others. A rough estimate of child poverty in 2001 calculated by the Census Bureau was 23.0%.



Poverty has always been a serious problem. While the rate among children under age 18 in 1989 was 37.7%, it was 33.3% in 1979 and 43.8% in 1969.

Children and the elderly are the age groups most seriously affected by poverty. In 1999, 37.4% of children 0 - 5 (15.9% White, 48.1% African-American and Other), and 31.8% of children 6 - 17 (10.3% White, 41.6% African-American and Other), lived in poverty; 23.5% of persons 65 years and older lived in poverty. Historically, the poverty rate among the elderly was much higher. During the last three decades, federal policy actions have substantially improved the economic status of older persons but have not done so for children.

Single-parent families are most likely to be poor. In 1999, 52.8% of children in single-parent families lived in poverty, but only 13.0% of children in married-couple families were poor. Children in single-parent families made up 57.7% of all the county's children living in poverty.

In 2002, the poverty level was $15,020 for a family of three and $18,100 for a family of four. The poverty threshold is often criticized as an arbitrary number. People can still be poor but may be just above the poverty level. Federal programs utilize varying thresholds. For example, in 1999 there were 5,896 children ages 0-17 who were less than 200 percent of poverty; thus an additional 2,679 children were above the poverty level but could still be considered poor or near-poor with incomes below $30,040 and $36,200 respectively for 3 and 4 person families.

Children Under 18 in Poverty in 1999

Percent of Poverty	Total		White		African American & Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 50%	1,473	15.4%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 100%	3,217	33.6%	380	12.4%	2,837	43.6%
Under 125%	4,041	42.2%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 150%	4,819	50.3%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 175%	5,403	56.4%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 185%	5,608	58.5%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 200%	5,896	61.5%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total Children	9,794		3,072		6,722	

Note: Missing data will be released by the Census Bureau later in 2003, and will be posted on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

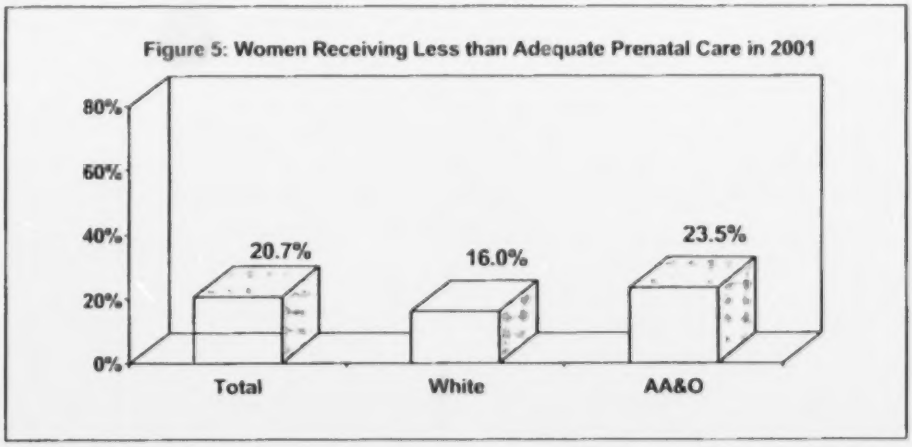
Income: The mean income of families with children in 1999 was $37,802. In 1989 it was $34,214, and 1979, it was $34,506, adjusted for inflation (i.e., in 1999 dollars). The mean income of single-parent families with children was $20,318 for single parents in 1999, as compared with $52,339 in married-couple families with children. From 1999 to 2000, Marion County real dollar per capita income (eliminating inflation) increased by 0.6%.

Child Support Payments: There were 663* families receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families in fiscal year 2002, but only 23.1 % had child support court orders. Their average monthly payment of child support was $ 226, including child support receipts and tax refund intercepts. In addition, during fiscal year 2002, an estimated 1,115 parents in non-TANF families were obligated to pay a monthly average of $ 186. Information is not available regarding the amount actually paid.

HEALTH

Good health during a child's formative years helps children to reach their maximum potential. Good health requires healthy lifestyles and effective primary care, starting during the prenatal period and continuing through adolescence into adulthood. Children's health reflects the well-being of the community, as well as how adequately they are protected.

Prenatal Care: Early and continuous prenatal care can make a significant difference in assuring births of healthy babies. Delayed or insufficient prenatal care is associated with low birthweight and other health risks for infants. In 2001, 85, or 17.1% of pregnant women received no prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy. In 2001, 103, or 20.7% of pregnant women received less than adequate prenatal care: 30 or 16.0% of Whites and 73 or 23.5% of African-Americans and Others. In that same year, 1 women received no prenatal care at all.



Low Birthweight: Low birthweight of less than 5.5 pounds and very low birthweight of less than 3.3 pounds are associated with health risks and growth and development problems. In 2001, 57 or 11.5% of all babies in the county were born with low birthweight: 14.2% of African-American and Other babies and 7.0% of White babies. During 1999-2001, approximately 45 or 3.0% of all babies were born with very low birthweight and had the most serious complications: 0.9% of White babies and 4.2% of African-American and Other babies. The cost of hospitalization for each newborn low birthweight baby in the county in 1999 - 2001 was $8,146 and $98,748 for each very low birthweight baby, compared with $1,420 for a baby of normal birthweight. The result was excess cost in the county of $894,163 for all low birthweight babies, of which $746,183 was for very low birthweight babies.

Infant Mortality: During the decade since 1989-91, the overall infant mortality rate decreased by 15.0% from 17.0 to 14.4 per 1000 live births. For Whites, the rate decreased 22.6% from 6.9 to 5.3 per 1000 live births, while for African-Americans and Others the rate decreased 11.0% from 22.2 to 19.8 per 1000 live births. Over the three-year period 1999-2001, 3 White and 19 African-American and Other infants died before age one. By comparison, 4 White and 25 African-American and Other infants died during 1989-91.

* Number is an unduplicated count for the entire fiscal year.

Child Injuries and Deaths: Childhood deaths and injuries reflect whether communities are safe for children. In 2001, children in the Marion County went to the emergency room 1,007 times because of injuries. Boys are injured more often than girls. Children visit the emergency room at comparable rates for each age from 0 to 17.

In South Carolina, the major causes of death among young children are unintentional injuries, cancer, homicide, and congenital anomalies. Over the three year period 1999-2001, 1 White and 11 African-American and Other children ages 1-14 died in the county. During 1989-91, 3 White and 4 African-American and Other children died.

Immunization: Immunization rates are an important indication of whether young children are receiving adequate preventive health care. During FY 1989-90, 68.8% of children less than two years old seen in public health clinics were not fully immunized against such preventable diseases as Polio, Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Haemophilus Influenza B and Whooping Cough. After a concerted statewide campaign to increase immunizations, the percentage of children seen in public health clinics who were not fully immunized in January 2001 had declined in the county to 5.4%. The DHEC statewide birth registry survey of all two year old children found that 88.1% were fully immunized in 2001. This success demonstrates the potential to improve the status of children when the leadership of the state and its communities act decisively together.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Children and youth are infected with sexually transmitted diseases through sexual abuse or irresponsible sexual activity. National prevalence rates indicate: a 1 in 8 chance that sexually active 15 year-old girls will develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), the most rapidly increasing cause of infertility; 10% of sexually active adolescent girls and boys are infected with chlamydia, the most common cause of PID; and as many as 15% of teen girls are infected with human papilloma virus, often with strains linked to cervical cancer. Furthermore, research evidence indicates that susceptibility to HIV/AIDS increases by 3 to 8 times through prior infection with various STDs.

According to national studies, approximately 1 in 4 sexually experienced youth aged 13-19 acquires a STD ever year; since two-thirds of all high school students have had sexual intercourse and half engage in intercourse over a thr month period, this would suggest that 10-15% of teens are infected with STDs annually. For 2000, this would indicate th an estimated 395 to 593 youth ages 13-19 in the county were infected with a STD. Many infections are either not identifi for treatment or not reported. In the county, there were reported cases of children under age 15 and 50 youth ages 1 19 infected with gonorrhea; youth under 15 and 67 ages 15 - 19 were reported infected with chlamydia. Youth w undiagnosed and untreated STDs often spread their infections.

Healthy Lifestyles: Although no county data is available, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2001 found that ma high school students are not following good health habits. The YRBS revealed that 26% felt that they were overweight; 42 were trying to lose weight: 27% of boys and 57% of girls. Although during a week 79% of high school students ate fru 59% ate salad, and over 83% ate vegetables, only 17% ate the recommended five or more servings of fruit and vegetabl per day. During a week, 49% did stretching or muscle strengthening exercises, and 59% exercised three or more times f 20 minutes in sports that made them sweat or breathe hard. However, 11% of students engaged in no vigorous or modera activity at all during a week: 8% of boys and 13% of girls.

Tobacco Use:* Cigarette smoking starts at a young age and often becomes habitual. In the county during 2002 among all students 15 and older, 14.0% first smoked by age 11, 36.3% by age 13, and 52.5% by age 15. In a typical month, 19.6% of 7th and 8th graders and 27.8% of high school students smoked cigarettes. White youths were much more likely than African-Americans to smoke: 41.3% of White male and 38.2% of White female 7th to 12th graders used cigarettes, as compared with 22.4% of African-American males and 16.7% of African American females. A smaller but significant group of high school students (2.6%) used smokeless tobacco monthly; it was used primarily by White males (9.8% compared with 1.2% of all other race and sex groups).

* County participation in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking was not complete but county data is presented to provide the best available picture of teen risk-taking attitudes and behavior in Marion County. All districts participated, but there was partial participation by District 7.

Disabilities: No data are collected on the true prevalence of disabilities within the county. According to national reported estimates, over 10% of children and youth have developmental disabilities at any point in time, and more than 17 are affected at some time before age 18 by deafness, blindness, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, speech defects, development delays, learning disabilities, and emotional or behavioral problems. For 2000 this suggests that at least 979 children ar youth under age 18 in the county are currently affected by disabilities.

Approximately 5% of children and youth nationally have serious disabilities which have lifelong implications f work, social life and community living. Typically among children and youth, there are 1 - 2% who are mentally retarded, - 3% with serious emotional disturbances, over 1% with orthopedic or multiple disabilities, including cerebral palsy an many hereditary conditions, and under 1% with visual or hearing impairments.

Other chronic health problems also affect the lives of many children. Over 3% of children have one or more these limitations. Such serious chronic conditions affect 1 - 2% who have respiratory problems (asthma and chron bronchitis), 0.5 - 1.0% with neurological problems (epilepsy and seizures), and less than 1% with circulatory problen (congenital heart defects and acquired diseases).

Other disabilities are identified primarily in school performance. These would include 545 students in grades 1- with learning disabilities and 302 students in grades 1-12 with speech/language deficits.

Disabilities are caused by genetics, disease, poor prenatal conditions, injuries, and environmental factors. For example, lead exposure, primarily from paint dust, was detected in over 1% of all children screened, including 7 in Marion County.

Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: While over 20% of 9-17 year olds meet diagnostic criteria for some form of mental disorder, the number with serious emotional disturbance and impaired functioning in family, school, or community activities is: 9-13% for substantial functional impairment and 5-9% for extreme functional impairment. The rates among poor children are at the higher end of these ranges. Based on a federal formula for estimating prevalence, in the county there are 12% or 617 seriously emotionally disturbed 9-17 year olds with substantial functional impairment and 8% or 411 with extreme functional impairment during the course of a year. Conduct disorders, attention deficit, depression, and anxiety disorders are the most prevalent, each affecting 3% or more of school-aged children. These disorders may occur simultaneously in a child. The prevalence rates are highest among males, adolescents, and disadvantaged persons in communities under stress and lacking social cohesion; depression, however, is more prevalent among females. On the YRBS, 20% of boys and 33% of girls in high school reported that during the past year they felt so sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that they stopped doing some usual activities. Another indicator of emotional problems is the 8% of high school students in South Carolina who reported that they had "attempted suicide" in the past year: 5% of boys and 10% of girls. Suicide attempts resulted in 4% of high school students reporting that they required treatment by a doctor or nurse for injury, poisoning, or overdose.

Inadequate Healthcare: No county level data is routinely collected regarding the number of children and youth with inadequate healthcare. According to estimates for 2000-02 by the Bureau of the Census through the annual Current Population Survey, the statewide average rate of uninsured children and youth under age 18 in families with incomes under 200% of poverty in South Carolina was 16.6%, and 9.9% above 200% of poverty. If these rates are applied to the county, there are 980 children in the county below 200% of poverty with no health insurance, and 387 children above 200% of poverty with no health insurance, for a total of 1,367 uninsured children in Marion County. The number lacking basic accessible primary care is at least double the number lacking insurance. Those lacking primary care are often dependent on health services at school. The ratio of students to nurses recommended nationally is 750:1. In the county, this would suggest the need for 8 nurses, compared with 5 currently working in the schools.

Medicaid: For several years, the State of South Carolina has emphasized enrolling eligible children into Medicaid. In late 1997, South Carolina implemented its version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, Partners for Healthy Children (PHC), and aggressively pursued outreach enrollment for PHC and Medicaid. As a result, enrollment of children ages 0 through 18 in Marion County has increased by 66.3% from June 1997 to June 2001; thus Medicaid and PHC were serving 68.9% of all children in that age range. The total Medicaid expenditures in South Carolina for services provided to children ages 0 through 18 for state fiscal year 2002 were $991 million, at an average statewide expenditure of $2,343 per child enrolled, approximate Medicaid expenditure for children in the county would be $15.8 million.

In June 2001, the total number of Marion County children, birth through 18, enrolled in Medicaid was 6,745. The total can be broken down into the following age and race groupings:

	White	African American	Hispanic	Other	Total
Children under 1	98	328	10	9	445
Children 1 - 5	334	1,419	30	54	1,837
Children 6 - 14	512	2,628	13	82	3,235
Children 15 - 18	147	1,059	5	17	1,228
Total	1,091	5,434	58	162	6,745

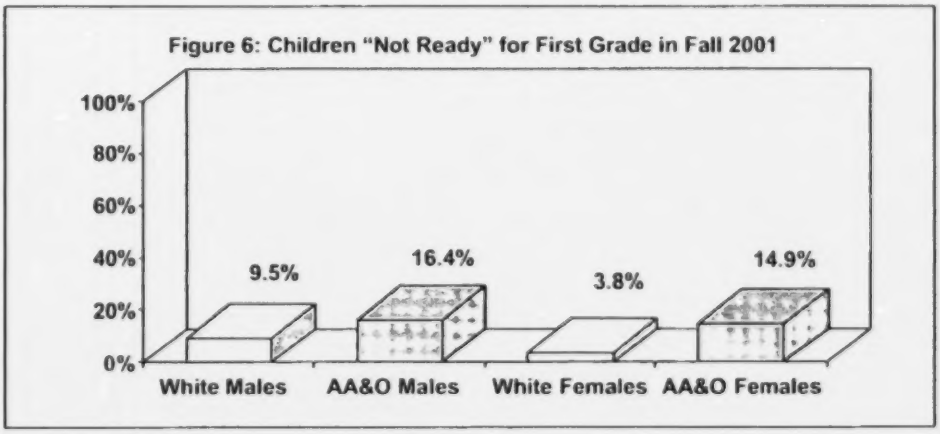
Ambulatory Care: When children lack adequate primary care, whether through lack of insurance, through limite access, or through failing to utilize available care, preventable and treatable conditions become serious and requi hospitalization. A useful indicator of inadequate primary care is the percentage of all hospitalizations that could typicall have been avoided through ambulatory care, especially for pneumonia, asthma, diarrhea and vomiting, dehydration, a severe ear, nose, and throat infections. The share of hospitalizations for these types of conditions could normally be ke below 20%; for children in the county under the age of 18 during 2001, the share was 36.8% for Whites and 33.0% f African-Americans and Others.

READINESS AND EARLY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Too many children reach school without the readiness skills needed for success in learning, such as language, soc skills, visual and auditory discrimination, memory recall, and knowledge of colors, letters, numbers, names of objects, et Likewise, some schools are not ready to respond appropriately to the varying developmental levels of children in the ear grades. As a result, too many students do not experience the success needed to create the motivation and engagement th sustain learning.

1st Grade "Readiness" on 2001-02 Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB):

68 children not ready 13.6% children not ready

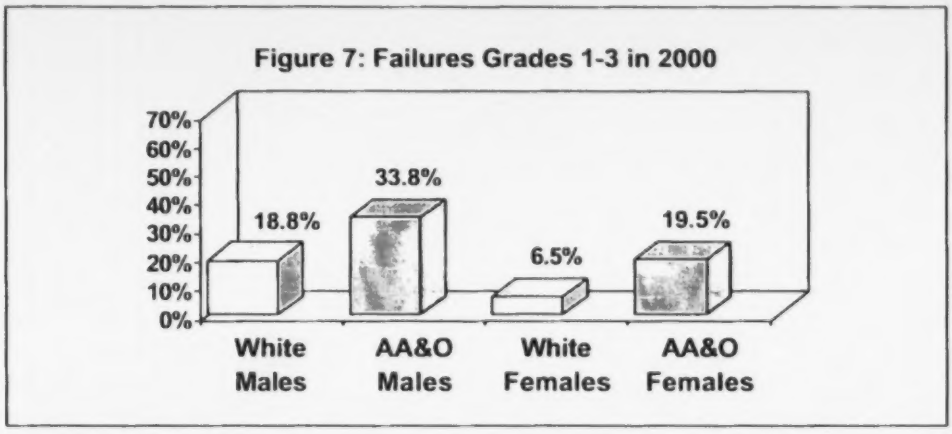


1st Grade Failures in 2002:

41 children failing 8.1% children failing

Failures Grades 1-3 in 2002 (approximate cumulative percentage of grades one, two and three):

87 children failing 17.3% children failing



Over-age for Grade 3 in 2001

114 children over-age 24.5% children over-age

Special Education: Large numbers of children are placed in special education classes. In elementary school, 216 six and seven year olds and 291 eight and nine year-olds were enrolled in special education classes during 2001-02, approximately 22.8% and 29.1% of their age groups respectively: 25.8% of White 8 – 9 year olds were in special education and 30.1% of African American and Others.

Readiness Summary: A serious problem exists in terms of student readiness and school success in the early grades. With 13.6% assessed not ready for the 1st grade, 24.5% over age in grade 3, and 29.1% of eight and nine year-olds placed in special education, unacceptably large numbers of students still begin school without good prospects of success in future school achievement and graduation; however, great improvement has occurred since the mid 1990s.

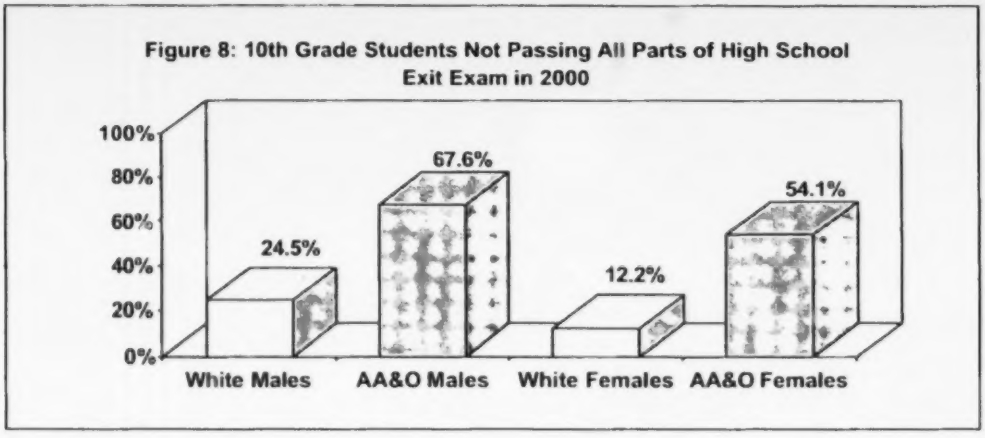
SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

By the end of elementary school, significant numbers of students perform below minimum standards. The following standardized test measures, comparing student performance to state minimum standards, should be used in combination with routine classroom assessments more reflective of real-world performance skills.

Special Education: Special education placements reflect both the significant number of children with serious handicapping conditions and a large number of students with mild learning and behavioral problems that have not been accommodated successfully by the regular educational program. The result is a large system of self-contained, resource, and itinerant services to meet the needs of 302 speech and language impaired, 545 learning disabled, 36 emotionally disabled, 331 mentally impaired, and 78 physically handicapped, deaf, blind, and other handicapped students. Special education classes served approximately 20.5% of all students in grades 1 - 12 during 2001-2002.

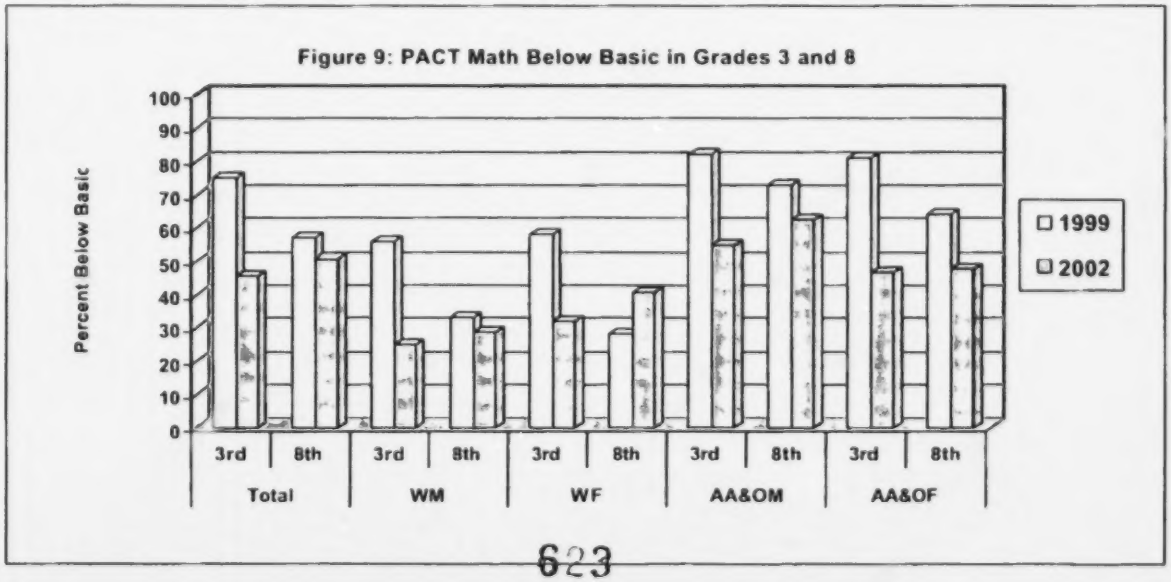
Exit Exam - not passing all parts of Exit Exam on first attempt in the 10th grade in 2002

194 students did not pass all parts — 49.1% of students did not pass all parts



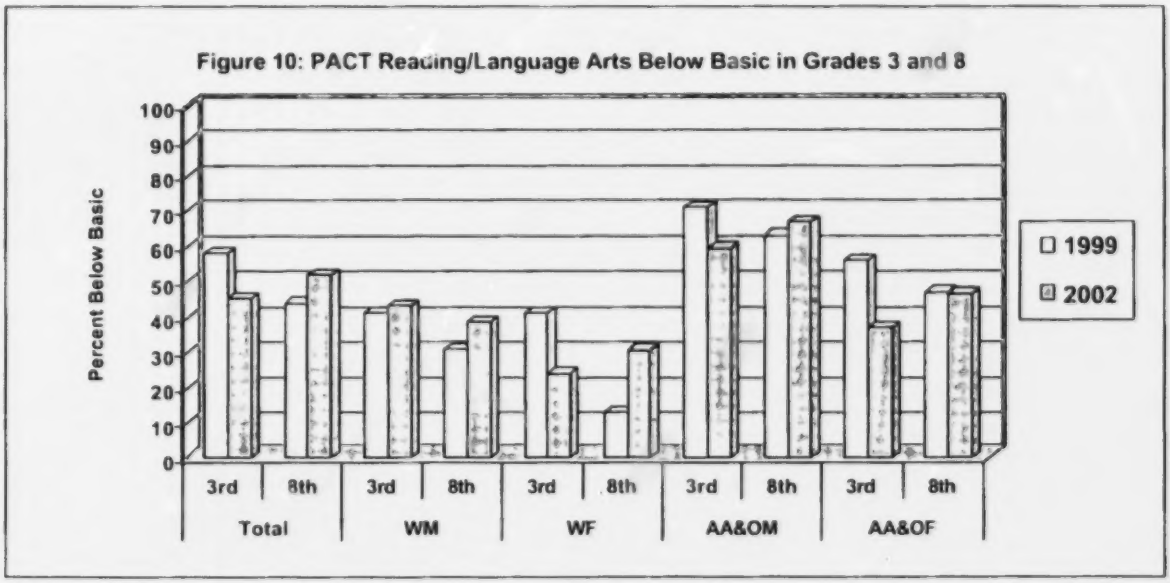
Achievement Trends: How has performance on standardized achievement tests changed over the past 20 years? During the 1980s, student performance on the BSAP tests improved dramatically. Between 1981 and 1990, the percentage of 8th grade students in Marion County who did not meet standards declined from 59.5% to 38.5% in math and from 63.7% to 37.2% in reading. During the 1990's the BSAP trend changed, with 39.8% not meeting 8th grade math standards in 1998 and 45.2% in reading. On standardized tests, the first year when South Carolina students take the exam is comparable to the challenge encountered by the national norm group which took the test only once. Looking at first year data, the percentage of 4th grade students at or below the 25th percentile of national norms was 37.9% in 1983 on the CTBS, 41.2% in 1990 on the Stanford, and 38.2% in 1995 on the Metropolitan; for 9th graders, the percentage in the bottom quarter was 40.1% in 1990 and 40.5% in 1995. Although not comparable, the percent below basic on the 4th grade PACT in 1999, the first year of administration, was 60.4%, but in 2002 41.1% of 4th graders were below basic in reading and math; the percentage of 8th graders below basic in reading and math averaged 50.6% in 1999 and 51.4% in 2002.

PACT: The Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) was first administered in 1999 for grades 3 - 8 in math and reading/language arts. Math assesses skills in numbers, numerical and algebraic concepts, patterns and functions, geometry, measurement, probability and statistics. The percentage of students scoring below basic in math has decreased by 27.2% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 970 students below basic in grades 3-8 but there would have been an additional 363 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
		Math (%)				
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	45.6	25.0	32.0	55.2	46.6
	4	43.7	23.2	28.2	51.5	46.2
	5	36.3	9.7	21.7	45.5	40.7
	6	54.8	37.9	37.8	63.2	57.3
	7	61.8	45.2	33.3	72.4	65.3
	8	50.9	28.8	40.8	62.6	48.1
Basic	3	40.3	48.3	42.0	38.3	39.2
	4	38.1	37.5	33.3	38.0	39.2
	5	42.8	50.0	51.7	36.5	44.0
	6	32.8	37.9	31.1	29.9	34.4
	7	27.9	41.1	44.4	21.6	24.4
	8	37.6	46.2	36.7	28.9	43.9
Proficient	3	9.0	15.0	10.0	4.4	11.4
	4	12.8	26.8	23.1	8.0	10.8
	5	13.0	21.0	15.0	11.6	11.0
	6	9.3	15.2	24.4	4.6	7.6
	7	8.6	11.0	22.2	6.0	6.3
	8	8.9	19.2	12.2	7.9	6.3
Advanced	3	5.1	11.7	16.0	2.2	2.8
	4	5.4	12.5	15.4	2.5	3.8
	5	7.9	19.4	11.7	6.3	4.4
	6	3.2	9.1	6.7	2.3	0.6
	7	1.8	2.7	0.0	0.0	4.0
	8	2.5	5.8	10.2	0.5	1.6

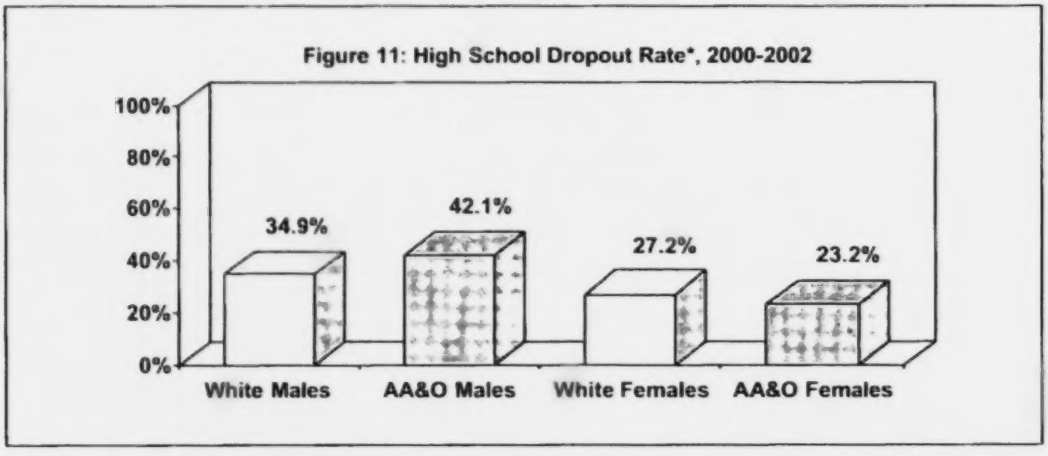
Reading/Language Arts assesses reading, listening, speaking, writing, research, and communication with technology. The first PACT assessment found a high percentage of elementary and middle grades students performing below standards and only a modest number above basic. The percentage of students scoring below basic in reading/language arts has decreased by 15.2% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 889 students below basic in grades 3 - 8 but there would have been an additional 159 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
	Reading/Language Arts (%)					
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	45.1	43.3	24.0	59.3	36.9
	4	38.5	32.1	10.3	47.2	38.7
	5	38.6	22.6	18.3	54.5	34.3
	6	53.3	42.4	28.3	64.9	52.2
	7	49.4	36.1	16.7	69.1	43.2
	8	51.9	38.5	30.6	66.7	46.6
Basic	3	36.1	33.3	38.0	29.7	43.2
	4	47.7	44.6	51.3	46.0	49.5
	5	48.2	51.6	55.0	38.1	55.2
	6	32.4	31.8	39.1	27.6	35.8
	7	42.5	47.2	59.3	29.9	49.4
	8	35.8	46.2	36.7	27.0	41.3
Proficient	3	17.3	21.7	32.0	9.9	19.3
	4	13.3	23.2	33.3	6.7	11.8
	5	12.6	22.6	26.7	7.4	9.9
	6	13.3	22.7	30.4	6.3	11.9
	7	7.5	13.9	22.2	1.0	7.4
	8	10.6	11.5	24.5	5.8	11.6
Advanced	3	1.5	1.7	6.0	1.1	0.6
	4	0.5	0.0	5.1	0.0	0.0
	5	0.6	3.2	0.0	0.0	0.6
	6	1.1	3.0	2.2	1.1	0.0
	7	0.6	2.8	1.9	0.0	0.0
	8	1.7	3.8	8.2	0.5	0.5

Dropout Rate - 8th grade students no longer enrolled in grade 12
(average of students for the three years ending 2000-2002)

194 students drop out annually **32.4% students drop out?**



Dropouts: Distressing numbers of students drop out and fail to graduate. An average of 25.1% of 8th graders failed to graduate** from county schools five years later during the period 1980-84, 28.8% during 1985-89, and 28.0% during 1990-94, 31.9% during 1995-97 and 35.5% during 1998-2000***.

During 2001-02, 93.3% of all who did graduate received the State High School Diploma, while the remaining 6.7% received a State Certificate for meeting the required Carnegie units but not passing the Exit Exam.

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*12th grade enrollment compared to 8th grade enrollment four years earlier

** This is calculated by using 8th grade enrollment to graduation data.

*** 2001 data will be available soon and will be posted on the website

Fortunately, many dropouts enroll in adult education programs and either earn a high school diploma or obtain a GED. During 2001-02, 0 Adult Education high school diplomas were awarded to school completers and in 2001 24 GEDs were awarded in the county. Over time, adult education high school diplomas and GEDs increase the effective school completion rate substantially. In the 2000 Census, 18.8% of county resident 25 - 34 year-olds said they had not completed either high school or a GED.

Achievement Summary: The numbers of students testing below basic on the PACT and dropping out range from 32.4% to 61.8%. Thus, far too many students fail to acquire the knowledge, skills, learning habits, and motivation necessary to compete in the economy or contribute to society in the 21st Century.

ADOLESCENT RISK BEHAVIORS

Academic achievement is greatly influenced by the prevailing youth culture which often promotes popularity with peers and partying rather than studying and doing well in school. The prevalence of adolescent risk-taking and under-achievement is illustrated by the poor grades of substance-abusing teens.

Substance Abuser Rates at Levels of Academic Performance

	Usual School Grades in Past Year					Total
	A Range	B Range	C Range	D Range	F Range	
Smoked Cigarettes (in past 30 days)	20.2%	21.9%	32.4%	38.6%	45.7%	27.8%
Drank 5 or More Drinks on One Occasion (in past 30 days)	20.1%	15.2%	19.6%	20.1%	33.3%	18.2%
Used Any Illicit Drug (in past 30 days)	15.0%	15.3%	25.6%	30.3%	45.7%	21.2%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

As influence from parents and other adults declines during adolescence, significant numbers of students engage in violence, crime, school offenses, depressive emotions and attempted suicide:

Risk Behaviors Participated in During Past 12 Months	White Male		White Female		African American Male		African American Female		Total		Total (Grade 7-12)
	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	
Carried a handgun or knife for self-defense?	24.7%	23.9%	3.4%	5.2%	15.5%	19.0%	7.4%	9.0%	12.6%	13.7%	13.3%
Carried a handgun or knife as a weapon?	7.5%	10.7%	1.1%	2.4%	6.0%	13.7%	2.2%	6.7%	4.2%	8.6%	7.0%
Been in a fight with someone?	39.3%	35.2%	19.2%	17.8%	34.2%	35.3%	26.3%	23.2%	30.3%	27.7%	28.7%
Hit your boyfriend or girlfriend?	2.5%	1.4%	17.1%	14.0%	5.7%	4.4%	14.6%	27.5%	9.9%	14.8%	13.0%
Been hit by your boyfriend or girlfriend?	9.3%	6.8%	9.5%	10.3%	12.7%	11.0%	6.5%	11.4%	9.5%	10.3%	10.0%
Rec'd detention or in-school suspension?	43.3%	49.2%	20.5%	33.8%	36.3%	49.3%	35.7%	39.1%	35.3%	42.8%	40.1%
Been suspended from school?	18.4%	12.5%	2.3%	4.8%	28.3%	14.3%	15.1%	9.8%	18.7%	10.7%	13.7%
Stolen anything worth > $5?	17.0%	18.8%	10.3%	10.7%	12.2%	15.1%	8.3%	7.3%	11.3%	11.9%	11.7%
Had an accident while driving?	NA	13.1%	NA	18.4%	NA	8.2%	NA	6.3%	NA	10.1%	NA
Been arrested and booked?	7.1%	4.6%	1.2%	2.2%	5.7%	7.1%	2.7%	2.2%	4.2%	4.0%	4.1%
Felt hopeless for two weeks or more?	14.5%	16.4%	30.6%	41.4%	11.1%	15.5%	26.5%	29.7%	19.7%	25.4%	23.3%
Seriously considered attempting suicide?	10.4%	5.9%	13.9%	16.1%	3.3%	6.2%	7.6%	9.8%	7.4%	9.1%	8.5%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

Adolescence is often a time of taking risks and asserting independence from adults. When asked whether they would tell an adult about a problem, the following percentages of county students said they would be "not likely" or "very unlikely" to tell if they:

-heard a student threaten to harm someone: 39.0% middle school, 49.7% high school;
-saw a student with a handgun at school: 31.4% middle school, 24.6% high school;
-saw a student with a knife at school: 33.0% middle school, 32.9% high school;
-saw a student with drugs at school: 42.7% middle school, 62.9% high school;

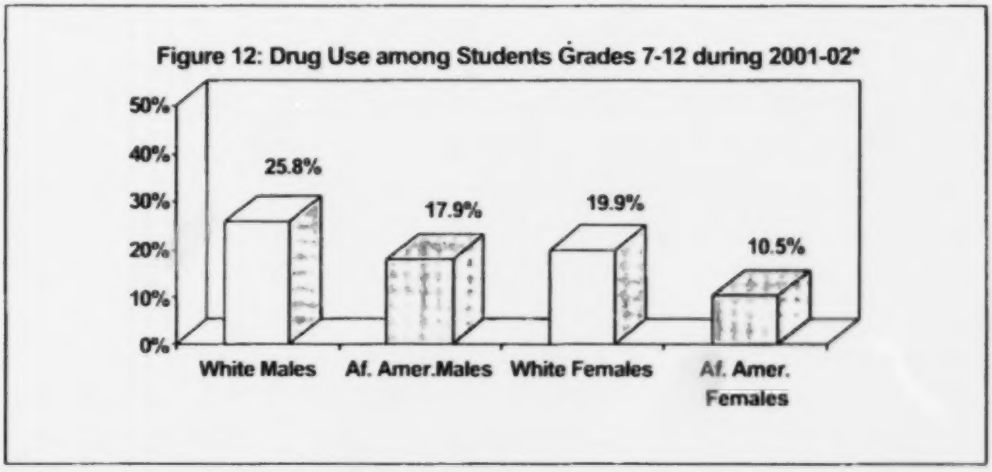
Alcohol Use:* In the county during 2001-02, 17.7% of 7th and 8th graders and 38.0% of high schoolers said they had used alcohol in the past month. Of White males in grades 7 - 12, 44.9% had used it in the past month, compared with 26.2% of African-American males; likewise, 42.7% of White females said they had used alcohol, compared with 25.1% of African-American females. Many youth first used alcohol at an early age: 11.6% had used alcohol by age 11 or younger, 27.2% by age 13, and 55.1% by age 15.

During the previous year, 17.8% of 7th and 8th graders and 34.3% of high schoolers said they had ridden with a drinking driver. Of seniors who drive, 16.5% said they had driven after drinking. Widespread use is encouraged by the ready availability and perceived low risk of alcohol use. Among students who expressed an opinion, 36.9% of eighth graders and 77.0% of seniors felt that beer was easy to get. Also, 71.8% of eighth graders and 67.9% of seniors felt there was not a great risk in drinking two drinks a day, and 47.1% of eighth graders and 46.4% of high schoolers felt there was not a great risk in drinking 5 drinks every weekend.

Heavy Drinking:* In 2001-02, 6.7% of 7th and 8th graders and 18.1% of high school students in the county repor drinking 5 or more drinks in a day during the past month. When asked how many drinks, if any, they usually consu 11.5% of all county students in grades 7 - 12 in 2001-02 responded 3 or more drinks at a time and 6.2% reported usually more drinks. Among high school students, 16.0% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 8.6% 5 or m Among seniors, 19.9% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 10.6% 5 or more; however 18.8% of sen said that they drank 5 or more drinks in a day once or more during the past month.

Drugs:* In 2001-02, 8.2% of 7th and 8th graders and 21.1% of high schoolers in the county reported using ill drugs during the previous month. Among students in grades 7 - 12, use was reported by 25.8% of White males, 19.9% W females, 17.9% of African-American males, and 10.5% of African-American females. Some young people initiated drug at an early age: 3.5% had experienced their first use by age 11 or sooner; 12.0% had used a drug by age 13, and 30.2% by 15.

In the past year, 10.4% of all high school students in the county who drive and 12.3% of seniors who drive said that they had driven after using drugs. Such use is encouraged by the ready availability of drugs: 21.1% of 8th graders who had an opinion said it is easy to get marijuana and 7.2% said it is easy to get cocaine or crack; 72.4% of seniors said it is easy to get marijuana and 32.2% said it was easy to get cocaine or crack.



* County participation in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking was not complete but county data is presented to provide the best available picture of teen risk-taking attitudes and behavior in Marion County. All districts participated, but there was partial participation by District 7.

Sexual Activity and Pregnancy: Many teenagers now engage in sexual activity. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) administered to a representative sample of high school students throughout South Carolina in 2001 showed that sexual activity begins at an early age: 7% of female and 21% of male students have engaged in intercourse before age 13; by age 15, 38% the females and 49% of males have engaged in sexual intercourse. Statewide, 48% of females and 50% of males in the 11th and 12th grades reported engaging in intercourse during the past three months. Furthermore, 27% of female and 33% of male 12th graders have had intercourse with four or more partners during their lifetimes.

Premature sexual activity often results in pregnancy. In the county, 43 girls between the ages of 14 and 17 became pregnant in 1999, 53 in 2000 and 34 in 2001. This represented 3.0% of all girls ages 14 – 17 in 2001; several times this percentage become pregnant at least once by age 18. The 2001 pregnancy rate for ages 14 - 17 was 1.5% for Whites and 3.6% for African-Americans and Others. Of all pregnancies of 14-17 year olds, 91.2% resulted in live births, with almost all other pregnancies ending in abortions.

Teen pregnancy rates increased substantially across the state during the 1980s; as a result, greater emphasis v devoted to preventing teen pregnancy. Since 1989, the teen pregnancy rate in Marion County has decreased by 43.3 Overall, it has decreased by 44.4% for Whites, and decreased by 49.3% for African Americans and Others.

Juvenile Delinquency: In 2001-02, 375 individual juvenile offenders in the county were referred to the Solicitor for delinquency; of these, 25.6% were age 12 or younger, 31.5% were 13 or 14, and 42.9% were 15 or older.

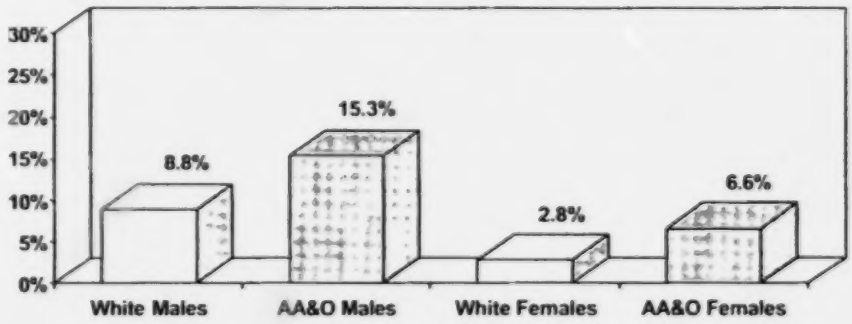
Of the referrals to the family court, 12.9% of all referrals were for violent and serious crimes which include drug trafficking, acts against persons for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and serious property offenses for arson and burglary. Also, 74 juvenile cases constituting 14.7% of all referrals were for status offenses. Status offenses include truancy, running away, incorrigibility, and other offenses that would not be crimes for adults.

Delinquents are likely to live in families with low income: 42.2% lived in families with income under $10,000, 45.3% with $10,000-$19,999 and 12.6% with $20,000 or more. Furthermore, only 9.8% of delinquents lived with both natural parents, while 57.6% lived in a single parent household, 24.6% lived with other relatives, and 8.0% in other situations including parent plus step-parent. Delinquency or criminal activity occurs among many related family members: 33.2% had at least one family member who was delinquent or had some criminal record.

Youth referred to the family courts are likely to have been there before. In 2001-02, 58.9% had at least one prior referral and 26.9% had been referred to court 3 times or more. Many were referred at an early age. For delinquents 15 - 17 years old, 5.3% had been referred by the age of 10, 14.6% by the age of 12, and 27.8% by the age of 14.

During 2001-02, 158 youth ages 15 to 17 were referred to the family courts. In the county, 9.2% of all youth 15 to 17 were referred to court in one year and roughly double that percentage are referred at least once by age 18. Furthermore, the National Youth Survey indicates that typically across the United States the proportion of youth engaging in crime is two or three times the number ever apprehended. In 2001-02, there were 20 juveniles committed from the county to DJJ custody and placed in residential programs.

Figure 13: Percentage of 15 - 17 Year Olds Referred to Court in 2001-02



Not in School or Employed: During 2000, 249 teenagers ages 16-19 were idle, meaning they neither worked any hours nor were enrolled in school, even part-time. Idle teens comprised 11.3% of their age group: 9.2% for White and 12.2% African-American & Other teens. A much larger number, perhaps twice as many, were not engaged in either school full time or work full time. The data reflect a serious failure in both school completion and the critical transition from school to work, significantly affecting their development as future workers. For an in-depth description of the problems of young adults seeking to enter the labor force, visit our website at www.scyoungadults.org for our state and county reports on 18-29 year olds.

Deaths: During 1997-2001, 9 youth ages 15 to 19 died. Historically, automobile accidents have been the major cause, resulting in 2 deaths between 1996 and 2000; homicides killed 1 youth 15 to 19 years old during the five-year period, and 1 youth committed suicide. Alcohol use is often a significant factor in deaths among teenagers.

SUMMARY

Facing the Scope of Problems: The data on families, economic status, health, readiness, school achievement, and adolescent risk behaviors provide a troublesome picture of the condition of children in Marion County. The 45.2% of children in single-parent families, 33.6% in poverty, 35.5% not graduating from school, 38.0% of high school students using alcohol and 21.1% using drugs each month, and other data profiled in this report suggest that too many children are at risk of not growing up to become self-supporting adults, good family members, and responsible community citizens.

Emphasizing the Positive: South Carolina Kids Count reports have been developed to describe the problems of children in each of the counties. Fortunately, the majority of children and youth are doing well, and some very well. One simple description is the percentage of children who do not fall into the problem categories reported. For the county, 79.9% of children are born to non-teen mothers ages 20 or older, 38.6% are born to married parents, and 54.8% lived in two-parent families; 66.4% were not poor and 38.5% lived in families with incomes above twice the poverty level for a family of three, $30,040 in 2002; 88.5% of babies were born with normal birthweights; 86.4% were assessed as ready for the first grade, 49.1% scored basic or better on PACT for 8th grade math and 48.1% for 8th grade reading, 50.9% passed all parts of the Exit Exam in the 10th grade, and 64.5% graduated with their class. In a typical month, 62.0% of high school students do not drink alcohol, 78.9% do not use drugs, and 72.2% do not smoke. Unfortunately, the absence of a problem is not always an indicator of success. Some data is available for exemplary performance: for example, 18.8% of 3rd graders and 12.3% of 8th graders scored proficient or advanced on PACT in reading and 14.1% of 3rd graders and 11.4% of 8th graders in math. Unfortunately, data on success is not generally available.

Despite the limitations of success data, we must emphasize the positive in providing good support and appropriate influences for children and youth. Recent philosophy and publications such as those of the Search Institute (700 South Third Street, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN, 55415-1138, tel. 1-800-888-7828, www.search-institute.org), emphasize the critical importance of "developmental assets" to promote and support positive development. One short book from the Search Institute, (What Kids Need to Succeed, by Peter J. Benson, Judy Gailbraith, and Pamela Espeland, 1995) presents an excellent array of suggestions for promoting developmental assets through families, community, faith congregations, and schools. If each family, school, religious congregation and community organization assertively worked to build such assets, the problems described in this report would be reduced dramatically. Such positive family-school-community efforts could improve South Carolina's national Kids Count ranking from the bottom 10 to the average or even into the top 10 by prevention of unnecessary problems affecting children and youth, as shown on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

All data presented in this report is the most recent available at the date it goes to the printer. This version of the Kids Count report will be revised as more recent and additional data become available. Please send us your corrections and suggestions for improvement. We welcome your ideas for ways to make the state and county reports more useful and accurate. Please utilize local data sources whenever possible to supplement the profile provided through our report.

Data related inquiries should be directed to:

Anne Wilson, Data Manager (awilson@drss.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-4810

Calls for **copies of reports** for other counties and inquiries regarding more recent reports should be made to:

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For **policy questions and general comments**, please contact:

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Comparable reports for all 46 counties and for the state can also be found on the World Wide Web at

www.sckidscount.org

Our website also provides: links to other websites for indicators in our report; high to low rankings for individual indicators; information on how to improve SC's national rank; and a glossary of definitions.

The national Kids Count Report can be found on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website at www.aecf.org

Marion County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Indicators	Most Recent Year	Number					Percent					R
		1980*	1990*	Most Recent Data	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980 Rank	199
Health													
Low Birth Weight	2001	65	57	57	-12.3%	+0.0%	10.1	10.1	11.5	13.4%	14.0%	37	
White babies	2001	13	9	13	+0.0%	+44.4%	5.9	4.8	7.0	18.6%	44.7%	25	
African American and Other babies	2001	52	48	44	-15.4%	-8.3%	12.4	12.7	14.2	14.9%	12.1%	25	
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	2001	295	243	103	+65.1%	-57.6%	46.0	43.0	20.7	-55.0%	-51.9%	34	
White babies	2001	79	44	30	-62.0%	-31.8%	35.9	23.7	16.0	-55.4%	-32.4%	40	
African American and Other babies	2001	216	199	73	-66.2%	-63.3%	51.3	52.5	23.5	-54.1%	-55.2%	17	
Infant Mortality	2001	46	29	22	-52.2%	-24.1%	2.4	1.7	1.4	-40.7%	-15.0%	39	
White babies	2001	14	4	3	-78.6%	-25.0%	2.2	0.7	0.5	-76.0%	-22.6%	43	
African American and Other babies	2001	32	25	19	-40.6%	-24.0%	2.5	2.2	2.0	-22.2%	-11.0%	32	
Family													
Births to mothers under 18	2001	66	47	32	-51.5%	-31.9%	10.3	8.3	6.4	-37.8%	-23.1%	36	
White babies	2001	12	7	4	-66.7%	-42.9%	5.5	3.8	2.1	-61.5%	-44.2%	22	
African American and Other babies	2001	54	40	28	-48.1%	-30.0%	12.8	10.6	9.0	-29.6%	-14.4%	25	
Births to mothers under 20	2001	135	133	100	-25.9%	-24.8%	21.1	23.5	20.1	-4.6%	-14.6%	27	
White babies	2001	32	24	24	-25.0%	+0.0%	14.5	12.9	12.8	-12.0%	-0.8%	15	
African American and Other babies	2001	103	109	76	-26.2%	+30.3%	24.5	28.8	24.5	0.2%	-14.8%	13	
Births to mothers with less than a high school education	2001	236	147	121	-48.7%	-17.7%	36.8	26.0	24.3	-34.0%	-6.6%	30	
White babies	2001	71	43	38	-46.5%	-11.6%	32.3	23.1	20.3	-37.1%	-12.2%	29	
African American and Other babies	2001	165	104	83	-49.7%	-20.2%	39.2	27.4	26.8	-31.7%	-2.4%	29	
Births to single mothers****	2001	208	279	305	+46.6%	+9.3%	32.4	49.4	61.4	89.2%	24.3%	36	
White babies	2001	23	26	55	+139.1%	+111.5%	10.5	14.0	29.4	181.2%	110.3%	44	
African American and Other babies	2001	185	253	250	+35.1%	-1.2%	43.9	66.8	80.6	83.5%	20.8%	12	
Children in single parent families	2000	2,325	2,982	3,508	+50.9%	+17.6%	22.9	34.8	45.2	97.3%	29.8%	39	
White	2000	483	513	561	+16.1%	+9.4%	10.4	15.6	20.5	96.7%	31.1%	28	
African American and Other	2000	1,835	2,458	2,947	+60.6%	+20.0%	32.0	46.8	58.7	83.4%	25.4%	32	
Education													
Not Ready for Grade 1	2001	260	183	68	-73.8%	-62.8%	40.1	26.6	13.6	-66.1%	-48.9%	28	
White males	2001	33	13	6	-81.8%	-53.8%	28.7	12.9	9.5	-66.9%	-26.4%	18	
White females	2001	23	9	2	-91.3%	-77.8%	21.1	9.9	3.8	-82.0%	-61.6%	23	
African American and Other males	2001	121	92	32	-73.6%	-65.2%	52.6	35.5	16.4	-68.8%	-53.8%	18	
African American and Other females	2001	83	69	28	-66.3%	-59.4%	42.8	29.2	14.9	-65.2%	-49.0%	15	
Repeating Grades 1-3	2000	114	198	120	+5.3%	-39.4%	17.8	29.2	23.2	30.3%	-20.5%	23	
White males	2000	19	23	15	-21.1%	-34.8%	17.2	24.0	18.8	9.3%	-21.7%	24	
White females	2000	13	7	4	-69.2%	-42.9%	11.7	7.4	6.5	-44.4%	-12.2%	31	
African American and Other males	2000	46	114	64	+39.1%	-43.9%	21.5	45.8	33.8	57.2%	-26.2%	14	
African American and Other females	2000	35	54	37	+5.7%	-31.5%	17.4	23.0	19.5	12.1%	-15.2%	21	
Grade 3 Math below standards****	2002	308	80	214	-30.5%	+167.5%	47.4	13.6	45.6	-3.8%	235.3%	32	
White males	2002	35	4	15	-57.1%	+275.0%	29.9	5.6	25.0	-16.4%	346.4%	23	
White females	2002	40	6	16	-60.0%	+166.7%	32.0	6.7	32.0	0.0%	377.6%	35	
African American and Other males	2002	124	40	101	-18.5%	+152.5%	58.8	18.1	55.2	-6.1%	205.0%	22	
African American and Other females	2002	107	30	82	-23.4%	+173.3%	54.9	14.6	46.6	-15.1%	219.2%	29	
Grade 3 Reading below standards****	2002	269	71	211	-21.6%	+197.2%	41.4	12.1	45.1	8.9%	272.7%	32	
White males	2002	36	8	26	-27.8%	+225.0%	30.8	11.3	43.3	40.6%	283.2%	29	
White females	2002	29	7	12	-58.6%	+71.4%	23.2	7.8	24.0	3.4%	207.7%	33	
African American and Other males	2002	126	38	108	-14.3%	+184.2%	59.7	17.4	59.3	-0.7%	240.8%	29	
African American and Other females	2002	76	18	65	-14.5%	+261.1%	39.0	8.8	36.9	-5.4%	319.3%	18	
Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT Grade 4	1998	209	257	193	-7.7%	-24.9%	37.9	41.2	42.2	11.3%	2.4%	33	
White males	1998	28	29	14	-50.0%	-51.7%	26.2	28.4	23.0	-12.2%	-19.0%	28	
White females	1998	17	21	15	-11.8%	-28.6%	17.2	22.1	26.3	52.9%	19.0%	31	
African American and Other males	1998	87	122	95	+9.2%	-22.1%	54.0	54.0	58.9	9.1%	9.1%	30	
African American and Other females	1998	75	85	69	-8.0%	-18.8%	41.7	42.5	39.7	-4.8%	-6.6%	32	

*Year of data is approximate in many cases.
**1 is best, 46 is worst.
*** Data include paternity acknowledgements.
**** BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Marion County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Education (continued)

Indicators		Number					Percent				
	Most Recent Year	1980*	1990*	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres
Grade 8 Math below state standards**	2002	337	223	245	-27.3%	+9.9%	59.5	38.5	50.9	-14.5%	32.2%
White males	2002	40	27	15	-62.5%	-44.4%	41.7	25.5	28.8	-30.9%	12.9%
White females	2002	24	17	20	-16.7%	+17.6%	26.1	18.3	40.8	56.3%	123.0%
African American and Other males	2002	127	83	119	-6.3%	+43.4%	71.0	42.1	62.6	-11.8%	48.7%
African American and Other females	2002	145	96	91	-37.2%	-5.2%	73.2	52.5	48.1	-34.3%	-8.4%
Grade 8 Reading below state standards**	2002	363	216	249	-31.4%	+15.3%	63.7	37.2	51.9	-18.5%	39.5%
White males	2002	49	27	20	-59.2%	-25.9%	51.0	25.5	38.5	-24.5%	51.0%
White females	2002	20	12	15	-25.0%	+25.0%	21.7	12.9	30.6	41.0%	137.2%
African American and Other males	2002	150	99	126	-16.0%	+27.3%	82.4	50.0	66.7	-19.1%	33.4%
African American and Other females	2002	143	77	88	-38.5%	+14.3%	71.9	42.1	46.6	-35.2%	10.7%
Grade 9 Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT	1998	NA	243	249	NA	+2.5%	NA	40.1	39.6	NA	-1.2%
White males	1998	NA	24	NA	NA	NA	NA	23.8	18.9	NA	-20.6%
White females	1998	NA	13	NA	NA	NA	NA	12.3	18.6	NA	51.2%
African American and Other males	1998	NA	119	NA	NA	NA	NA	59.2	49.1	NA	-17.1%
African American and Other females	1998	NA	87	NA	NA	NA	NA	43.9	45.1	NA	2.7%
Exit Exam (not passing all parts on 1st attempt)	2002	271	157	194	-28.4%	+23.6%	52.2	32.0	49.1	-5.9%	53.4%
White males	2002	31	16	13	-58.1%	-18.8%	29.5	18.6	24.5	-16.9%	31.7%
White females	2002	26	13	5	-80.8%	-61.5%	26.0	12.8	12.2	-53.1%	-4.7%
African American and Other males	2002	115	67	69	-40.0%	+3.0%	69.7	47.2	67.6	-3.0%	43.2%
African American and Other females	2002	99	61	106	+7.1%	+73.8%	66.4	37.9	54.1	-18.5%	42.7%
Dropout Rate (8th graders no longer enrolled in 12th grade 4 years later)	2000-02	126	190	194	+54.6%	+2.1%	23.4	30.9	32.4	38.3%	4.9%
White males	2000-02	31	41	28	-9.7%	-30.9%	28.2	34.2	34.9	23.7%	2.0%
White females	2000-02	24	30	20	-15.3%	-32.2%	22.1	26.2	27.2	23.1%	3.9%
African American and Other males	2000-02	42	68	95	+125.4%	+40.2%	26.0	36.4	42.1	62.0%	15.8%
African American and Other females	2000-02	29	52	51	+78.9%	-1.9%	18.3	26.4	23.2	26.7%	-12.0%
Young Adults Not Completing High School (18-24)	2000	1,397	972	809	-42.1%	-16.8%	38.3	34.1	18.8	-51.0%	-45.0%
White males	NA	400	163	NA	NA	NA	45.0	30.0	NA	NA	NA
White females	NA	325	105	NA	NA	NA	37.4	19.0	NA	NA	NA
African American and Other males	NA	334	354	NA	NA	NA	38.0	44.6	NA	NA	NA
African American and Other females	NA	338	350	NA	NA	NA	33.5	36.5	NA	NA	NA
Economics											
Poverty Rate	2000	3,832	4,002	3,217	-16.0%	-19.6%	33.3	37.7	33.6	0.9%	-10.9%
White children	2000	650	488	380	-41.5%	-22.1%	14.2	13.4	12.4	-12.7%	-7.5%
African American and Other children	2000	3,182	3,514	2,837	-10.8%	-19.3%	45.9	50.3	43.6	-5.1%	-13.4%
Income of Families w/children (1999 $)	2000	$ 34,506	$ 34,214	$ 37,802	+9.6%	+10.5%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
White families	2000	$ 43,024	$ 47,726	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
African American and Other families	2000	$ 25,431	$ 23,028	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Adolescent Risk Factors											
Teenage Pregnancy (ages 14-17)	2001	77	57	34	-55.8%	-40.4%	6.0	4.7	3.0	-49.7%	-36.2%
White	2001	18	11	5	-72.2%	-54.5%	3.4	2.5	1.5	-55.9%	-40.0%
African American and Other	2001	59	46	29	-50.8%	-37.0%	7.8	5.9	3.6	-53.6%	-39.0%
Delinquency	2002	56	137	158	+182.1%	+15.3%	3.0	8.1	9.2	208.0%	14.1%
White males	2002	15	35	23	+53.3%	-34.3%	3.9	11.0	8.8	126.8%	-19.6%
White females	2002	5	9	7	+40.0%	-22.2%	1.3	2.5	2.8	115.4%	12.0%
African American and Other males	2002	20	69	87	+335.0%	+26.1%	3.6	13.6	15.3	324.0%	12.2%
African American and Other females	2002	16	24	41	+156.3%	+70.8%	2.8	4.7	6.6	136.2%	40.7%

*Closest available data to this year,was used in many cases.
**BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Kids Count 2003

Marlboro County

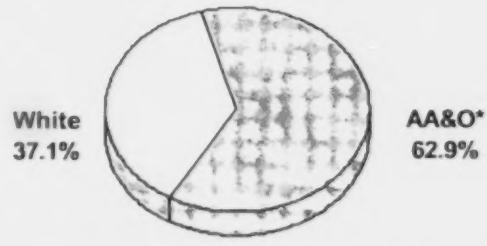
DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2000 there were an estimated 7,549 children under age 18 in the county. Of these, 2,800 were White, 4,289 were African-American, and 460 were other races. There were 8,530 children under age 18 in 1990, 10,983 in 1980, 11,037 in 1970, and 13,113 in 1960.

Children represent a shrinking portion of the county's population. Those under 18 constituted 26.2% of the population in 2000, down from 46.0% in 1960, 40.7% in 1970, and 34.7% in 1980.

In 2000 the 2,311 pre-schoolers under age 6 were 8.0% of the overall population: 6.9% of Whites and 8.6% of African Americans.

Figure 1: Population Ages 0-17 in 2000



* In all charts African-American is combined with other races, and often abbreviated as AA&O. Other races comprise 6.1% of children in the county, with American Indian and Alaska Native Alone at 4.0% and 'two or more races" at 1.5% as the largest Other groups.

FAMILY

Families have always been the most important influence in a child's life. Children depend on their families for material needs, stimulation and guidance. Family life is different in numerous ways from previous generations, and many families now face exceptional challenges.

Families with children now make up a smaller share of all households. Only 40.9% of all households in 2000, as compared with 47.0% of households in 1960, had children below the age of 18.

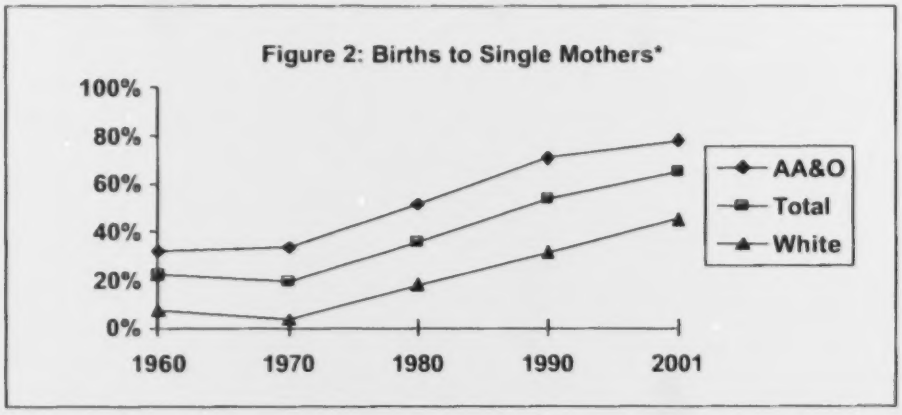
Births to Teen Mothers: In 2001, 37 babies were born to mothers younger than age 18. They were 9.3% of all babies born in the county; 6.3% of all White and 11.2% of all African-American and Other babies were born to teen mothers under the age of 18. Of the babies born to these teens in 2001, 100.0% were born to single mothers, including babies whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers.

In 2001, 96 babies were born to mothers younger than age 20. These babies were 24.0% of all born in the county; 18.2% of all White and 27.8% of all African-American and Other babies were born to mothers under the age of 20. Of the babies born to these mothers in 2001, 93.8% were born to single mothers, including paternity acknowledeged babies.

Education of Mothers Giving Birth: Children's success is strongly influenced by the education of their parents. In 2001, 127 babies, 31.9% of all babies, were born to mothers of all ages who had not completed the 12th grade. In 2001, 29.7% of White and 33.3% of African-American and Other babies were born to mothers who had completed less than the 12th grade. This is a substantial improvement from 60.4% in 1970. In addition, during 2001, 47.5% had completed 12 grades (43.7% of Whites and 50.0% of African Americans and Others) and 20.6% had more than a high school degree (26.6% of Whites and 16.7% of African American and Others).

Births to Single Mothers: Births to single mothers have increased steadily over four decades. In 2001, 167 babies, 41.8% of all babies, were recorded as born to single mothers. A decade earlier in 1990, the percentage was 44.7% and in 1960 it was 21.8%. In 2001, 24.5% of White children and 53.1% of African-American and Other children were born to single mothers. These numbers, however, do not include paternity acknowlegement births.

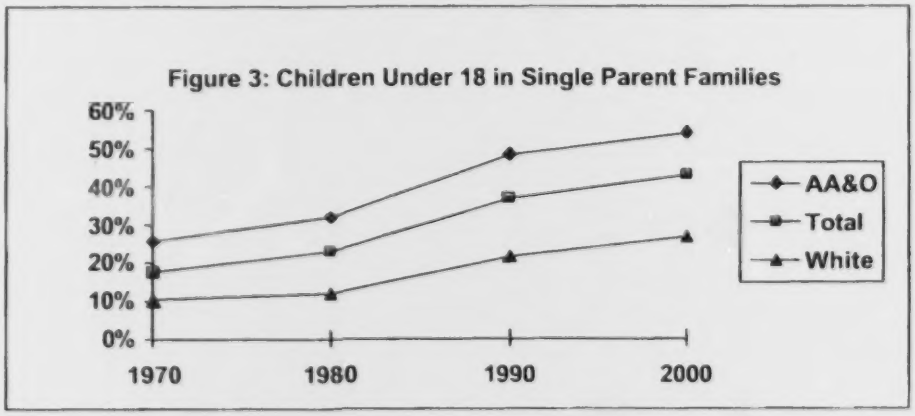
Thus, to these numbers should be added an additional group of 93 babies, 23.3% of all born in 2001, whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers. When the paternity-acknowledged babies are added, the total number born to single mothers in 2001 was 260, constituting 65.0% of all babies, 45.3% of White babies, and 78.0% of African-American and Others.



*Includes paternity acknowleged babies in 1980, 1990 and 2001. Prior to 1979, paternity acknowleged cases were not a statistical category, and thus were included in births to single mothers.

Divorce Rate: In 2001, 458 marriage licenses were issued, while 68 divorce decrees involving 66 children were filed. In 1970, only 43 children were in families involved in divorce.

Single-Parent Family: Increasing numbers of children live in single-parent families. In 2000, 2,539 children lived with only one parent. This was 43.0% of all children, up from 36.6% in 1990, 22.7% in 1980, and 17.3% in 1970. In 2000, 26.6% of White and 54.1% of African-American and Other children lived in single-parent families. Also in 2000, 797 or 45.3% of children under age 6 lived in single parent families: 25.0% of White and 61.2% of African American and Other pre-schoolers.



Parents Working and Child Care: Increasingly, parents must divide their time between children and employers. In order to meet family financial needs, most parents must work and thus have less time for family life. In 2000, 69.3% of mothers with children under 6 and 75.5% with children 6 - 17 were in the labor force. This has increased substantially from 1960 when 41.6% of mothers with children under 6 were in the labor force. Most fathers also work: 66.4% of children under 6 are in families where the single parent or both parents work. Caring for children is a problem for parents unable to obtain quality, affordable daycare while they are at work.

Overall, there are 624 spaces in state-regulated childcare facilities* in the county, 93.8% of these are in licensed programs and 6.3% are in registered programs. Of the spaces, 81.4% are in licensed childcare centers serving more than 12 children, 3.8% are in registered or licensed family childcare homes serving six or fewer children, 1.9% are in licensed group childcare homes serving 7-12 children, and 12.8% are in registered or licensed church programs.

The homes and centers are severely constrained by the limited ability of parents to pay. In the area, the average weekly charge is $ 74.00 for centers and $ 60.00 for homes. Consequently, center wages are low: 33.3% of centers with pre-school staff and 50% of centers with assistant pre-school staff report paying these staff under $6 per hour. Paying $6-$8 per hour are 66.7% of centers with pre-school staff and 50% of centers with assistants. Low wages attract workers with limited education. In 33.3% of centers, most pre-school staff and in 100% of centers most assistants have only a high school degree. In 50% of centers few to none of the pre-school staff have early childhood credentials. In childcare homes, 50% of lead providers have no more education than a high school degree or GED; 50% have less than a high school degree.

Family Violence: In 2000, 391 domestic assaults were recorded by law enforcement officials. These domestic assaults comprised 25.0% of all assaults, which include aggravated assaults, simple assaults, and intimidation. Overall, 42.2% of all domestic assaults involve spouse abuse which constitutes 10.5% of all assaults. Since most family violence is not reported, the true incidence of family disruption is much more widespread than even the large number of reported cases would indicate.

Separation from Parents: Some children do not live with their natural parents. In 2000, 11.6% of all children did not live with their natural parents. Approximately 685 or 9.1% of all children lived with relatives, 124 or 1.6% lived with non-relatives, 7 or 0.1% were householders or spouses, and 63 or 0.8% were in institutional facilities.

Abuse and Neglect: In 2000-01, there were 172 investigations into reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children. Through its investigations, the Department of Social Services (DSS) determined that 94 of the investigations were indicated for abuse or neglect: 20.2% for physical abuse, 3.2% for sexual abuse, 0.0% for mental injury, 29.8% for physical neglect, 6.4% for educational neglect, 4.3% for medical neglect, 36.2% for threat of harm for physical/sexual abuse, and 0.0% for other types of abuse.

In the indicated cases of abuse and neglect, DSS determined there were 148 children who were victims of abuse or neglect. Of these, 46.6% were male, 53.4% were female; 43.2% were White, 56.8% were African-American and Other. By age, 33.1% were ages 0 - 5, 45.3% were ages 6 - 12, and 21.6% were ages 13 - 17. In the indicated cases, 32.4% of the children lived in two-parent families, 57.4% in single parent families, 9.5% with unmarried couples, and 0.7% in other circumstances.

Out of Home Placements: As of June 2001, 45 children lived in foster care. The median age at first placement in the county is 3.9 years. The ages of children in foster care were 31.1% 0-2, 11.1% 3-5, 22.2% 6-10, 13.3% 11-13, and 22.2% 14 and above. The foster care population is 42.2% males and 57.8% females. Regarding their future, 51.1% were under a plan for placement in adoptive homes, 24.4% for return to a parent or guardian, 4.4% for placement with a relative, 15.6% for independent living, 4.4% for permanent foster care, and 0.0% for other circumstances.

Adult/Child Ratio: A measure of potential adult attention for children from family and community is the ratio of adults to children and youth. In 2000 there were 2.82 adults for every person below age 18. This was up substantially from 1960, when there were only 1.18 adults for every person under the age 18. This indicates that today there are more adults potentially available to provide attention and care for each child than in the past.

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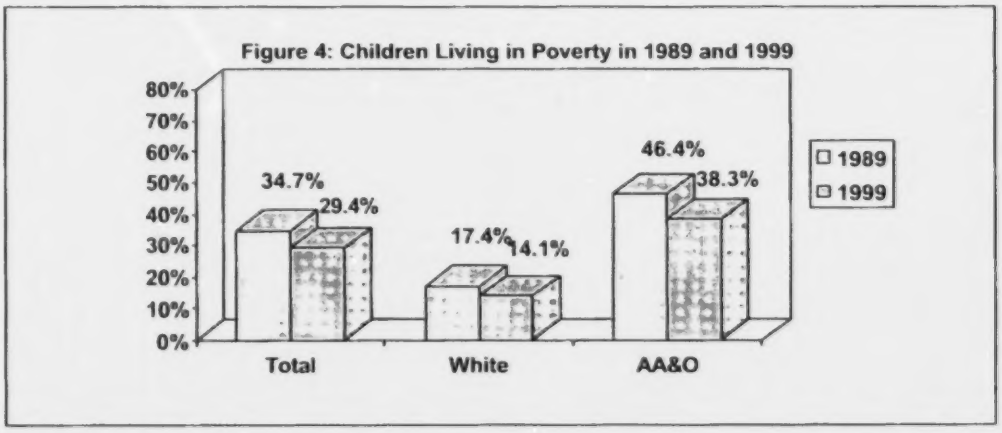
* This data is the best currently available; however, an effort is being made to check the coverage and improve the accuracy. As soon as more recent and complete data becomes available, it will be posted on the website.

ECONOMIC STATUS

Low income makes it difficult for many families to provide the material and environmental enrichment necessary for healthy child development.

Poverty: In 1999, 2,181 children and youth under the age of 18 lved in 961 families with incomes below poverty, comprising 29.4% of all children and youth: 14.1% of Whites and 38.3% of African-Americans and Others. A rough estimate of child poverty in 2001 calculated by the Census Bureau was 23.0%.



Poverty has always been a serious problem. While the rate among children under age 18 in 1989 was 34.7%, it was 31.1% in 1979 and 40.2% in 1969.

Children and the elderly are the age groups most seriously affected by poverty. In 1999, 32.3% of children 0 - 5 (13.9% White, 44.9% African-American and Other), and 27.1% of children 6 - 17 (13.1% White, 35.0% African-American and Other), lived in poverty; 22.7% of persons 65 years and older lived in poverty. Historically, the poverty rate among the elderly was much higher. During the last three decades, federal policy actions have substantially improved the economic status of older persons but have not done so for children.

Single-parent families are most likely to be poor. In 1999, 49.5% of children in single-parent families lived in poverty, but only 14.1% of children in married-couple families were poor. Children in single-parent families made up 70.6% of all the county's children living in poverty.

In 2002, the poverty level was $15,020 for a family of three and $18,100 for a family of four. The poverty threshold is often criticized as an arbitrary number. People can still be poor but may be just above the poverty level. Federal programs utilize varying thresholds. For example, in 1999 there were 4,499 children ages 0-17 who were less than 200 percent of poverty; thus an additional 2,318 children were above the poverty level but could still be considered poor or near-poor with incomes below $30,040 and $36,200 respectively for 3 and 4 person families.

Children Under 18 in Poverty in 1999

Percent of Poverty	Total		White		African American & Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 50%	1,147	15.5%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 100%	2,181	29.4%	387	14.1%	1,794	38.3%
Under 125%	2,871	38.7%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 150%	3,453	46.5%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 175%	3,899	52.5%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 185%	4,179	56.3%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 200%	4,499	60.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total Children	7,549		2,800		4,749	

Note: Missing data will be released by the Census Bureau later in 2003, and will be posted on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

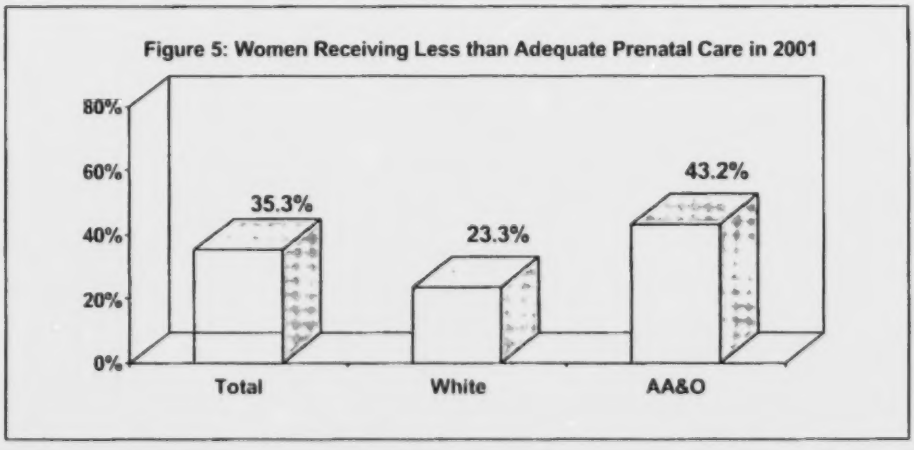
Income: The mean income of families with children in 1999 was $36,609. In 1989 it was $33,942, and 1979, it was $35,237, adjusted for inflation (i.e., in 1999 dollars). The mean income of single-parent families with children was $20,636 for single parents in 1999, as compared with $47,281 in married-couple families with children. From 1999 to 2000, Marlboro County real dollar per capita income (eliminating inflation) increased by 3.2%.

Child Support Payments: There were 384[7] families receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families in fiscal year 2002, but only 28.1 % had child support court orders. Their average monthly payment of child support was $ 257, including child support receipts and tax refund intercepts. In addition, during fiscal year 2002, an estimated 914 parents in non-TANF families were obligated to pay a monthly average of $ 197. Information is not available regarding the amount actually paid.

HEALTH

Good health during a child's formative years helps children to reach their maximum potential. Good health requires healthy lifestyles and effective primary care, starting during the prenatal period and continuing through adolescence into adulthood. Children's health reflects the well-being of the community, as well as how adequately they are protected.

Prenatal Care: Early and continuous prenatal care can make a significant difference in assuring births of healthy babies. Delayed or insufficient prenatal care is associated with low birthweight and other health risks for infants. In 2001, 132, or 33.0% of pregnant women received no prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy. In 2001, 141, or 35.3% of pregnant women received less than adequate prenatal care: 37 or 23.3% of Whites and 104 or 43.2% of African-Americans and Others. In that same year, 4 women received no prenatal care at all.



Low Birthweight: Low birthweight of less than 5.5 pounds and very low birthweight of less than 3.3 pounds are associated with health risks and growth and development problems. In 2001, 57 or 14.3% of all babies in the county were born with low birthweight: 18.3% of African-American and Other babies and 8.2% of White babies. During 1999-2001, approximately 39 or 3.1% of all babies were born with very low birthweight and had the most serious complications: 2.5% of White babies and 3.5% of African-American and Other babies. The cost of hospitalization for each newborn low birthweight baby in the county in 1999 - 2001 was $7,983 and $145,032 for each very low birthweight baby, compared with $2,368 for a baby of normal birthweight. The result was excess cost in the county of $840,593 for all low birthweight babies, of which $713,320 was for very low birthweight babies.

Infant Mortality: During the decade since 1989-91, the overall infant mortality rate decreased by 23.5% from 16.5 to 12.6 per 1000 live births. For Whites, the rate increased 18.6% from 6.5 to 7.7 per 1000 live births, while for African-Americans and Others the rate decreased 32.8% from 23.9 to 16.1 per 1000 live births. Over the three-year period 1999-2001, 4 White and 12 African-American and Other infants died before age one. By comparison, 4 White and 20 African-American and Other infants died during 1989-91.

[7] Number is an unduplicated count for the entire fiscal year.

Child Injuries and Deaths: Childhood deaths and injuries reflect whether communities are safe for children. In 2001, children in the Marlboro County went to the emergency room 995 times because of injuries. Boys are injured more often than girls. Children visit the emergency room at comparable rates for each age from 0 to 17.

In South Carolina, the major causes of death among young children are unintentional injuries, cancer, homicide, and congenital anomalies. Over the three year period 1999-2001, 9 White and 7 African-American and Other children ages 1-14 died in the county. During 1989-91, 4 White and 7 African-American and Other children died.

Immunization: Immunization rates are an important indication of whether young children are receiving adequate preventive health care. During FY 1989-90, 55.6% of children less than two years old seen in public health clinics were not fully immunized against such preventable diseases as Polio, Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Haemophilus Influenza B and Whooping Cough. After a concerted statewide campaign to increase immunizations, the percentage of children seen in public health clinics who were not fully immunized in January 2001 had declined in the county to 11.4%. The DHEC statewide birth registry survey of all two year old children found that 88.1% were fully immunized in 2001. This success demonstrates the potential to improve the status of children when the leadership of the state and its communities act decisively together.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Children and youth are infected with sexually transmitted diseases through sexual abuse or irresponsible sexual activity. National prevalence rates indicate: a 1 in 8 chance that sexually active 15 year-old girls will develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), the most rapidly increasing cause of infertility; 10% of sexually active adolescent girls and boys are infected with chlamydia, the most common cause of PID; and as many as 15% of teen girls are infected with human papilloma virus, often with strains linked to cervical cancer. Furthermore, research evidence indicates that susceptibility to HIV/AIDS increases by 3 to 8 times through prior infection with various STDs.

According to national studies, approximately 1 in 4 sexually experienced youth aged 13-19 acquires a STD ever year; since two-thirds of all high school students have had sexual intercourse and half engage in intercourse over a thr month period, this would suggest that 10-15% of teens are infected with STDs annually. For 2000, this would indicate th an estimated 304 to 456 youth ages 13-19 in the county were infected with a STD. Many infections are either not identifi for treatment or not reported. In the county, there were 2 reported cases of children under age 15 and 7 youth ages 1 19 infected with gonorrhea; 3 youth under 15 and 17 ages 15 - 19 were reported infected with chlamydia. Youth wi undiagnosed and untreated STDs often spread their infections.

Healthy Lifestyles: Although no county data is available, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2001 found that ma high school students are not following good health habits. The YRBS revealed that 26% felt that they were overweight; 42 were trying to lose weight: 27% of boys and 57% of girls. Although during a week 79% of high school students ate fru 59% ate salad, and over 83% ate vegetables, only 17% ate the recommended five or more servings of fruit and vegetabl per day. During a week, 49% did stretching or muscle strengthening exercises, and 59% exercised three or more times f 20 minutes in sports that made them sweat or breathe hard. However, 11% of students engaged in no vigorous or modera activity at all during a week: 8% of boys and 13% of girls.

Tobacco Use:* Cigarette smoking starts at a young age and often becomes habitual. In the state during 2002 among all students 15 and older, 16.7% first smoked by age 11, 36.3% by age 13, and 51.4% by age 15. In a typical month, 17.1% of 7th and 8th graders and 25.3% of high school students smoked cigarettes. White youths were much more likely than African-Americans to smoke: 26.4% of White male and 27.2% of White female 7th to 12th graders used cigarettes, as compared with 18.9% of African-American males and 12.2% of African American females. A smaller but significant group of high school students (5.4%) used smokeless tobacco monthly; it was used primarily by White males (15.9% compared with 1.1% of all other race and sex groups).

* Schools in the county elected not to participate in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking. Therefore, data for all of South Carolina is presented here.

Disabilities: No data are collected on the true prevalence of disabilities within the county. According to nation reported estimates, over 10% of children and youth have developmental disabilities at any point in time, and more than 1 are affected at some time before age 18 by deafness, blindness, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, speech defects, developmer delays, learning disabilities, and emotional or behavioral problems. For 2000 this suggests that at least 755 children youth under age 18 in the county are currently affected by disabilities.

Approximately 5% of children and youth nationally have serious disabilities which have lifelong implications work, social life and community living. Typically among children and youth, there are 1 - 2% who are mentally retarde - 3% with serious emotional disturbances, over 1% with orthopedic or multiple disabilities, including cerebral palsy many hereditary conditions, and under 1% with visual or hearing impairments.

Other chronic health problems also affect the lives of many children. Over 3% of children have one or more these limitations. Such serious chronic conditions affect 1 - 2% who have respiratory problems (asthma and chro bronchitis), 0.5 - 1.0% with neurological problems (epilepsy and seizures), and less than 1% with circulatory proble (congenital heart defects and acquired diseases).

Other disabilities are identified primarily in school performance. These would include 329 students in grades with learning disabilities and 151 students in grades 1-12 with speech/language deficits.

Disabilities are caused by genetics, disease, poor prenatal conditions, injuries, and environmental factors. Fo example, lead exposure, primarily from paint dust, was detected in over 1% of all children screened, including 10 Marlboro County.

Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: While over 20% of 9-17 year olds meet diagnostic criteria for some for of mental disorder, the number with serious emotional disturbance and impaired functioning in family, school, community activities is: 9-13% for substantial functional impairment and 5-9% for extreme functional impairment. Th rates among poor children are at the higher end of these ranges. Based on a federal formula for estimating prevalence, the county there are 12% or 473 seriously emotionally disturbed 9-17 year olds with substantial functional impairme and 8% or 315 with extreme functional impairment during the course of a year. Conduct disorders, attention defici depression, and anxiety disorders are the most prevalent, each affecting 3% or more of school-aged children. Thes disorders may occur simultaneously in a child. The prevalence rates are highest among males, adolescents, a disadvantaged persons in communities under stress and lacking social cohesion; depression, however, is more prevale among females. On the YRBS, 20% of boys and 33% of girls in high school reported that during the past year they felt sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that they stopped doing some usual activities. Another indicat of emotional problems is the 8% of high school students in South Carolina who reported that they had "attempted suicid in the past year: 5% of boys and 10% of girls. Suicide attempts resulted in 4% of high school students reporting that the required treatment by a doctor or nurse for injury, poisoning, or overdose.

Inadequate Healthcare: No county level data is routinely collected regarding the number of children and you with inadequate healthcare. According to estimates for 2000-02 by the Bureau of the Census through the annual Curre Population Survey, the statewide average rate of uninsured children and youth under age 18 in families with income under 200% of poverty in South Carolina was 16.6%, and 9.9% above 200% of poverty. If these rates are applied to t county, there are 748 children in the county below 200% of poverty with no health insurance, and 303 children abo 200% of poverty with no health insurance, for a total of 1,051 uninsured children in Marlboro County. The numb lacking basic accessible primary care is at least double the number lacking insurance. Those lacking primary care a often dependent on health services at school. The ratio of students to nurses recommended nationally is 750:1. In th county, this would suggest the need for 7 nurses, compared with 3 currently working in the schools.

Medicaid: For several years, the State of South Carolina has emphasized enrolling eligible children in Medicaid. In late 1997, South Carolina implemented its version of the State Children's Health Insurance Progra Partners for Healthy Children (PHC), and aggressively pursued outreach enrollment for PHC and Medicaid. As a resu enrollment of children ages 0 through 18 in Marlboro County has increased by 54.2% from June 1997 to June 2001; th Medicaid and PHC were serving 67.3% of all children in that age range. The total Medicaid expenditures in Sou Carolina for services provided to children ages 0 through 18 for state fiscal year 2002 were $991 million, at an avera statewide expenditure of $2,343 per child enrolled, approximate Medicaid expenditure for children in the county would $11.9 million.

In June 2001, the total number of Marlboro County children, birth through 18, enrolled in Medicaid was 5,084. The total can be broken down into the following age and race groupings:

	White	African American	Hispanic	Other	Total
Children under 1	124	209	3	15	351
Children 1 - 5	410	916	18	105	1,449
Children 6 - 14	599	1,579	9	162	2,349
Children 15 - 18	257	636	0	42	935
Total	1,390	3,340	30	324	5,084

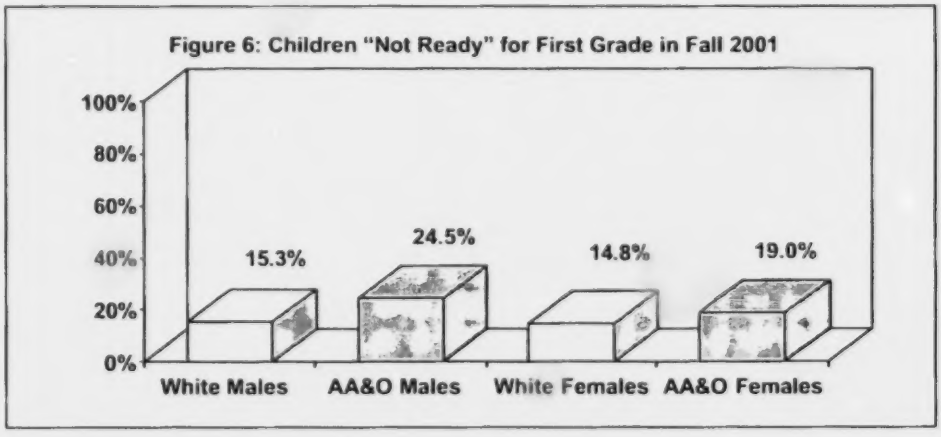
Ambulatory Care: When children lack adequate primary care, whether through lack of insurance, through limi access, or through failing to utilize available care, preventable and treatable conditions become serious and requ hospitalization. A useful indicator of inadequate primary care is the percentage of all hospitalizations that could typica have been avoided through ambulatory care, especially for pneumonia, asthma, diarrhea and vomiting, dehydration, severe ear, nose, and throat infections. The share of hospitalizations for these types of conditions could normally be k below 20%; for children in the county under the age of 18 during 2001, the share was 33.3% for Whites and 35.6% African-Americans and Others.

READINESS AND EARLY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Too many children reach school without the readiness skills needed for success in learning, such as language, so skills, visual and auditory discrimination, memory recall, and knowledge of colors, letters, numbers, names of objects, Likewise, some schools are not ready to respond appropriately to the varying developmental levels of children in the ea grades. As a result, too many students do not experience the success needed to create the motivation and engagement sustain learning.

1st Grade "Readiness" on 2001-02 Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB):

87 children not ready 19.7% children not ready



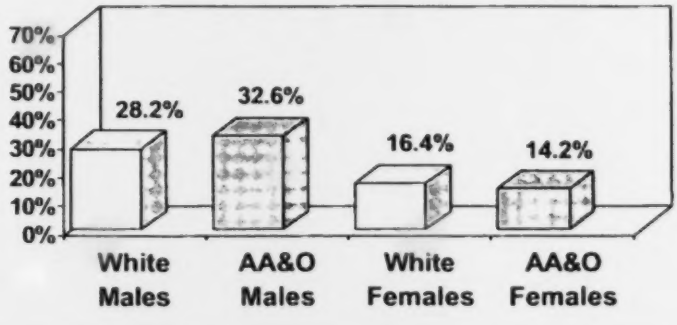
1st Grade Failures in 2002:

47 children failing 10.7% children failing

Failures Grades 1-3 in 2002 (approximate cumulative percentage of grades one, two and three):

87 children failing 20.1% children failing

Figure 7: Failures Grades 1-3 in 2000



Over-age for Grade 3 in 2001

107 children over-age 25.1% children over-age

Special Education: Large numbers of children are placed in special education classes. In elementary schoo 126 six and seven year olds and 118 eight and nine year-olds were enrolled in special education classes during 2001-0 approximately 16.2% and 13.9% of their age groups respectively: 20.0% of White 8 – 9 year olds were in specia education and 11.1% of African American and Others.

Readiness Summary: A serious problem exists in terms of student readiness and school success in the earl grades. With 19.7% assessed not ready for the 1st grade, 25.1% over age in grade 3, and 13.9% of eight and nine yea olds placed in special education, unacceptably large numbers of students still begin school without good prospects o success in future school achievement and graduation; however, great improvement has occurred since the mid 1990s.

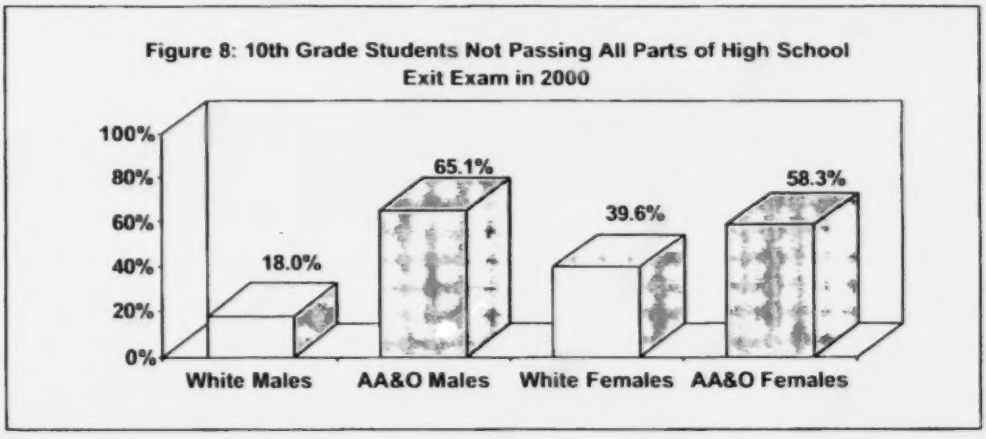
SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

By the end of elementary school, significant numbers of students perform below minimum standards. Th following standardized test measures, comparing student performance to state minimum standards, should be used combination with routine classroom assessments more reflective of real-world performance skills.

Special Education: Special education placements reflect both the significant number of children with seriou handicapping conditions and a large number of students with mild learning and behavioral problems that have not bee accommodated successfully by the regular educational program. The result is a large system of self-contained, resourc and itinerant services to meet the needs of 151 speech and language impaired, 329 learning disabled, 26 emotional disabled, 215 mentally impaired, and 29 physically handicapped, deaf, blind, and other handicapped students. Speci education classes served approximately 14.6% of all students in grades 1 - 12 during 2001-2002.

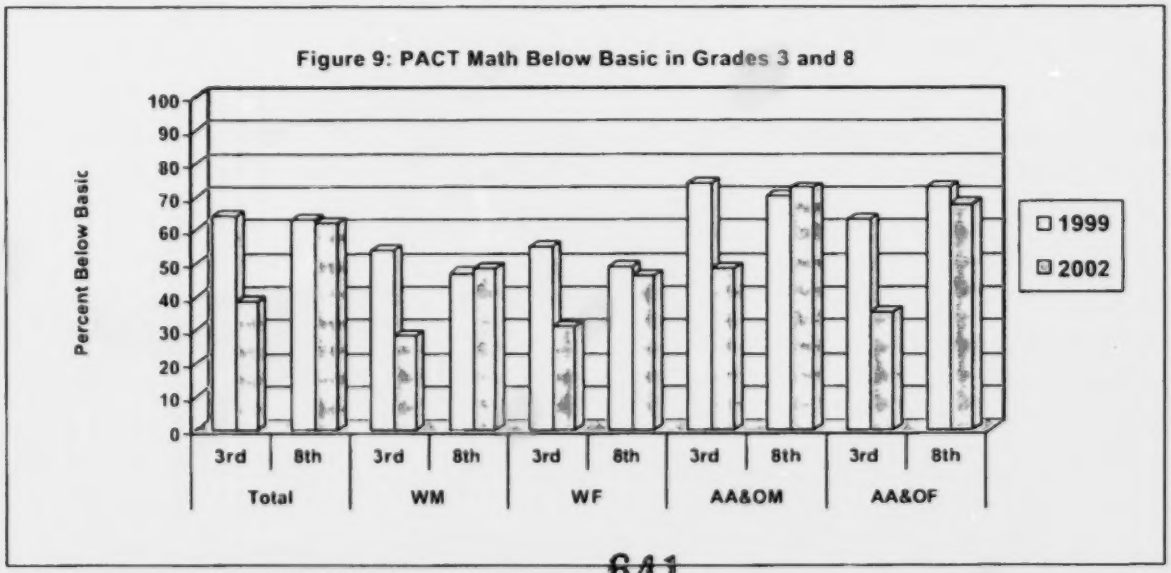
Exit Exam - not passing all parts of Exit Exam on first attempt in the 10th grade in 2002

150 students did not pass all parts — 50.3% of students did not pass all parts



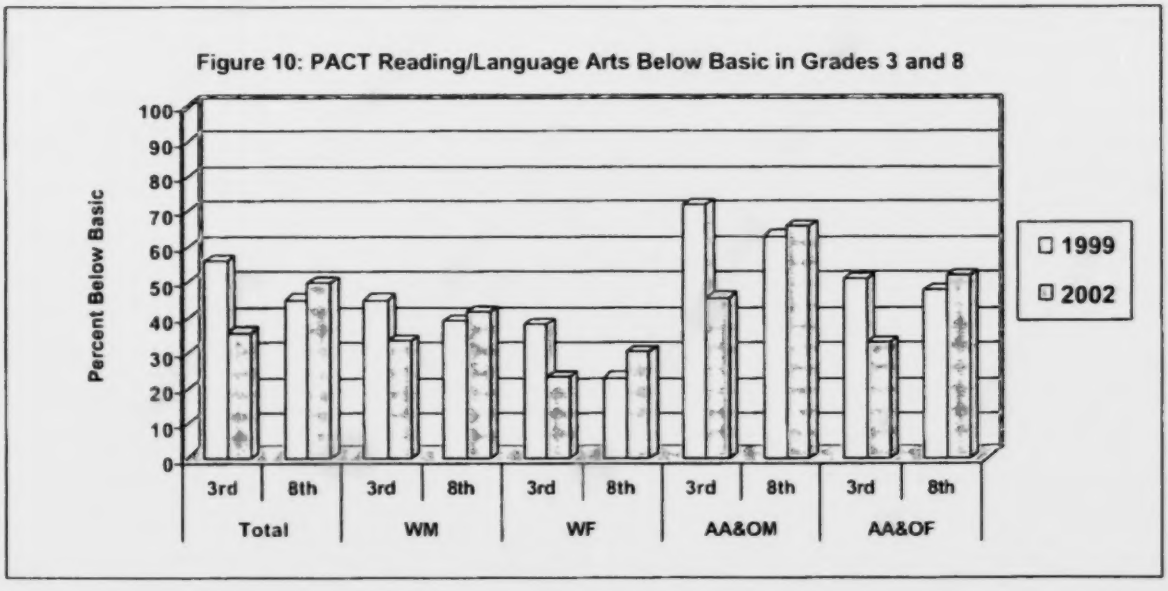
Achievement Trends: How has performance on standardized achievement tests changed over the past 20 years? During the 1980s, student performance on the BSAP tests improved dramatically. Between 1981 and 1990, the percentage of 8th grade students in Marlboro County who did not meet standards declined from 75.4% to 43.4% in math and from 69.7% to 44.4% in reading. During the 1990's the BSAP trend changed, with 50.7% not meeting 8th grade math standards in 1998 and 44.9% in reading. On standardized tests, the first year when South Carolina students take the exam is comparable to the challenge encountered by the national norm group which took the test only once. Looking at first year data, the percentage of 4th grade students at or below the 25th percentile of national norms was 50.5% in 1983 on the CTBS, 54.7% in 1990 on the Stanford, and 48.2% in 1995 on the Metropolitan; for 9th graders, the percentage in the bottom quarter was 49.6% in 1990 and 50.8% in 1995. Although not comparable, the percent below basic on the 4th grade PACT in 1999, the first year of administration, was 56.2%, but in 2002 43.2% of 4th graders were below basic in reading and math; the percentage of 8th graders below basic in reading and math averaged 54.3% in 1999 and 55.9% in 2002.

PACT: The Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) was first administered in 1999 for grades 3 - 8 in math and reading/language arts. Math assesses skills in numbers, numerical and algebraic concepts, patterns and functions, geometry, measurement, probability and statistics. The percentage of students scoring below basic in math has decreased by 16.6% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 839 students below basic in grades 3-8 but there would have been an additional 167 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
		Math (%)				
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	38.3	28.1	30.9	48.6	35.2
	4	46.2	37.1	33.8	54.0	49.3
	5	61.7	53.6	54.4	65.2	66.1
	6	52.3	36.7	44.8	60.4	57.9
	7	60.1	51.6	55.0	68.5	57.7
	8	61.9	48.3	46.3	72.7	67.7
Basic	3	45.6	50.9	51.5	36.8	50.0
	4	36.2	40.0	38.0	33.6	35.5
	5	29.7	31.9	29.4	27.7	31.3
	6	35.7	55.0	35.8	27.9	32.6
	7	26.9	35.5	26.7	18.9	30.9
	8	29.9	35.0	38.8	26.3	26.0
Proficient	3	13.9	19.3	13.2	12.5	13.3
	4	11.9	14.3	15.5	9.5	11.6
	5	7.1	11.6	11.8	6.4	2.6
	6	8.4	0.0	16.4	9.9	6.3
	7	8.2	1.6	11.7	9.8	8.1
	8	7.1	13.3	13.4	1.0	5.5
Advanced	3	2.3	1.8	4.4	2.1	1.6
	4	5.7	8.6	12.7	2.9	3.6
	5	1.5	2.9	4.4	0.7	0.0
	6	3.6	8.3	3.0	1.8	3.2
	7	4.9	11.3	6.7	2.8	3.3
	8	1.1	3.3	1.5	0.0	0.8

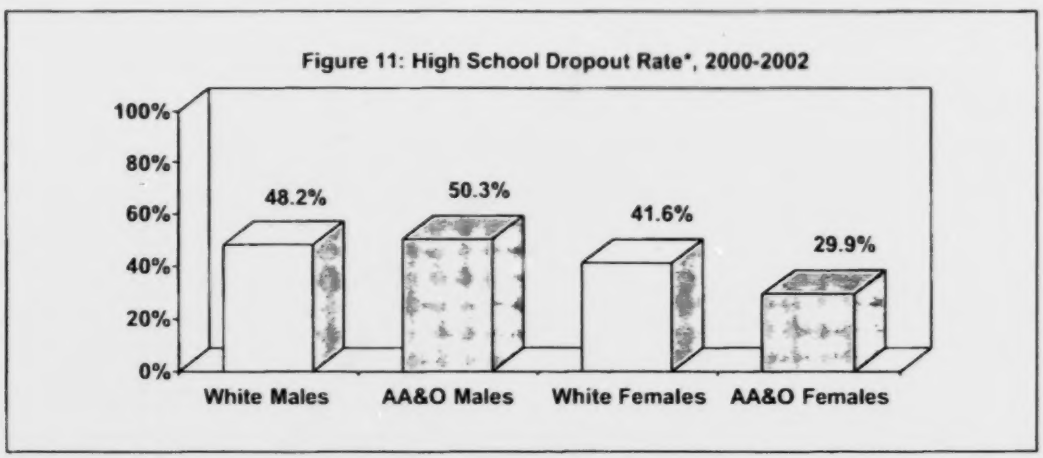
Reading/Language Arts assesses reading, listening, speaking, writing, research, and communication with technology. The first PACT assessment found a high percentage of elementary and middle grades students performing below standards and only a modest number above basic. The percentage of students scoring below basic in reading/language arts has decreased by 19.4% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 672 students below basic in grades 3 - 8 but there would have been an additional 162 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
		Reading/Language Arts (%)				
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	35.8	33.3	23.2	45.5	32.8
	4	40.2	46.4	23.9	47.8	36.2
	5	48.3	49.3	32.4	55.0	48.7
	6	49.7	41.4	35.8	64.5	47.4
	7	45.8	43.5	28.3	56.6	43.1
	8	49.9	41.7	30.3	65.7	52.0
Basic	3	42.3	43.9	43.5	37.8	46.1
	4	44.3	40.6	53.5	42.6	44.2
	5	45.0	43.5	52.9	40.7	47.0
	6	35.8	39.7	41.8	26.4	40.0
	7	41.9	37.1	53.3	37.8	43.1
	8	37.1	48.3	36.4	30.3	37.0
Proficient	3	21.4	21.1	33.3	16.1	21.1
	4	15.6	13.0	22.5	9.6	19.6
	5	6.6	7.2	14.7	4.3	4.3
	6	12.7	17.2	17.9	7.3	12.6
	7	11.5	19.4	16.7	5.6	12.2
	8	11.3	8.3	27.3	3.0	11.0
Advanced	3	0.5	1.8	0.0	0.7	0.0
	4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	6	1.8	1.7	4.5	1.8	0.0
	7	0.8	0.0	1.7	0.0	1.6
	8	1.7	1.7	6.1	1.0	0.0

Dropout Rate - 8th grade students no longer enrolled in grade 12
(average of students for the three years ending 2000-2002)

201 students drop out annually **42.4% students drop out?**



Dropouts: Distressing numbers of students drop out and fail to graduate. An average of 26.8% of 8th grader failed to graduate** from county schools five years later during the period 1980-84, 26.5% during 1985-89, and 47.3% during 1990-94, 50.9% during 1995-97 and 49.2% during 1998-2000***.

During 2001-02, 88.0% of all who did graduate received the State High School Diploma, while the remaining 12.0% received a State Certificate for meeting the required Carnegie units but not passing the Exit Exam.

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*12th grade enrollment compared to 8th grade enrollment four years earlier

** This is calculated by using 8th grade enrollment to graduation data.

*** 2001 data will be available soon and will be posted on the website

Fortunately, many dropouts enroll in adult education programs and either earn a high school diploma or obtain a GED. During 2001-02, 2 Adult Education high school diplomas were awarded to school completers and in 2001 62 GEDs were awarded in the county. Over time, adult education high school diplomas and GEDs increase the effective school completion rate substantially. In the 2000 Census, 28.1% of county resident 25 - 34 year-olds said they had not completed either high school or a GED.

Achievement Summary: The numbers of students testing below basic on the PACT and dropping out range from 35.8% to 61.9%. Thus, far too many students fail to acquire the knowledge, skills, learning habits, and motivation necessary to compete in the economy or contribute to society in the 21st Century.

ADOLESCENT RISK BEHAVIORS

Academic achievement is greatly influenced by the prevailing youth culture which often promotes popularity with peers and partying rather than studying and doing well in school. The prevalence of adolescent risk-taking and under-achievement is illustrated by the poor grades of substance-abusing teens.

Substance Abuser Rates at Levels of Academic Performance

	Usual School Grades in Past Year					Total
	A Range	B Range	C Range	D Range	F Range	
Smoked Cigarettes (in past 30 days)	13.3%	22.4%	31.7%	42.8%	63.6%	25.3%
Drank 5 or More Drinks on One Occasion (in past 30 days)	12.4%	17.3%	22.6%	26.8%	43.5%	18.9%
Used Any Illicit Drug (in past 30 days)	11.5%	17.1%	25.1%	34.1%	53.0%	20.0%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

As influence from parents and other adults declines during adolescence, significant numbers of students engage in violence, crime, school offenses, depressive emotions and attempted suicide:

Risk Behaviors Participated in During Past 12 Months	White Male		White Female		African American Male		African American Female		Total		Total (Grade 7-12)
	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	
Carried a handgun or knife for self-defense?	22.5%	26.1%	5.3%	6.3%	14.6%	20.2%	5.0%	7.6%	12.2%	14.9%	13.7%
Carried a handgun or knife as a weapon?	6.8%	9.4%	1.3%	1.6%	9.0%	13.9%	3.0%	5.0%	4.8%	6.9%	5.9%
Been in a fight with someone?	40.1%	31.3%	18.5%	16.2%	41.4%	31.9%	29.4%	22.4%	31.7%	24.9%	28.0%
Hit your boyfriend or girlfriend?	2.0%	1.6%	6.9%	10.0%	5.7%	4.9%	17.7%	24.2%	7.4%	9.7%	8.7%
Been hit by your boyfriend or girlfriend?	7.1%	6.1%	6.1%	8.5%	11.5%	9.7%	9.5%	10.6%	8.1%	8.5%	8.3%
Rec'd detention or in-school suspension?	38.1%	37.3%	22.4%	25.0%	41.6%	37.6%	34.3%	30.7%	33.3%	32.1%	32.7%
Been suspended from school?	12.9%	13.9%	5.2%	7.2%	24.0%	22.6%	14.8%	15.4%	13.1%	13.8%	13.5%
Stolen anything worth > $5?	12.9%	17.6%	6.9%	10.7%	14.2%	15.6%	8.5%	8.4%	10.4%	13.1%	11.9%
Had an accident while driving?	NA	14.3%	NA	12.6%	NA	7.7%	NA	6.3%	NA	11.0%	NA
Been arrested and booked?	3.9%	6.1%	1.5%	2.7%	5.7%	8.1%	2.2%	2.9%	3.2%	4.7%	4.0%
Felt hopeless for two weeks or more?	14.8%	15.9%	21.8%	29.0%	14.0%	13.3%	22.0%	24.8%	18.2%	21.4%	19.9%
Seriously considered attempting suicide?	6.9%	8.4%	9.6%	14.3%	5.5%	5.4%	6.8%	8.7%	7.4%	9.7%	8.7%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

Adolescence is often a time of taking risks and asserting independence from adults. When asked whether they would tell an adult about a problem, the following percentages of state students said they would be "not likely" or "very unlikely" to tell if they:

-heard a student threaten to harm someone: 33.2% middle school, 47.0% high school;
-saw a student with a handgun at school: 22.7% middle school, 20.5% high school;
-saw a student with a knife at school: 24.7% middle school, 31.6% high school;
-saw a student with drugs at school: 33.7% middle school, 61.9% high school;

Alcohol Use:* In the state during 2001-02, 21.0% of 7th and 8th graders and 37.1% of high schoolers said they had used alcohol in the past month. Of White males in grades 7 - 12, 33.8% had used it in the past month, compared with 26.0% of African-American males; likewise, 34.5% of White females said they had used alcohol, compared with 26.4% of African-American females. Many youth first used alcohol at an early age: 14.2% had used alcohol by age 11 or younger, 33.0% by age 13, and 61.1% by age 15.

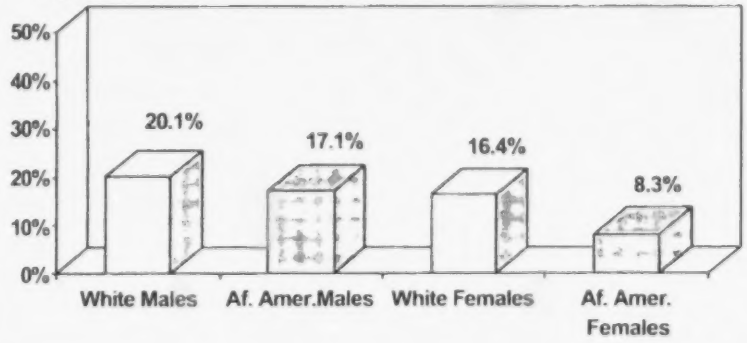
During the previous year, 21.0% of 7th and 8th graders and 30.4% of high schoolers said they had ridden with a drinking driver. Of seniors who drive, 19.4% said they had driven after drinking. Widespread use is encouraged by the ready availability and perceived low risk of alcohol use. Among students who expressed an opinion, 43.6% of eighth graders and 75.4% of seniors felt that beer was easy to get. Also, 71.6% of eighth graders and 70.7% of seniors felt there was not a great risk in drinking two drinks a day, and 47.3% of eighth graders and 53.1% of high schoolers felt there was not a great risk in drinking 5 drinks every weekend.

Heavy Drinking:* In 2001-02, 7.7% of 7th and 8th graders and 18.9% of high school students in the state repor drinking 5 or more drinks in a day during the past month. When asked how many drinks, if any, they usually consur 13.7% of all state students in grades 7 - 12 in 2001-02 responded 3 or more drinks at a time and 7.1% reported usually 5 more drinks. Among high school students, 18.6% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 10.0% 5 or mc Among seniors, 24.7% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 13.7% 5 or more; however 22.9% of seni said that they drank 5 or more drinks in a day once or more during the past month.

Drugs:* In 2001-02, 9.5% of 7th and 8th graders and 20.1% of high schoolers in the state reported using ille drugs during the previous month. Among students in grades 7 - 12, use was reported by 20.1% of White males, 16.4% Wh females, 17.1% of African-American males, and 8.3% of African-American females. Some young people initiated drug at an early age: 5.3% had experienced their first use by age 11 or sooner; 16.3% had used a drug by age 13, and 34.7% by 15.

In the past year, 10.3% of all high school students in the state who drive and 15.4% of seniors who drive said that they had driven after using drugs. Such use is encouraged by the ready availability of drugs: 22.3% of 8th graders who had an opinion said it is easy to get marijuana and 8.4% said it is easy to get cocaine or crack; 65.0% of seniors said it is easy to get marijuana and 29.5% said it was easy to get cocaine or crack.

Figure 12: Drug Use among Students Grades 7-12 during 2001-02*



* Schools in the county elected not to participate in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking. Therefore, data for all of South Carolina is presented here. The latest Marlboro County data, for 1992-93, is available on the Kids Count website at www.sckidscount.org.

Sexual Activity and Pregnancy: Many teenagers now engage in sexual activity. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) administered to a representative sample of high school students throughout South Carolina in 2001 showed that sexual activity begins at an early age: 7% of female and 21% of male students have engaged in intercourse before age 13; by age 15, 38% the females and 49% of males have engaged in sexual intercourse. Statewide, 48% of females and 50% of males in the 11th and 12th grades reported engaging in intercourse during the past three months. Furthermore, 27% of female and 33% of male 12th graders have had intercourse with four or more partners during their lifetimes.

Premature sexual activity often results in pregnancy. In the county, 34 girls between the ages of 14 and 17 became pregnant in 1999, 38 in 2000 and 39 in 2001. This represented 4.8% of all girls ages 14 – 17 in 2001; several times this percentage become pregnant at least once by age 18. The 2001 pregnancy rate for ages 14 - 17 was 3.3% for Whites and 5.6% for African-Americans and Others. Of all pregnancies of 14-17 year olds, 94.9% resulted in live births, with almost all other pregnancies ending in abortions.

Teen pregnancy rates increased substantially across the state during the 1980s; as a result, greater emphasis v devoted to preventing teen pregnancy. Since 1989, the teen pregnancy rate in Marlboro County has decreased by 18.2 Overall, it has decreased by 31.3% for Whites, and decreased by 17.6% for African Americans and Others.

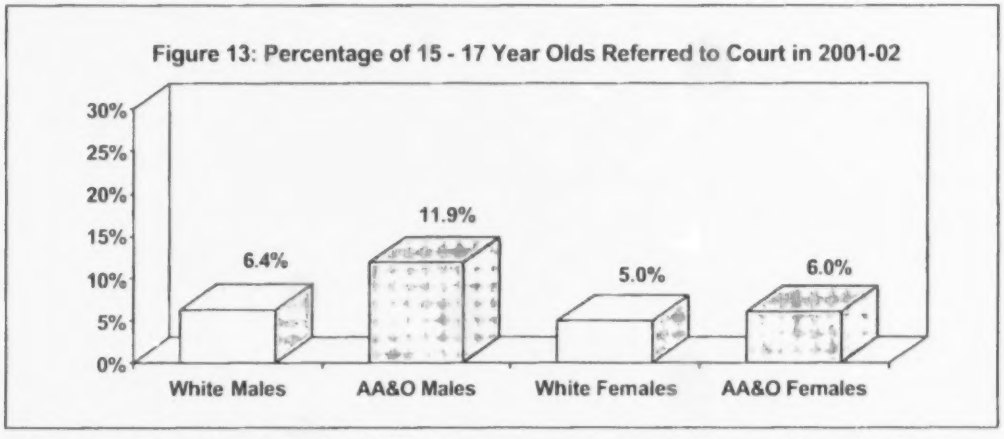
Juvenile Delinquency: In 2001-02, 177 individual juvenile offenders in the county were referred to the Solicitor for delinquency; of these, 14.1% were age 12 or younger, 27.7% were 13 or 14, and 58.2% were 15 or older.

Of the referrals to the family court, 10.8% of all referrals were for violent and serious crimes which include drug trafficking, acts against persons for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and serious property offenses for arson and burglary. Also, 55 juvenile cases constituting 21.2% of all referrals were for status offenses. Status offenses include truancy, running away, incorrigibility, and other offenses that would not be crimes for adults.

Delinquents are likely to live in families with low income: 67.3% lived in families with income under $10,000, 20.0% with $10,000-$19,999 and 12.7% with $20,000 or more. Furthermore, only 13.0% of delinquents lived with both natural parents, while 60.0% lived in a single parent household, 25.2% lived with other relatives, and 1.7% in other situations including parent plus step-parent. Delinquency or criminal activity occurs among many related family members: 41.6% had at least one family member who was delinquent or had some criminal record.

Youth referred to the family courts are likely to have been there before. In 2001-02, 59.3% had at least one prior referral and 26.0% had been referred to court 3 times or more. Many were referred at an early age. For delinquents 15 - 17 years old, 5.5% had been referred by the age of 10, 11.5% by the age of 12, and 27.3% by the age of 14.

During 2001-02, 102 youth ages 15 to 17 were referred to the family courts. In the county, 7.9% of all youth 15 to 17 were referred to court in one year and roughly double that percentage are referred at least once by age 18. Furthermore, the National Youth Survey indicates that typically across the United States the proportion of youth engaging in crime is two or three times the number ever apprehended. In 2001-02, there were 30 juveniles committed from the county to DJJ custody and placed in residential programs.



Not in School or Employed: During 2000, 291 teenagers ages 16-19 were idle, meaning they neither worked any hours nor were enrolled in school, even part-time. Idle teens comprised 17.3% of their age group: 21.2% for White and 15.3% African-American & Other teens. A much larger number, perhaps twice as many, were not engaged in either school full time or work full time. The data reflect a serious failure in both school completion and the critical transition from school to work, significantly affecting their development as future workers. For an in-depth description of the problems of young adults seeking to enter the labor force, visit our website at www.scyoungadults.org for our state and county reports on 18-29 year olds.

Deaths: During 1997-2001, 14 youth ages 15 to 19 died. Historically, automobile accidents have been the major cause, resulting in 8 deaths between 1996 and 2000; homicides killed 1 youth 15 to 19 years old during the five-year period, and 0 youth committed suicide. Alcohol use is often a significant factor in deaths among teenagers.

SUMMARY

Facing the Scope of Problems: The data on families, economic status, health, readiness, school achievement, and adolescent risk behaviors provide a troublesome picture of the condition of children in Marlboro County. The 43.0% of children in single-parent families, 29.4% in poverty, 49.2% not graduating from school, 37.1% of high school students using alcohol and 20.1% using drugs each month, and other data profiled in this report suggest that too many children are at risk of not growing up to become self-supporting adults, good family members, and responsible community citizens.

Emphasizing the Positive: South Carolina Kids Count reports have been developed to describe the problems of children in each of the counties. Fortunately, the majority of children and youth are doing well, and some very well. One simple description is the percentage of children who do not fall into the problem categories reported. For the county, 76.0% of children are born to non-teen mothers ages 20 or older, 35.0% are born to married parents, and 57.0% lived in two-parent families; 70.6% were not poor and 39.4% lived in families with incomes above twice the poverty level for a family of three, $30,040 in 2002; 85.7% of babies were born with normal birthweights; 80.3% were assessed as ready for the first grade, 38.1% scored basic or better on PACT for 8th grade math and 50.1% for 8th grade reading, 49.7% passed all parts of the Exit Exam in the 10th grade, and 50.8% graduated with their class. In a typical month, 62.9% of high school students do not drink alcohol, 79.9% do not use drugs, and 74.7% do not smoke. Unfortunately, the absence of a problem is not always an indicator of success. Some data is available for exemplary performance: for example, 21.9% of 3rd graders and 13.0% of 8th graders scored proficient or advanced on PACT in reading and 16.2% of 3rd graders and 8.2% of 8th graders in math. Unfortunately, data on success is not generally available.

Despite the limitations of success data, we must emphasize the positive in providing good support and appropriate influences for children and youth. Recent philosophy and publications such as those of the Search Institute (700 South Third Street, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN, 55415-1138, tel. 1-800-888-7828, www.search-institute.org), emphasize the critical importance of "developmental assets" to promote and support positive development. One short book from the Search Institute, (What Kids Need to Succeed, by Peter J. Benson, Judy Gailbraith, and Pamela Espeland, 1995) presents an excellent array of suggestions for promoting developmental assets through families, community, faith congregations, and schools. If each family, school, religious congregation and community organization assertively worked to build such assets, the problems described in this report would be reduced dramatically. Such positive family-school-community efforts could improve South Carolina's national Kids Count ranking from the bottom 10 to the average or even into the top 10 by prevention of unnecessary problems affecting children and youth, as shown on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

All data presented in this report is the most recent available at the date it goes to the printer. This version of the Kids Count report will be revised as more recent and additional data become available. Please send us your corrections and suggestions for improvement. We welcome your ideas for ways to make the state and county reports more useful and accurate. Please utilize local data sources whenever possible to supplement the profile provided through our report.

Data related inquiries should be directed to:

Anne Wilson, Data Manager (awilson@drss.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-4810

Calls for **copies of reports** for other counties and inquiries regarding more recent reports should be made to:

Kim Hazel-Lohr, Project Manager (khazel@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-1295

For **policy questions and general comments**, please contact:

Dr. A. Baron Holmes, Project Director (bholmes@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-2291

Comparable reports for all 46 counties and for the state can also be found on the World Wide Web at

www.sckidscount.org

Our website also provides: links to other websites for indicators in our report; high to low rankings for individual indicators; information on how to improve SC's national rank; and a glossary of definitions.

The national Kids Count Report can be found on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website at

www.aecf.org

Marlboro County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Indicators	Most Recent Year	Number					Percent					R	
		1980*	1990*	Most Recent Data	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980 Rank	199
Health													
Low Birth Weight	2001	63	48	57	-9.5%	+18.8%	10.7	10.0	14.3	34.1%	43.3%	40	
White babies	*2001*	*22*	*13*	*13*	*-40.9%*	*+0.0%*	*9.2*	*6.2*	*8.2*	*-10.9%*	*31.8%*	*46*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*41*	*35*	*44*	*+7.3%*	*+25.7%*	*11.6*	*12.9*	*18.3*	*56.7%*	*41.9%*	*20*	
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	2001	374	253	141	+62.3%	-44.3%	63.3	52.6	35.3	-44.2%	-32.9%	45	
White babies	*2001*	*125*	*80*	*37*	*-70.4%*	*-53.8%*	*52.3*	*38.3*	*23.3*	*-55.4%*	*-39.1%*	*45*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*249*	*173*	*104*	*-58.2%*	*-39.9%*	*70.7*	*63.6*	*43.2*	*-39.0%*	*-32.2%*	*42*	
Infant Mortality	2001	42	24	16	-61.9%	-33.3%	2.4	1.6	1.3	-48.5%	-23.5%	40	
White babies	*2001*	*14*	*4*	*4*	*-71.4%*	*+0.0%*	*2.0*	*0.6*	*0.8*	*-62.5%*	*18.6%*	*41*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*28*	*20*	*12*	*-57.1%*	*-40.0%*	*2.7*	*2.4*	*1.6*	*-40.8%*	*-32.8%*	*37*	
Family													
Births to mothers under 18	2001	82	48	37	-54.9%	-22.9%	13.9	10.0	9.3	-33.0%	-6.8%	46	
White babies	*2001*	*26*	*18*	*10*	*-61.5%*	*-44.4%*	*10.9*	*8.6*	*6.3*	*-42.1%*	*-26.9%*	*46*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*56*	*30*	*27*	*-51.8%*	*-10.0%*	*15.9*	*11.0*	*11.2*	*-29.6%*	*1.6%*	*43*	
Births to mothers under 20	2001	186	127	96	-48.4%	-24.4%	31.5	26.4	24.0	-23.7%	-9.1%	46	
White babies	*2001*	*72*	*48*	*29*	*-59.7%*	*+39.6%*	*30.1*	*23.0*	*18.2*	*-39.6%*	*-20.8%*	*46*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*114*	*79*	*67*	*-41.2%*	*+15.2%*	*32.4*	*29.0*	*27.8*	*-14.2%*	*-4.3%*	*46*	
Births to mothers with less than a high school education	2001	264	150	127	-51.9%	-15.3%	44.7	31.2	31.8	-28.8%	2.0%	43	
White babies	*2001*	*100*	*75*	*47*	*-53.0%*	*-37.3%*	*41.8*	*35.9*	*29.6*	*-29.3%*	*-17.5%*	*45*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*164*	*75*	*80*	*-51.2%*	*+6.7%*	*46.6*	*27.6*	*33.2*	*-28.8%*	*20.4%*	*28*	
Births to single mothers****	2001	224	258	260	+16.1%	+0.8%	37.9	53.6	65.0	71.5%	21.2%	43	
White babies	*2001*	*43*	*66*	*72*	*+67.4%*	*+9.1%*	*18.0*	*31.6*	*45.3*	*151.8%*	*43.5%*	*46*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*181*	*192*	*188*	*+3.9%*	*-2.1%*	*51.4*	*70.6*	*78.0*	*51.7%*	*10.5%*	*38*	
Children in single parent families	2000	2,205	2,469	2,539	+15.1%	+2.8%	22.7	36.6	43.0	89.2%	17.4%	37	
White	*2000*	*568*	*626*	*637*	*+12.1%*	*+1.8%*	*11.7*	*21.3*	*26.6*	*127.5%*	*25.0%*	*42*	
African American and Other	*2000*	*1,582*	*1,782*	*1,902*	*+20.2%*	*+6.7%*	*31.8*	*48.4*	*54.1*	*70.0%*	*11.7%*	*27*	
Education													
Not Ready for Grade 1	2001	228	166	87	-61.8%	-47.6%	42.5	35.1	19.7	-53.6%	-43.9%	31	
White males	*2001*	*46*	*29*	*11*	*-76.1%*	*-62.1%*	*38.3*	*30.5*	*15.3*	*-60.1%*	*-49.8%*	*42*	
White females	*2001*	*35*	*18*	*9*	*-74.3%*	*-50.0%*	*32.1*	*21.7*	*14.8*	*-53.9%*	*-31.8%*	*41*	
African American and Other males	*2001*	*84*	*65*	*39*	*-53.6%*	*-40.0%*	*53.5*	*42.2*	*24.5*	*-54.2%*	*-41.9%*	*23*	
African American and Other females	*2001*	*63*	*54*	*28*	*-55.6%*	*-48.1%*	*42.0*	*38.8*	*19.0*	*-54.8%*	*-51.0%*	*11*	
Repeating Grades 1-3	2000	74	118	105	+41.9%	-11.0%	13.7	25.4	23.3	70.1%	-8.3%	11	
White males	*2000*	*29*	*19*	*24*	*-17.2%*	*+26.3%*	*24.5*	*21.0*	*28.2*	*15.1%*	*34.3%*	*35*	
White females	*2000*	*12*	*14*	*13*	*+8.3%*	*-7.1%*	*10.7*	*17.7*	*16.4*	*53.3%*	*-7.3%*	*26*	
African American and Other males	*2000*	*20*	*58*	*48*	*+140.0%*	*-17.2%*	*12.0*	*37.8*	*32.6*	*171.7%*	*-13.8%*	*3*	
African American and Other females	*2000*	*13*	*27*	*19*	*+46.2%*	*-29.6%*	*8.8*	*20.1*	*14.2*	*61.4%*	*-29.4%*	*6*	
Grade 3 Math below standards****	2002	273	83	152	-44.3%	+83.1%	50.8	18.6	38.3	-24.6%	105.9%	39	
White males	*2002*	*44*	*17*	*16*	*-63.6%*	*-5.9%*	*41.5*	*20.7*	*28.1*	*-32.3%*	*35.7%*	*41*	
White females	*2002*	*39*	*11*	*21*	*-46.2%*	*+90.9%*	*33.9*	*14.9*	*30.9*	*-8.8%*	*107.4%*	*37*	
African American and Other males	*2002*	*104*	*26*	*70*	*-32.7%*	*+169.2%*	*62.6*	*18.3*	*48.6*	*-22.4%*	*165.6%*	*32*	
African American and Other females	*2002*	*82*	*28*	*45*	*-45.1%*	*+60.7%*	*56.2*	*19.1*	*35.2*	*-37.4%*	*84.3%*	*34*	
Grade 3 Reading below standards****	2002	292	132	142	-51.4%	+7.6%	54.3	29.5	35.8	-34.1%	21.4%	43	
White males	*2002*	*48*	*26*	*19*	*-60.4%*	*-26.9%*	*45.3*	*31.7*	*33.3*	*-26.5%*	*5.0%*	*44*	
White females	*2002*	*43*	*19*	*16*	*-62.8%*	*-15.8%*	*37.4*	*25.7*	*23.2*	*-38.0%*	*-9.7%*	*45*	
African American and Other males	*2002*	*117*	*51*	*65*	*-44.4%*	*+27.5%*	*70.1*	*35.9*	*45.5*	*-35.1%*	*26.7%*	*43*	
African American and Other females	*2002*	*80*	*34*	*42*	*-47.5%*	*+23.5%*	*54.8*	*23.0*	*32.8*	*-40.1%*	*42.6%*	*42*	
Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT Grade 4	1998	261	277	174	-33.3%	-37.2%	50.5	54.7	45.0	-10.9%	-17.7%	44	
White males	*1998*	*47*	*43*	*16*	*-66.0%*	*-62.8%*	*43.5*	*48.3*	*23.2*	*-46.7%*	*-52.0%*	*45*	
White females	*1998*	*24*	*46*	*20*	*-16.7%*	*-56.5%*	*27.9*	*48.4*	*29.4*	*5.4%*	*-39.3%*	*41*	
African American and Other males	*1998*	*125*	*105*	*71*	*-43.2%*	*-32.4%*	*68.3*	*65.6*	*60.5*	*-11.4%*	*-7.8%*	*46*	
African American and Other females	*1998*	*61*	*83*	*67*	*+9.8%*	*-19.3%*	*46.2*	*51.2*	*50.8*	*10.0%*	*-0.8%*	*38*	

*Year of data is approximate in many cases.
**1 is best, 46 is worst.
*** Data include paternity acknowledgements.
**** BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Marlboro County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Education (continued)

Indicators		Number					Percent				
	Most Recent Year	1980*	1990*	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres
Grade 8 Math below state standards**	2002	439	206	219	-50.1%	+6.3%	75.4	43.4	61.9	-17.9%	42.6%
White males	*2002*	*94*	*34*	*29*	*-69.1%*	*-14.7%*	*67.1*	*37.4*	*48.3*	*-28.0%*	*29.1%*
White females	*2002*	*72*	*42*	*31*	*-56.9%*	*-26.2%*	*60.0*	*43.3*	*46.3*	*-22.8%*	*6.9%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*128*	*58*	*72*	*-43.8%*	*+24.1%*	*85.9*	*45.0*	*72.7*	*-15.4%*	*61.6%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*142*	*71*	*86*	*-39.4%*	*+21.1%*	*83.5*	*45.8*	*67.7*	*-18.9%*	*47.8%*
Grade 8 Reading below state standards**	2002	413	211	176	-57.4%	-16.6%	69.7	44.4	49.9	-28.4%	12.4%
White males	*2002*	*91*	*35*	*25*	*-72.5%*	*-28.6%*	*63.2*	*38.0*	*41.7*	*-34.0%*	*9.7%*
White females	*2002*	*54*	*36*	*20*	*-63.0%*	*-44.4%*	*44.6*	*37.5*	*30.3*	*-32.1%*	*-19.2%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*129*	*69*	*65*	*-49.6%*	*-5.8%*	*84.9*	*53.5*	*65.7*	*-22.6%*	*22.8%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*135*	*68*	*66*	*-51.1%*	*-2.9%*	*78.5*	*43.9*	*52.0*	*-33.8%*	*18.5%*
Grade 9 Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT	1998	NA	248	202	NA	-18.5%	NA	49.6	53.9	NA	8.7%
White males	*1998*	*NA*	*46*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*46.5*	*53.6*	*NA*	*15.3%*
White females	*1998*	*NA*	*22*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*28.2*	*36.8*	*NA*	*30.5%*
African American and Other males	*1998*	*NA*	*99*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*63.5*	*61.9*	*NA*	*-2.5%*
African American and Other females	*1998*	*NA*	*81*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*48.5*	*55.2*	*NA*	*13.8%*
Exit Exam (not passing all parts on 1st attempt)	2002	270	196	150	-44.4%	-23.5%	61.8	49.4	50.3	-18.6%	1.8%
White males	*2002*	*39*	*28*	*9*	*-76.9%*	*-67.9%*	*47.6*	*38.4*	*18.0*	*-62.2%*	*-53.1%*
White females	*2002*	*38*	*20*	*21*	*-44.7%*	*+5.0%*	*38.8*	*26.0*	*39.6*	*2.1%*	*52.3%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*103*	*82*	*56*	*-45.6%*	*-31.7%*	*80.5*	*66.7*	*65.1*	*-19.1%*	*-2.4%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*90*	*66*	*63*	*-30.0%*	*-4.5%*	*69.8*	*53.2*	*58.3*	*-16.5%*	*9.6%*
Dropout Rate (8th graders no longer enrolled in 12th grade 4 years later)	2000-02	201	186	201	+0.1%	+8.2%	33.8	35.5	42.4	25.4%	19.5%
White males	*2000-02*	*44*	*50*	*45*	*+3.0%*	*-9.3%*	*36.2*	*43.9*	*48.2*	*33.2%*	*10.0%*
White females	*2000-02*	*48*	*39*	*32*	*-31.9%*	*-16.0%*	*39.9*	*41.0*	*41.6*	*4.3%*	*1.6%*
African American and Other males	*2000-02*	*61*	*65*	*81*	*+32.8%*	*+25.6%*	*32.8*	*36.2*	*50.3*	*53.4%*	*38.8%*
African American and Other females	*2000-02*	*48*	*33*	*42*	*-12.5%*	*+29.2%*	*28.8*	*23.7*	*29.9*	*3.6%*	*25.9%*
Young Adults Not Completing High School (18-24)	2000	299	1,066	1,049	+250.8%	-1.6%	31.4	36.0	28.1	-10.6%	-22.0%
White males	*NA*	*44*	*110*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*25.1*	*21.0*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
White females	*NA*	*35*	*218*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*24.3*	*31.9*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other males	*NA*	*100*	*434*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*36.0*	*55.4*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other females	*NA*	*120*	*304*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*33.7*	*31.2*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
Economics											
Poverty Rate	2000	3,443	2,919	2,181	-36.7%	-25.3%	31.1	34.7	29.4	-5.5%	-15.3%
White children	*2000*	*671*	*592*	*387*	*-42.3%*	*-34.6%*	*13.7*	*17.4*	*14.1*	*2.9%*	*-19.0%*
African American and Other children	*2000*	*2,699*	*2,327*	*1,794*	*-33.5%*	*-22.9%*	*44.9*	*46.4*	*38.3*	*-14.6%*	*-17.4%*
Income of Families w/children (1999 $)	2000	$ 35,237	$ 33,942	$ 36,609	+3.9%	+7.9%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
White families	*2000*	*$ 38,930*	*$ 41,519*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other families	*2000*	*$ 30,881*	*$ 26,757*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
Adolescent Risk Factors											
Teenage Pregnancy (ages 14-17)	2001	91	60	39	-57.1%	-35.0%	7.1	6.0	4.8	-32.5%	-20.0%
White	*2001*	*30*	*22*	*10*	*-66.7%*	*-54.5%*	*5.2*	*5.5*	*3.3*	*-36.2%*	*-40.0%*
African American and Other	*2001*	*61*	*38*	*29*	*-52.5%*	*-23.7%*	*8.7*	*6.3*	*5.6*	*-35.7%*	*-11.1%*
Delinquency	2002	29	90	102	+251.7%	+13.3%	1.5	5.5	7.9	427.1%	43.8%
White males	*2002*	*12*	*33*	*16*	*+33.3%*	*-51.5%*	*2.6*	*8.1*	*6.4*	*146.2%*	*-21.0%*
White females	*2002*	*2*	*8*	*11*	*+450.0%*	*+37.5%*	*0.5*	*2.3*	*5.0*	*900.0%*	*117.4%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*13*	*37*	*51*	*+292.3%*	*+37.8%*	*2.5*	*8.3*	*11.9*	*374.4%*	*42.9%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*2*	*12*	*24*	*+1100.0%*	*+100.0%*	*0.4*	*2.9*	*6.0*	*1400.0%*	*106.9%*

*Closest available data to this year was used in many cases.
**BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Kids Count 2003

Newberry County

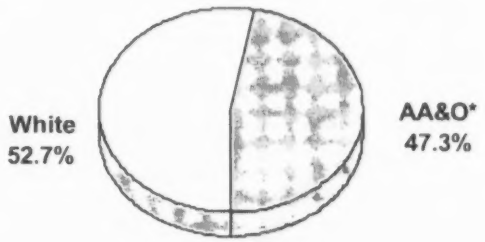
DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2000 there were an estimated 8,701 children under age 18 in the county. Of these, 4,587 were White, 3,731 were African-American, and 383 were other races. There were 8,376 children under age 18 in 1990, 8,470 in 1980, 9,516 in 1970, and 10,704 in 1960.

Children represent a shrinking portion of the county's population. Those under 18 constituted 24.1% of the population in 2000, down from 36.4% in 1960, 32.5% in 1970, and 27.1% in 1980.

In 2000 the 2,785 pre-schoolers under age 6 were 7.7% of the overall population: 6.5% of Whites and 9.4% of African Americans.

Figure 1: Population Ages 0-17 in 2000



* In all charts African-American is combined with other races, and often abbreviated as AA&O. Other races comprise 4.4% of children in the county, with "two or more races" at 1.8% and "some other race alone" at 1.8% as the largest Other groups.

FAMILY

Families have always been the most important influence in a child's life. Children depend on their families for material needs, stimulation and guidance. Family life is different in numerous ways from previous generations, and many families now face exceptional challenges.

Families with children now make up a smaller share of all households. Only 30.4% of all households in 2000, as compared with 39.0% of households in 1960, had children below the age of 18.

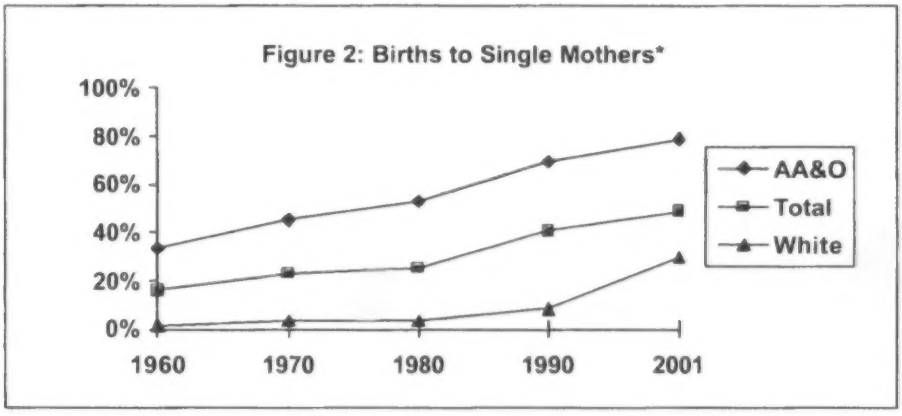
Births to Teen Mothers: In 2001, 42 babies were born to mothers younger than age 18. They were 8.0% of all babies born in the county; 4.1% of all White and 14.2% of all African-American and Other babies were born to teen mothers under the age of 18. Of the babies born to these teens in 2001, 97.6% were born to single mothers, including babies whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers.

In 2001, 99 babies were born to mothers younger than age 20. These babies were 18.9% of all born in the county; 12.9% of all White and 28.4% of all African-American and Other babies were born to mothers under the age of 20. Of the babies born to these mothers in 2001, 88.9% were born to single mothers, including paternity acknowledeged babies.

Education of Mothers Giving Birth: Children's success is strongly influenced by the education of their parents. In 2001, 164 babies, 32.3% of all babies, were born to mothers of all ages who had not completed the 12th grade. In 2001, 26.4% of White and 41.3% of African-American and Other babies were born to mothers who had completed less than the 12th grade. This is a substantial improvement from 49.8% in 1970. In addition, during 2001, 36.6% had completed 12 grades (34.5% of Whites and 39.8% of African Americans and Others) and 31.1% had more than a high school degree (39.1% of Whites and 18.9% of African American and Others).

Births to Single Mothers: Births to single mothers have increased steadily over four decades. In 2001, 164 babies, 31.4% of all babies, were recorded as born to single mothers. A decade earlier in 1990, the percentage was 36.2% and in 1960 it was 15.8%. In 2001, 15.0% of White children and 56.9% of African-American and Other children were born to single mothers. These numbers, however, do not include paternity acknowlegement births.

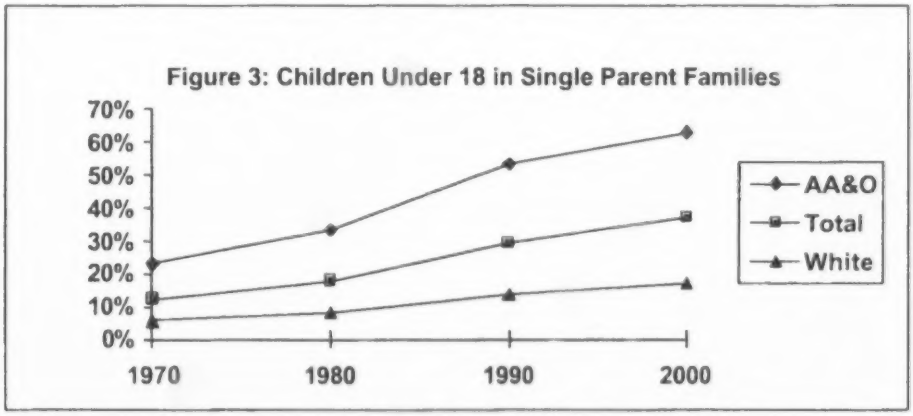
Thus, to these numbers should be added an additional group of 91 babies, 17.4% of all born in 2001, whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers. When the paternity-acknowledged babies are added, the total number born to single mothers in 2001 was 255, constituting 48.8% of all babies, 29.5% of White babies, and 78.9% of African-American and Others.



*Includes paternity acknowleged babies in 1980, 1990 and 2001. Prior to 1979, paternity acknowleged cases were not a statistical category, and thus were included in births to single mothers.

Divorce Rate: In 2001, 222 marriage licenses were issued, while 123 divorce decrees involving 88 children were filed. In 1970, only 65 children were in families involved in divorce.

Single-Parent Family: Increasing numbers of children live in single-parent families. In 2000, 2,779 children lived with only one parent. This was 37.3% of all children, up from 29.5% in 1990, 17.9% in 1980, and 12.4% in 1970. In 2000, 17.1% of White and 63.1% of African-American and Other children lived in single-parent families. Also in 2000, 772 or 37.2% of children under age 6 lived in single parent families: 14.1% of White and 69.6% of African American and Other pre-schoolers.



Parents Working and Child Care: Increasingly, parents must divide their time between children and employers. In order to meet family financial needs, most parents must work and thus have less time for family life. In 2000, 70.8% of mothers with children under 6 and 78.4% with children 6 - 17 were in the labor force. This has increased substantially from 1960 when 48.2% of mothers with children under 6 were in the labor force. Most fathers also work: 68.5% of children under 6 are in families where the single parent or both parents work. Caring for children is a problem for parents unable to obtain quality, affordable daycare while they are at work.

Overall, there are 1,264 spaces in state-regulated childcare facilities* in the county, 99.1% of these are in licensed programs and 0.9% are in registered programs. Of the spaces, 97.2% are in licensed childcare centers serving more than 12 children, 0.5% are in registered or licensed family childcare homes serving six or fewer children, 1.9% are in licensed group childcare homes serving 7-12 children, and 0.4% are in registered or licensed church programs.

The homes and centers are severely constrained by the limited ability of parents to pay. In the county, the average weekly charge is $ 70.81 for centers and $ 62.50 for homes. Consequently, center wages are low: 18.2% of centers with pre-school staff and 16.7% of centers with assistant pre-school staff report paying these staff under $6 per hour. Paying $6-$8 per hour are 63.6% of centers with pre-school staff and 83.3% of centers with assistants. Low wages attract workers with limited education. In 63.6% of centers, most pre-school staff and in 66.7% of centers most assistants have only a high school degree. In 63.6% of centers few to none of the pre-school staff have early childhood credentials. In childcare homes, 0% of lead providers have no more education than a high school degree or GED; 0% have less than a high school degree.

Family Violence: In 2000, 212 domestic assaults were recorded by law enforcement officials. These domestic assaults comprised 30.4% of all assaults, which include aggravated assaults, simple assaults, and intimidation. Overall, 48.6% of all domestic assaults involve spouse abuse which constitutes 14.8% of all assaults. Since most family violence is not reported, the true incidence of family disruption is much more widespread than even the large number of reported cases would indicate.

Separation from Parents: Some children do not live with their natural parents. In 2000, 9.0% of all children did not live with their natural parents. Approximately 609 or 7.0% of all children lived with relatives, 139 or 1.6% lived with non-relatives, 17 or 0.2% were householders or spouses, and 20 or 0.2% were in institutional facilities.

Abuse and Neglect: In 2000-01, there were 185 investigations into reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children. Through its investigations, the Department of Social Services (DSS) determined that 52 of the investigations were indicated for abuse or neglect: 9.1% for physical abuse, 9.1% for sexual abuse, 0.0% for mental injury, 16.4% for physical neglect, 0.0% for educational neglect, 5.5% for medical neglect, 56.4% for threat of harm for physical/sexual abuse, and 3.6% for other types of abuse.

In the indicated cases of abuse and neglect, DSS determined there were 110 children who were victims of abuse or neglect. Of these, 47.3% were male, 52.7% were female; 43.6% were White, 56.4% were African-American and Other. By age, 37.4% were ages 0 - 5, 42.1% were ages 6 - 12, and 20.6% were ages 13 - 17. In the indicated cases, 31.8% of the children lived in two-parent families, 45.5% in single parent families, 12.7% with unmarried couples, and 10.0% in other circumstances.

Out of Home Placements: As of June 2001, 38 children lived in foster care. The median age at first placement in the county is 7.4 years. The ages of children in foster care were 15.8% 0-2, 10.5% 3-5, 18.4% 6-10, 7.9% 11-13, and 47.4% 14 and above. The foster care population is 39.5% males and 60.5% females. Regarding their future, 42.1% were under a plan for placement in adoptive homes, 42.1% for return to a parent or guardian, 0.0% for placement with a relative, 13.2% for independent living, 2.6% for permanent foster care, and 0.0% for other circumstances.

Adult/Child Ratio: A measure of potential adult attention for children from family and community is the ratio of adults to children and youth. In 2000 there were 3.15 adults for every person below age 18. This was up substantially from 1960, when there were only 1.75 adults for every person under the age 18. This indicates that today there are more adults potentially available to provide attention and care for each child than in the past.

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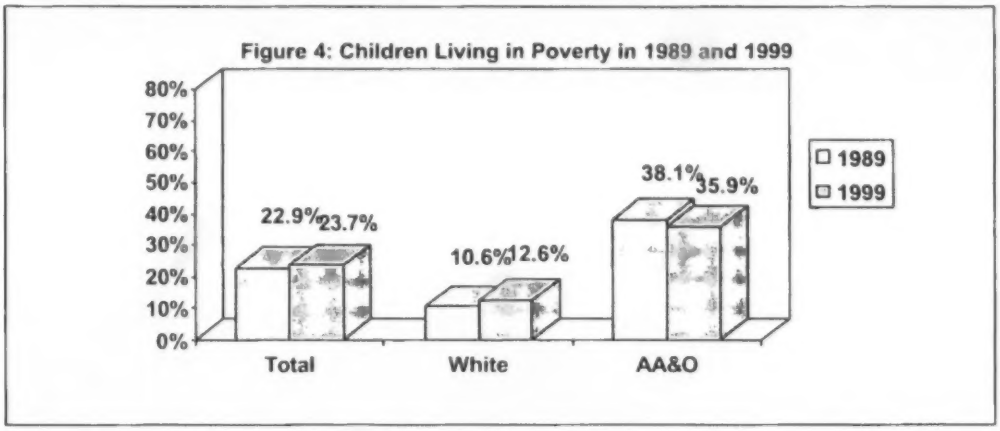
* This data is the best currently available; however, an effort is being made to check the coverage and improve the accuracy. As soon as more recent and complete data becomes available, it will be posted on the website.

ECONOMIC STATUS

Low income makes it difficult for many families to provide the material and environmental enrichment necessary for healthy child development.

Poverty: In 1999, 2,040 children and youth under the age of 18 lved in 1,002 families with incomes below poverty, comprising 23.7% of all children and youth: 12.6% of Whites and 35.9% of African-Americans and Others. A rough estimate of child poverty in 2001 calculated by the Census Bureau was 23.0%.



Poverty has always been a serious problem. While the rate among children under age 18 in 1989 was 22.9%, it was 13.9% in 1979 and 23.8% in 1969.

Children and the elderly are the age groups most seriously affected by poverty. In 1999, 27.3% of children 0 - 5 (13.7% White, 44.5% African-American and Other), and 21.6% of children 6 - 17 (11.8% White, 32.4% African-American and Other), lived in poverty; 16.0% of persons 65 years and older lived in poverty. Historically, the poverty rate among the elderly was much higher. During the last three decades, federal policy actions have substantially improved the economic status of older persons but have not done so for children.

Single-parent families are most likely to be poor. In 1999, 43.2% of children in single-parent families lived in poverty, but only 11.0% of children in married-couple families were poor. Children in single-parent families made up 61.3% of all the county's children living in poverty.

In 2002, the poverty level was $15,020 for a family of three and $18,100 for a family of four. The poverty threshold is often criticized as an arbitrary number. People can still be poor but may be just above the poverty level. Federal programs utilize varying thresholds. For example, in 1999 there were 4,309 children ages 0-17 who were less than 200 percent of poverty; thus an additional 2,269 children were above the poverty level but could still be considered poor or near-poor with incomes below $30,040 and $36,200 respectively for 3 and 4 person families.

Children Under 18 in Poverty in 1999

Percent of Poverty	Total		White		African American & Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 50%	947	11.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 100%	2,040	23.7%	567	12.6%	1,473	35.9%
Under 125%	2,588	30.1%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 150%	3,124	36.4%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 175%	3,613	42.1%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 185%	3,997	46.5%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 200%	4,309	50.2%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total Children	8,701		4,587		4,114	

Note: Missing data will be released by the Census Bureau later in 2003, and will be posted on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

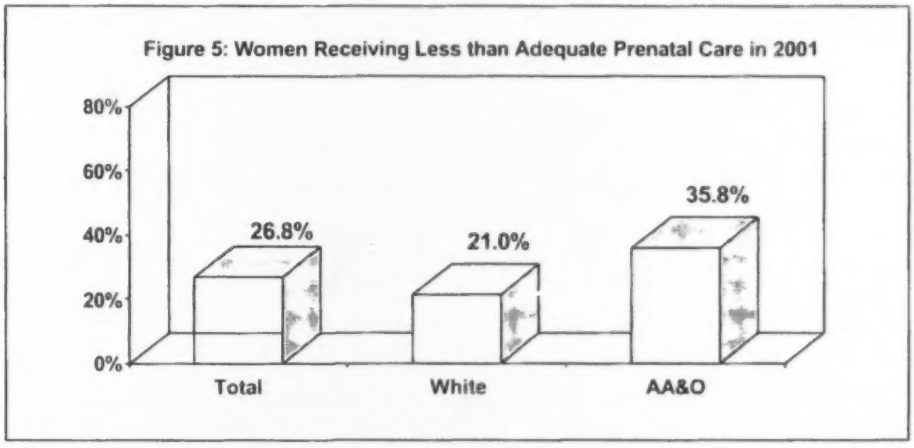
Income: The mean income of families with children in 1999 was $41,701. In 1989 it was $40,389, and 1979, it was $42,554, adjusted for inflation (i.e., in 1999 dollars). The mean income of single-parent families with children was $20,797 for single parents in 1999, as compared with $52,999 in married-couple families with children. From 1999 to 2000, Newberry County real dollar per capita income (eliminating inflation) increased by 2.0%.

Child Support Payments: There were 235[7] families receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families in fiscal year 2002, but only 33.6 % had child support court orders. Their average monthly payment of child support was $ 251, including child support receipts and tax refund intercepts. In addition, during fiscal year 2002, an estimated 786 parents in non-TANF families were obligated to pay a monthly average of $ 227. Information is not available regarding the amount actually paid.

HEALTH

Good health during a child's formative years helps children to reach their maximum potential. Good health requires healthy lifestyles and effective primary care, starting during the prenatal period and continuing through adolescence into adulthood. Children's health reflects the well-being of the community, as well as how adequately they are protected.

Prenatal Care: Early and continuous prenatal care can make a significant difference in assuring births of healthy babies. Delayed or insufficient prenatal care is associated with low birthweight and other health risks for infants. In 2001, 120, or 22.9% of pregnant women received no prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy. In 2001, 140, or 26.8% of pregnant women received less than adequate prenatal care: 67 or 21.0% of Whites and 73 or 35.8% of African-Americans and Others. In that same year, 3 women received no prenatal care at all.



Low Birthweight: Low birthweight of less than 5.5 pounds and very low birthweight of less than 3.3 pounds are associated with health risks and growth and development problems. In 2001, 62 or 11.9% of all babies in the county were born with low birthweight: 14.2% of African-American and Other babies and 10.3% of White babies. During 1999-2001, approximately 18 or 1.2% of all babies were born with very low birthweight and had the most serious complications: 0.7% of White babies and 2.0% of African-American and Other babies. The cost of hospitalization for each newborn low birthweight baby in the county in 1999 - 2001 was $14,876 and $86,068 for each very low birthweight baby, compared with $1,460 for a baby of normal birthweight. The result was excess cost in the county of $770,127 for all low birthweight babies, of which $479,449 was for very low birthweight babies.

Infant Mortality: During the decade since 1989-91, the overall infant mortality rate increased by 0.1% from 12.0 to 12.0 per 1000 live births. For Whites, the rate decreased 6.1% from 8.3 to 7.8 per 1000 live births, while for African-Americans and Others the rate increased 19.1% from 15.5 to 18.5 per 1000 live births. Over the three-year period 1999-2001, 7 White and 11 African-American and Other infants died before age one. By comparison, 6 White and 12 African-American and Other infants died during 1989-91.

[7] Number is an unduplicated count for the entire fiscal year.

Child Injuries and Deaths: Childhood deaths and injuries reflect whether communities are safe for children. In 2001, children in the Newberry County went to the emergency room 1,085 times because of injuries. Boys are injured more often than girls. Children visit the emergency room at comparable rates for each age from 0 to 17.

In South Carolina, the major causes of death among young children are unintentional injuries, cancer, homicide, and congenital anomalies. Over the three year period 1999-2001, 3 White and African-American and Other children ages 1-14 died in the county. During 1989-91, 1 White and 2 African-American and Other children died.

Immunization: Immunization rates are an important indication of whether young children are receiving adequate preventive health care. During FY 1989-90, 54.6% of children less than two years old seen in public health clinics were not fully immunized against such preventable diseases as Polio, Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Haemophilus Influenza B and Whooping Cough. After a concerted statewide campaign to increase immunizations, the percentage of children seen in public health clinics who were not fully immunized in January 2001 had declined in the county to 1.7%. The DHEC statewide birth registry survey of all two year old children found that 88.1% were fully immunized in 2001. This success demonstrates the potential to improve the status of children when the leadership of the state and its communities act decisively together.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Children and youth are infected with sexually transmitted diseases through sexual abuse or irresponsible sexual activity. National prevalence rates indicate: a 1 in 8 chance that sexually active 15 year-old girls will develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), the most rapidly increasing cause of infertility; 10% of sexually active adolescent girls and boys are infected with chlamydia, the most common cause of PID; and as many as 15% of teen girls are infected with human papilloma virus, often with strains linked to cervical cancer. Furthermore, research evidence indicates that susceptibility to HIV/AIDS increases by 3 to 8 times through prior infection with various STDs.

According to national studies, approximately 1 in 4 sexually experienced youth aged 13-19 acquires a STD eve year; since two-thirds of all high school students have had sexual intercourse and half engage in intercourse over a thr month period, this would suggest that 10-15% of teens are infected with STDs annually. For 2000, this would indicate th an estimated 363 to 544 youth ages 13-19 in the county were infected with a STD. Many infections are either not identifi for treatment or not reported. In the county, there were 4 reported cases of children under age 15 and 13 youth ages 15 19 infected with gonorrhea; 4 youth under 15 and 55 ages 15 - 19 were reported infected with chlamydia. Youth wi undiagnosed and untreated STDs often spread their infections.

Healthy Lifestyles: Although no county data is available, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2001 found that ma high school students are not following good health habits. The YRBS revealed that 26% felt that they were overweight; 42 were trying to lose weight: 27% of boys and 57% of girls. Although during a week 79% of high school students ate fru 59% ate salad, and over 83% ate vegetables, only 17% ate the recommended five or more servings of fruit and vegetabl per day. During a week, 49% did stretching or muscle strengthening exercises, and 59% exercised three or more times f 20 minutes in sports that made them sweat or breathe hard. However, 11% of students engaged in no vigorous or modera activity at all during a week: 8% of boys and 13% of girls.

Tobacco Use:* Cigarette smoking starts at a young age and often becomes habitual. In the state during 2002 among all students 15 and older, 16.7% first smoked by age 11, 36.3% by age 13, and 51.4% by age 15. In a typical month, 17.1% of 7th and 8th graders and 25.3% of high school students smoked cigarettes. White youths were much more likely than African-Americans to smoke: 26.4% of White male and 27.2% of White female 7th to 12th graders used cigarettes, as compared with 18.9% of African-American males and 12.2% of African American females. A smaller but significant group of high school students (5.4%) used smokeless tobacco monthly; it was used primarily by White males (15.9% compared with 1.1% of all other race and sex groups).

* Schools in the county elected not to participate in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking. Therefore, data for all of South Carolina is presented here.

Disabilities: No data are collected on the true prevalence of disabilities within the county. According to national reported estimates, over 10% of children and youth have developmental disabilities at any point in time, and more than 17 are affected at some time before age 18 by deafness, blindness, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, speech defects, development delays, learning disabilities, and emotional or behavioral problems. For 2000 this suggests that at least 870 children ar youth under age 18 in the county are currently affected by disabilities.

Approximately 5% of children and youth nationally have serious disabilities which have lifelong implications f work, social life and community living. Typically among children and youth, there are 1 - 2% who are mentally retarded, - 3% with serious emotional disturbances, over 1% with orthopedic or multiple disabilities, including cerebral palsy an many hereditary conditions, and under 1% with visual or hearing impairments.

Other chronic health problems also affect the lives of many children. Over 3% of children have one or more these limitations. Such serious chronic conditions affect 1 - 2% who have respiratory problems (asthma and chron bronchitis), 0.5 - 1.0% with neurological problems (epilepsy and seizures), and less than 1% with circulatory problem (congenital heart defects and acquired diseases).

Other disabilities are identified primarily in school performance. These would include 525 students in grades 1- with learning disabilities and 277 students in grades 1-12 with speech/language deficits.

Disabilities are caused by genetics, disease, poor prenatal conditions, injuries, and environmental factors. For example, lead exposure, primarily from paint dust, was detected in over 1% of all children screened, including 4 in Newberry County.

Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: While over 20% of 9-17 year olds meet diagnostic criteria for some form of mental disorder, the number with serious emotional disturbance and impaired functioning in family, school, or community activities is: 9-13% for substantial functional impairment and 5-9% for extreme functional impairment. The rates among poor children are at the higher end of these ranges. Based on a federal formula for estimating prevalence, in the county there are 12% or 540 seriously emotionally disturbed 9-17 year olds with substantial functional impairment and 8% or 360 with extreme functional impairment during the course of a year. Conduct disorders, attention deficit, depression, and anxiety disorders are the most prevalent, each affecting 3% or more of school-aged children. These disorders may occur simultaneously in a child. The prevalence rates are highest among males, adolescents, and disadvantaged persons in communities under stress and lacking social cohesion; depression, however, is more prevalent among females. On the YRBS, 20% of boys and 33% of girls in high school reported that during the past year they felt so sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that they stopped doing some usual activities. Another indicator of emotional problems is the 8% of high school students in South Carolina who reported that they had "attempted suicide" in the past year: 5% of boys and 10% of girls. Suicide attempts resulted in 4% of high school students reporting that they required treatment by a doctor or nurse for injury, poisoning, or overdose.

Inadequate Healthcare: No county level data is routinely collected regarding the number of children and youth with inadequate healthcare. According to estimates for 2000-02 by the Bureau of the Census through the annual Current Population Survey, the statewide average rate of uninsured children and youth under age 18 in families with incomes under 200% of poverty in South Carolina was 16.6%, and 9.9% above 200% of poverty. If these rates are applied to the county, there are 716 children in the county below 200% of poverty with no health insurance, and 436 children above 200% of poverty with no health insurance, for a total of 1,152 uninsured children in Newberry County. The number lacking basic accessible primary care is at least double the number lacking insurance. Those lacking primary care are often dependent on health services at school. The ratio of students to nurses recommended nationally is 750:1. In the county, this would suggest the need for 8 nurses, compared with 4 currently working in the schools.

Medicaid: For several years, the State of South Carolina has emphasized enrolling eligible children into Medicaid. In late 1997, South Carolina implemented its version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, Partners for Healthy Children (PHC), and aggressively pursued outreach enrollment for PHC and Medicaid. As a result, enrollment of children ages 0 through 18 in Newberry County has increased by 81.6% from June 1997 to June 2001; thus Medicaid and PHC were serving 47.7% of all children in that age range. The total Medicaid expenditures in South Carolina for services provided to children ages 0 through 18 for state fiscal year 2002 were $991 million, at an average statewide expenditure of $2,343 per child enrolled, approximate Medicaid expenditure for children in the county would be $9.7 million.

In June 2001, the total number of Newberry County children, birth through 18, enrolled in Medicaid was 4,147. The total can be broken down into the following age and race groupings:

	White	African American	Hispanic	Other	Total
Children under 1	118	206	61	4	389
Children 1 - 5	368	728	85	34	1,215
Children 6 - 14	537	1,255	43	46	1,881
Children 15 - 18	205	432	16	9	662
Total	1,228	2,621	205	93	4,147

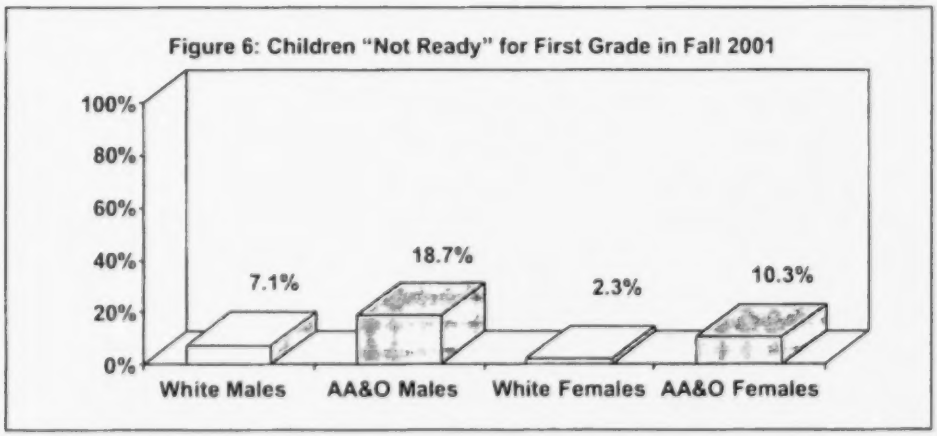
Ambulatory Care: When children lack adequate primary care, whether through lack of insurance, through limit access, or through failing to utilize available care, preventable and treatable conditions become serious and requi hospitalization. A useful indicator of inadequate primary care is the percentage of all hospitalizations that could typical have been avoided through ambulatory care, especially for pneumonia, asthma, diarrhea and vomiting, dehydration, a severe ear, nose, and throat infections. The share of hospitalizations for these types of conditions could normally be ke below 20%; for children in the county under the age of 18 during 2001, the share was 28.2% for Whites and 24.1% f African-Americans and Others.

READINESS AND EARLY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Too many children reach school without the readiness skills needed for success in learning, such as language, soc skills, visual and auditory discrimination, memory recall, and knowledge of colors, letters, numbers, names of objects, e Likewise, some schools are not ready to respond appropriately to the varying developmental levels of children in the ea grades. As a result, too many students do not experience the success needed to create the motivation and engagement th sustain learning.

1st Grade "Readiness" on 2001-02 Cognitive Skills Assessme nt Battery (CSAB):

43 children not ready 10.1% children not ready

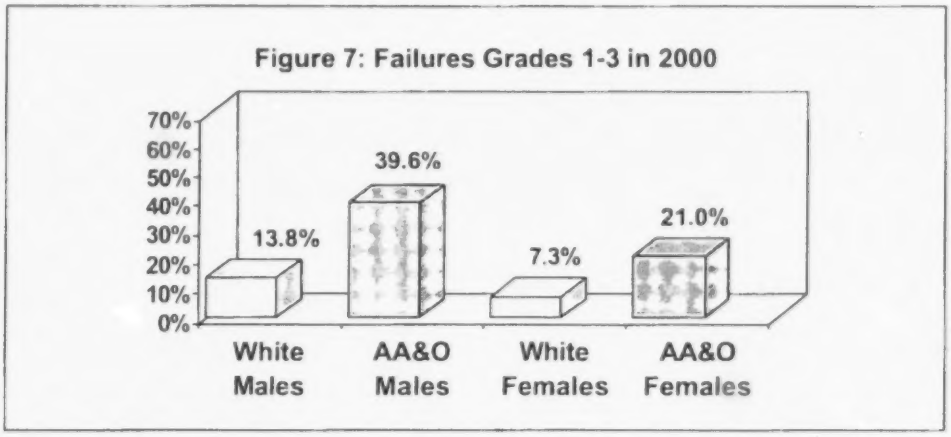


1st Grade Failures in 2002:

23 children failing 5.3% children failing

Failures Grades 1-3 in 2002 (approximate cumulative percentage of grades one, two and three):

68 children failing 15.2% children failing



Over-age for Grade 3 in 2001

83 children over-age 19.1% children over-age

Special Education: Large numbers of children are placed in special education classes. In elementary school, 247 six and seven year olds and 146 eight and nine year-olds were enrolled in special education classes during 2001-02, approximately 26.4% and 16.2% of their age groups respectively: 13.7% of White 8 – 9 year olds were in special education and 18.0% of African American and Others.

Readiness Summary: A serious problem exists in terms of student readiness and school success in the early grades. With 10.1% assessed not ready for the 1st grade, 19.1% over age in grade 3, and 16.2% of eight and nine year-olds placed in special education, unacceptably large numbers of students still begin school without good prospects of success in future school achievement and graduation; however, great improvement has occurred since the mid 1990s.

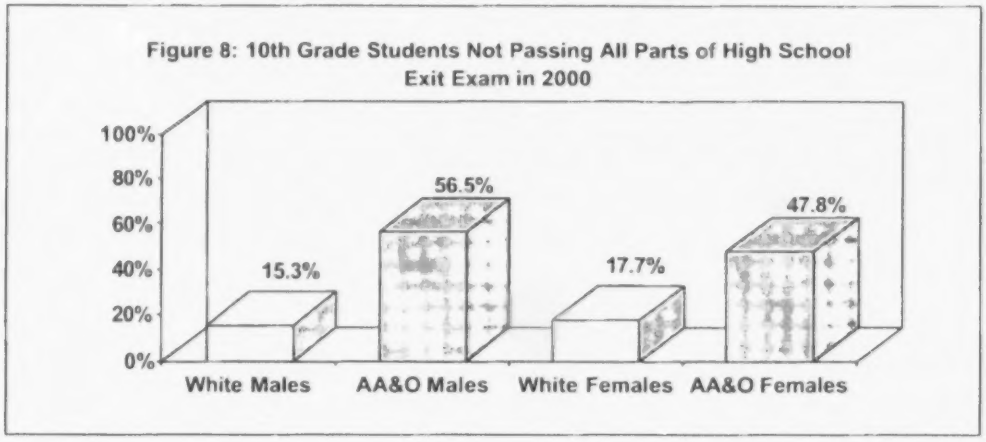
SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

By the end of elementary school, significant numbers of students perform below minimum standards. The following standardized test measures, comparing student performance to state minimum standards, should be used in combination with routine classroom assessments more reflective of real-world performance skills.

Special Education: Special education placements reflect both the significant number of children with serious handicapping conditions and a large number of students with mild learning and behavioral problems that have not been accommodated successfully by the regular educational program. The result is a large system of self-contained, resource, and itinerant services to meet the needs of 277 speech and language impaired, 525 learning disabled, 48 emotionally disabled, 157 mentally impaired, and 30 physically handicapped, deaf, blind, and other handicapped students. Special education classes served approximately 18.0% of all students in grades 1 - 12 during 2001-2002.

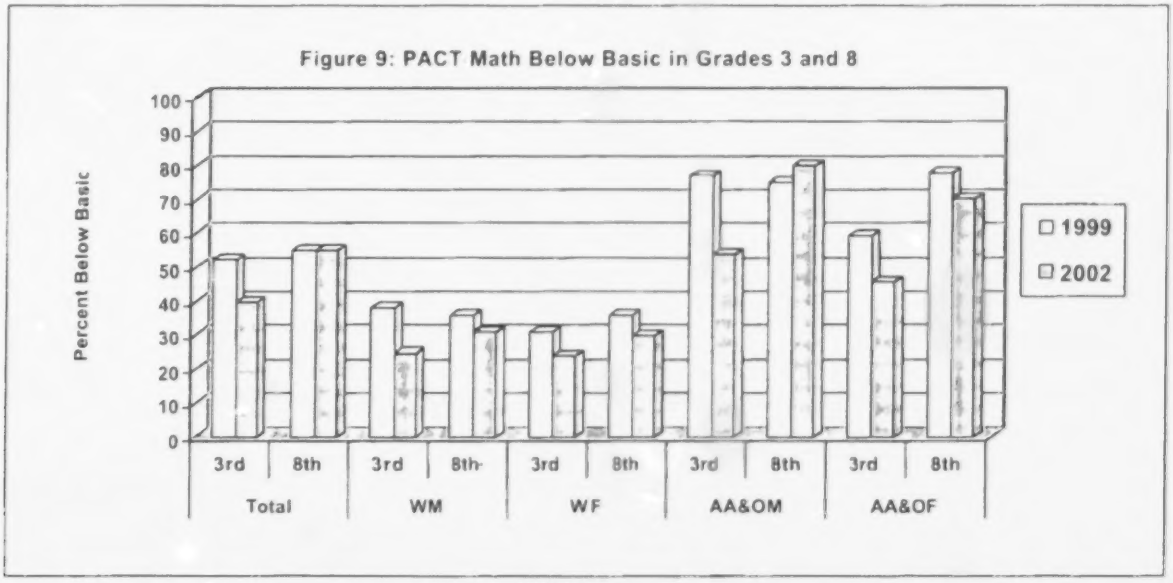
Exit Exam - not passing all parts of Exit Exam on first attempt in the 10th grade in 2002

108 students did not pass all parts	35.0% of students did not pass all parts



Achievement Trends: How has performance on standardized achievement tests changed over the past 20 years? During the 1980s, student performance on the BSAP tests improved dramatically. Between 1981 and 1990, the percentage of 8th grade students in Newberry County who did not meet standards declined from 53.7% to 33.7% in math and from 45.1% to 26.5% in reading. During the 1990's the BSAP trend changed, with 30.8% not meeting 8th grade math standards in 1998 and 41.1% in reading. On standardized tests, the first year when South Carolina students take the exam is comparable to the challenge encountered by the national norm group which took the test only once. Looking at first year data, the percentage of 4th grade students at or below the 25th percentile of national norms was 39.2% in 1983 on the CTBS, 34.5% in 1990 on the Stanford, and 48.2% in 1995 on the Metropolitan; for 9th graders, the percentage in the bottom quarter was 27.8% in 1990 and 23.5% in 1995. Although not comparable, the percent below basic on the 4th grade PACT in 1999, the first year of administration, was 54.5%, but in 2002 33.0% of 4th graders were below basic in reading and math; the percentage of 8th graders below basic in reading and math averaged 53.4% in 1999 and 48.9% in 2002.

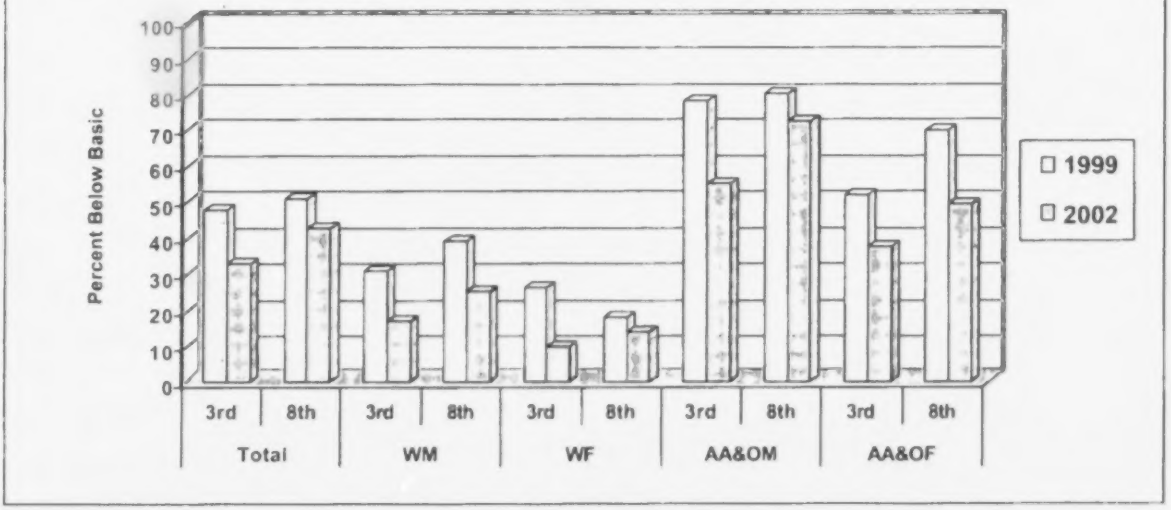
PACT: The Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) was first administered in 1999 for grades 3 - 8 in math and reading/language arts. Math assesses skills in numbers, numerical and algebraic concepts, patterns and functions, geometry, measurement, probability and statistics. The percentage of students scoring below basic in math has decreased by 14.7% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 746 students below basic in grades 3-8 but there would have been an additional 128 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
		Math (%)				
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	39.6	24.7	23.9	54.0	45.6
	4	29.6	16.0	11.8	47.5	35.7
	5	34.8	22.2	13.6	50.8	43.7
	6	45.1	23.2	20.4	76.4	55.8
	7	53.2	36.3	30.6	76.3	67.3
	8	55.1	31.0	29.9	80.2	70.3
Basic	3	39.3	32.6	35.9	42.4	43.2
	4	41.1	40.0	45.1	39.6	40.2
	5	42.2	40.7	44.3	38.9	45.2
	6	33.0	37.9	48.0	17.9	30.1
	7	28.0	36.3	32.7	20.2	23.4
	8	34.1	45.0	50.6	16.4	29.7
Proficient	3	14.2	27.0	25.0	2.9	9.6
	4	18.3	27.0	25.5	6.5	18.8
	5	16.0	23.1	26.1	10.3	8.9
	6	14.6	24.2	19.4	4.7	11.5
	7	10.2	14.2	17.3	2.6	7.5
	8	9.2	22.0	13.8	3.4	0.0
Advanced	3	7.0	15.7	15.2	0.7	1.6
	4	11.0	17.0	17.6	6.5	5.4
	5	7.0	13.9	15.9	0.0	2.2
	6	7.3	14.7	12.2	0.9	2.7
	7	8.6	13.3	19.4	0.9	1.9
	8	1.7	2.0	5.7	0.0	0.0

Reading/Language Arts assesses reading, listening, speaking, writing, research, and communication with technology. The first PACT assessment found a high percentage of elementary and middle grades students performing below standards and only a modest number above basic. The percentage of students scoring below basic in reading/language arts has decreased by 18.9% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 679 students below basic in grades 3 - 8 but there would have been an additional 158 at 1999 performance rates.

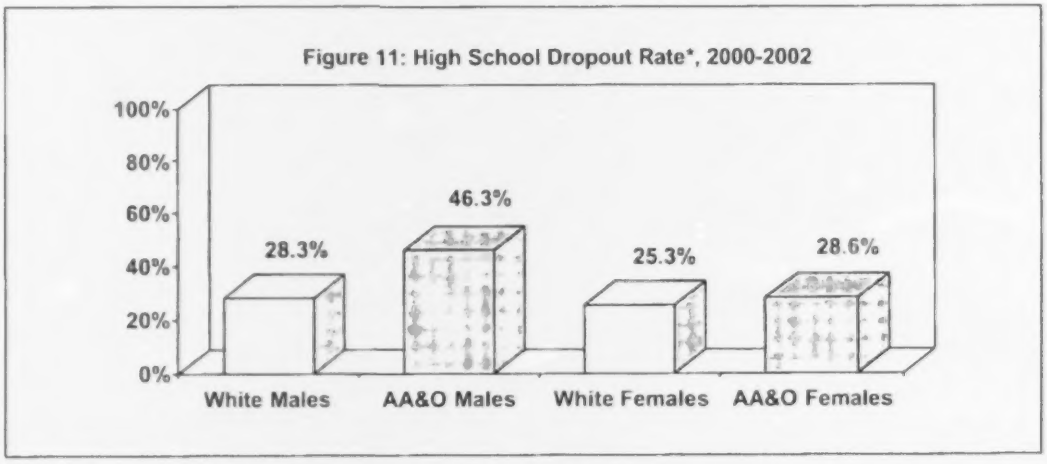
Figure 10: PACT Reading/Language Arts Below Basic in Grades 3 and 8



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
	Reading/Language Arts (%)					
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	33.1	17.0	9.8	55.1	37.6
	4	36.4	25.0	11.8	61.2	38.4
	5	39.2	27.8	12.5	59.7	47.0
	6	50.1	36.8	23.5	75.5	60.7
	7	43.6	29.2	15.2	70.2	57.0
	8	42.6	25.0	14.0	72.4	49.5
Basic	3	37.6	33.0	38.0	35.3	43.2
	4	40.0	42.0	36.3	34.5	48.2
	5	43.8	52.8	44.3	36.3	43.3
	6	30.7	29.5	42.9	22.6	28.6
	7	39.0	48.7	46.5	27.2	34.6
	8	39.5	46.0	51.2	22.4	42.3
Proficient	3	27.0	44.3	48.9	9.6	17.6
	4	22.1	33.0	47.1	4.3	11.6
	5	16.1	17.6	42.0	4.0	9.0
	6	17.0	30.5	27.6	1.9	10.7
	7	14.3	18.6	30.3	2.6	7.5
	8	16.9	29.0	31.4	4.3	8.1
Advanced	3	2.3	5.7	3.3	0.0	1.6
	4	1.5	0.0	4.9	0.0	1.8
	5	0.9	1.9	1.1	0.0	0.7
	6	2.2	3.2	6.1	0.0	0.0
	7	3.0	3.5	8.1	0.0	0.9
	8	1.0	0.0	3.5	0.9	0.0

Dropout Rate - 8th grade students no longer enrolled in grade 12
(average of students for the three years ending 2000-2002)

156 students drop out annually **32.0% students drop out?**



Dropouts: Distressing numbers of students drop out and fail to graduate. An average of 38.8% of 8th graders failed to graduate** from county schools five years later during the period 1980-84, 39.1% during 1985-89, and 26.9% during 1990-94, 31.1% during 1995-97 and 31.9% during 1998-2000***.

During 2001-02, 99.6% of all who did graduate received the State High School Diploma, while the remaining 0.4% received a State Certificate for meeting the required Carnegie units but not passing the Exit Exam.

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*12th grade enrollment compared to 8th grade enrollment four years earlier

** This is calculated by using 8th grade enrollment to graduation data.

*** 2001 data will be available soon and will be posted on the website.

Fortunately, many dropouts enroll in adult education programs and either earn a high school diploma or obtain a GED. During 2001-02, 9 Adult Education high school diplomas were awarded to school completers and in 2001 69 GEDs were awarded in the county. Over time, adult education high school diplomas and GEDs increase the effective school completion rate substantially. In the 2000 Census, 26.6% of county resident 25 - 34 year-olds said they had not completed either high school or a GED.

Achievement Summary: The numbers of students testing below basic on the PACT and dropping out range from 29.6% to 60.7%. Thus, far too many students fail to acquire the knowledge, skills, learning habits, and motivation necessary to compete in the economy or contribute to society in the 21st Century.

ADOLESCENT RISK BEHAVIORS

Academic achievement is greatly influenced by the prevailing youth culture which often promotes popularity with peers and partying rather than studying and doing well in school. The prevalence of adolescent risk-taking and under-achievement is illustrated by the poor grades of substance-abusing teens.

Substance Abuser Rates at Levels of Academic Performance

	Usual School Grades in Past Year					Total
	A Range	B Range	C Range	D Range	F Range	
Smoked Cigarettes (in past 30 days)	13.3%	22.4%	31.7%	42.8%	63.6%	25.3%
Drank 5 or More Drinks on One Occasion (in past 30 days)	12.4%	17.3%	22.6%	26.8%	43.5%	18.9%
Used Any Illicit Drug (in past 30 days)	11.5%	17.1%	25.1%	34.1%	53.0%	20.0%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

As influence from parents and other adults declines during adolescence, significant numbers of students engage in violence, crime, school offenses, depressive emotions and attempted suicide:

Risk Behaviors Participated in During Past 12 Months	White Male		White Female		African American Male		African American Female		Total		Total (Grade 7-12)
	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	
Carried a handgun or knife for self-defense?	22.5%	26.1%	5.3%	6.3%	14.6%	20.2%	5.0%	7.6%	12.2%	14.9%	13.7%
Carried a handgun or knife as a weapon?	6.8%	9.4%	1.3%	1.6%	9.0%	13.9%	3.0%	5.0%	4.8%	6.9%	5.9%
Been in a fight with someone?	40.1%	31.3%	18.5%	16.2%	41.4%	31.9%	29.4%	22.4%	31.7%	24.9%	28.0%
Hit your boyfriend or girlfriend?	2.0%	1.6%	6.9%	10.0%	5.7%	4.9%	17.7%	24.2%	7.4%	9.7%	8.7%
Been hit by your boyfriend or girlfriend?	7.1%	6.1%	6.1%	8.5%	11.5%	9.7%	9.5%	10.6%	8.1%	8.5%	8.3%
Rec'd detention or in-school suspension?	38.1%	37.3%	22.4%	25.0%	41.6%	37.6%	34.3%	30.7%	33.3%	32.1%	32.7%
Been suspended from school?	12.9%	13.9%	5.2%	7.2%	24.0%	22.6%	14.8%	15.4%	13.1%	13.8%	13.5%
Stolen anything worth > $5?	12.9%	17.6%	6.9%	10.7%	14.2%	15.6%	8.5%	8.4%	10.4%	13.1%	11.9%
Had an accident while driving?	NA	14.3%	NA	12.6%	NA	7.7%	NA	6.3%	NA	11.0%	NA
Been arrested and booked?	3.9%	6.1%	1.5%	2.7%	5.7%	8.1%	2.2%	2.9%	3.2%	4.7%	4.0%
Felt hopeless for two weeks or more?	14.8%	15.9%	21.8%	29.0%	14.0%	13.3%	22.0%	24.8%	18.2%	21.4%	19.9%
Seriously considered attempting suicide?	6.9%	8.4%	9.6%	14.3%	5.5%	5.4%	6.8%	8.7%	7.4%	9.7%	8.7%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

Adolescence is often a time of taking risks and asserting independence from adults. When asked whether they would tell an adult about a problem, the following percentages of state students said they would be "not likely" or "very unlikely" to tell if they:

-heard a student threaten to harm someone: 33.2% middle school, 47.0% high school;
-saw a student with a handgun at school: 22.7% middle school, 20.5% high school;
-saw a student with a knife at school: 24.7% middle school, 31.6% high school;
-saw a student with drugs at school: 33.7% middle school, 61.9% high school;

Alcohol Use:* In the state during 2001-02, 21.0% of 7th and 8th graders and 37.1% of high schoolers said they had used alcohol in the past month. Of White males in grades 7 - 12, 33.8% had used it in the past month, compared with 26.0% of African-American males; likewise, 34.5% of White females said they had used alcohol, compared with 26.4% of African-American females. Many youth first used alcohol at an early age: 14.2% had used alcohol by age 11 or younger, 33.0% by age 13, and 61.1% by age 15.

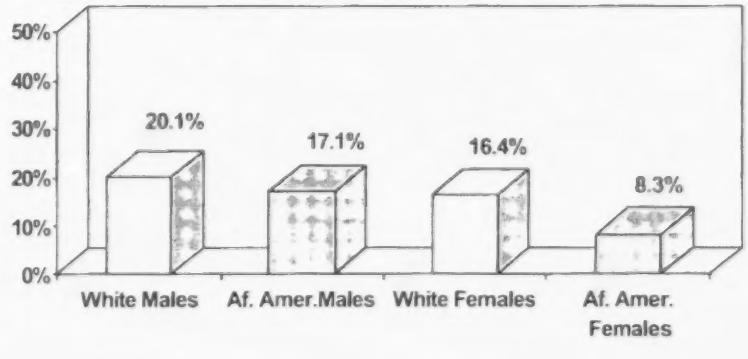
During the previous year, 21.0% of 7th and 8th graders and 30.4% of high schoolers said they had ridden with a drinking driver. Of seniors who drive, 19.4% said they had driven after drinking. Widespread use is encouraged by the ready availability and perceived low risk of alcohol use. Among students who expressed an opinion, 43.6% of eighth graders and 75.4% of seniors felt that beer was easy to get. Also, 71.6% of eighth graders and 70.7% of seniors felt there was not a great risk in drinking two drinks a day, and 47.3% of eighth graders and 53.1% of high schoolers felt there was not a great risk in drinking 5 drinks every weekend.

Heavy Drinking:* In 2001-02, 7.7% of 7th and 8th graders and 18.9% of high school students in the state repor drinking 5 or more drinks in a day during the past month. When asked how many drinks, if any, they usually consur 13.7% of all state students in grades 7 - 12 in 2001-02 responded 3 or more drinks at a time and 7.1% reported usually 5 more drinks. Among high school students, 18.6% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 10.0% 5 or mo Among seniors, 24.7% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 13.7% 5 or more; however 22.9% of seni said that they drank 5 or more drinks in a day once or more during the past month.

Drugs:* In 2001-02, 9.5% of 7th and 8th graders and 20.1% of high schoolers in the state reported using ille drugs during the previous month. Among students in grades 7 - 12, use was reported by 20.1% of White males, 16.4% Wh females, 17.1% of African-American males, and 8.3% of African-American females. Some young people initiated drug at an early age: 5.3% had experienced their first use by age 11 or sooner; 16.3% had used a drug by age 13, and 34.7% by 15.

In the past year, 10.3% of all high school students in the state who drive and 15.4% of seniors who drive said that they had driven after using drugs. Such use is encouraged by the ready availability of drugs: 22.3% of 8th graders who had an opinion said it is easy to get marijuana and 8.4% said it is easy to get cocaine or crack; 65.0% of seniors said it is easy to get marijuana and 29.5% said it was easy to get cocaine or crack.

Figure 12: Drug Use among Students Grades 7-12 during 2001-02*



* Schools in the county elected not to participate in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking. Therefore, data for all of South Carolina is presented here. The latest Newberry County data, for 1992-93, is available on the Kids Count website at www.sckidscount.org.

Sexual Activity and Pregnancy: Many teenagers now engage in sexual activity. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) administered to a representative sample of high school students throughout South Carolina in 2001 showed that sexual activity begins at an early age: 7% of female and 21% of male students have engaged in intercourse before age 13; by age 15, 38% the females and 49% of males have engaged in sexual intercourse. Statewide, 48% of females and 50% of males in the 11th and 12th grades reported engaging in intercourse during the past three months. Furthermore, 27% of female and 33% of male 12th graders have had intercourse with four or more partners during their lifetimes.

Premature sexual activity often results in pregnancy. In the county, 58 girls between the ages of 14 and 17 became pregnant in 1999, 34 in 2000 and 48 in 2001. This represented 4.6% of all girls ages 14 -- 17 in 2001; several times this percentage become pregnant at least once by age 18. The 2001 pregnancy rate for ages 14 - 17 was 2.9% for Whites and 6.9% for African-Americans and Others. Of all pregnancies of 14-17 year olds, 79.2% resulted in live births with almost all other pregnancies ending in abortions.

Teen pregnancy rates increased substantially across the state during the 1980s; as a result, greater emphasis was devoted to preventing teen pregnancy. Since 1989, the teen pregnancy rate in Newberry County has decreased by 29.4%. Overall, it has decreased by 19.4% for Whites, and decreased by 39.5% for African Americans and Others.

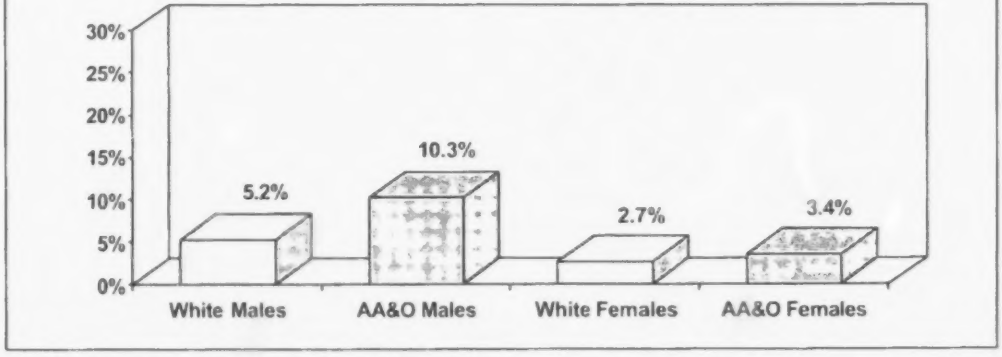
Juvenile Delinquency: In 2001-02, 160 individual juvenile offenders in the county were referred to the Solicitor for delinquency; of these, 15.0% were age 12 or younger, 32.5% were 13 or 14, and 52.5% were 15 or older.

Of the referrals to the family court, 10.9% of all referrals were for violent and serious crimes which include drug trafficking, acts against persons for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and serious property offenses for arson and burglary. Also, 22 juvenile cases constituting 11.4% of all referrals were for status offenses. Status offenses include truancy, running away, incorrigibility, and other offenses that would not be crimes for adults.

Delinquents are likely to live in families with low income: 33.0% lived in families with income under $10,000, 32.0% with $10,000-$19,999 and 35.0% with $20,000 or more. Furthermore, only 18.0% of delinquents lived with both natural parents, while 58.0% lived in a single parent household, 20.0% lived with other relatives, and 4.0% in other situations including parent plus step-parent. Delinquency or criminal activity occurs among many related family members; 49.0% had at least one family member who was delinquent or had some criminal record.

Youth referred to the family courts are likely to have been there before. In 2001-02, 48.1% had at least one prior referral and 15.0% had been referred to court 3 times or more. Many were referred at an early age. For delinquents 15 - 17 years old, 0.7% had been referred by the age of 10, 12.2% by the age of 12, and 26.6% by the age of 14.

During 2001-02, 84 youth ages 15 to 17 were referred to the family courts. In the county, 5.2% of all youth 15 to 17 were referred to court in one year and roughly double that percentage are referred at least once by age 18. Furthermore, the National Youth Survey indicates that typically across the United States the proportion of youth engaging in crime is two or three times the number ever apprehended. In 2001-02, there were 7 juveniles committed from the county to DJJ custody and placed in residential programs.



Not in School or Employed: During 2000, 290 teenagers ages 16-19 were idle, meaning they neither worked any hours nor were enrolled in school, even part-time. Idle teens comprised 13.2% of their age group: 11.7% for White and 14.8% African-American & Other teens. A much larger number, perhaps twice as many, were not engaged in either school full time or work full time. The data reflect a serious failure in both school completion and the critical transition from school to work, significantly affecting their development as future workers. For an in-depth description of the problems of young adults seeking to enter the labor force, visit our website at www.scyoungadults.org for our state and county reports on 18-29 year olds.

Deaths: During 1997-2001, 15 youth ages 15 to 19 died. Historically, automobile accidents have been the major cause, resulting in 5 deaths between 1996 and 2000; homicides killed 1 youth 15 to 19 years old during the five year period, and 3 youth committed suicide. Alcohol use is often a significant factor in deaths among teenagers.

SUMMARY

Facing the Scope of Problems: The data on families, economic status, health, readiness, school achievement and adolescent risk behaviors provide a troublesome picture of the condition of children in Newberry County. The 37.3% of children in single-parent families, 23.7% in poverty, 31.9% not graduating from school, 37.1% of high school students using alcohol and 20.1% using drugs each month, and other data profiled in this report suggest that too many children are at risk of not growing up to become self-supporting adults, good family members, and responsible community citizens.

Emphasizing the Positive: South Carolina Kids Count reports have been developed to describe the problems of children in each of the counties. Fortunately, the majority of children and youth are doing well, and some very well. One simple description is the percentage of children who do not fall into the problem categories reported. For the county 81.1% of children are born to non-teen mothers ages 20 or older, 51.2% are born to married parents, and 62.7% lived in two-parent families; 76.3% were not poor and 49.8% lived in families with incomes above twice the poverty level for a family of three, $30,040 in 2002; 88.1% of babies were born with normal birthweights; 89.9% were assessed as ready for the first grade, 44.9% scored basic or better on PACT for 8th grade math and 57.4% for 8th grade reading, 65.0% passed all parts of the Exit Exam in the 10th grade, and 68.1% graduated with their class. In a typical month, 62.9% of high school students do not drink alcohol, 79.9% do not use drugs, and 74.7% do not smoke. Unfortunately, the absence of a problem is not always an indicator of success. Some data is available for exemplary performance: for example, 29.3% of 3rd graders and 17.9% of 8th graders scored proficient or advanced on PACT in reading and 21.2% of 3rd graders and 10.9% of 8th graders in math. Unfortunately, data on success is not generally available.

Despite the limitations of success data, we must emphasize the positive in providing good support and appropriate influences for children and youth. Recent philosophy and publications such as those of the Search Institute (700 South Third Street, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN, 55415-1138, tel. 1-800-888-7828, www.search-institute.org), emphasize the critical importance of "developmental assets" to promote and support positive development. One short book from the Search Institute, (What Kids Need to Succeed, by Peter J. Benson, Judy Gailbraith, and Pamela Espeland, 1995) presents an excellent array of suggestions for promoting developmental assets through families, community, faith congregations and schools. If each family, school, religious congregation and community organization assertively worked to build such assets, the problems described in this report would be reduced dramatically. Such positive family-school-community efforts could improve South Carolina's national Kids Count ranking from the bottom 10 to the average or even into the top 10 by prevention of unnecessary problems affecting children and youth, as shown on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

All data presented in this report is the most recent available at the date it goes to the printer. This version of the Kids Count report will be revised as more recent and additional data become available. Please send us your corrections and suggestions for improvement. We welcome your ideas for ways to make the state and county reports more useful and accurate. Please utilize local data sources whenever possible to supplement the profile provided through our report.

Data related inquiries should be directed to:

Anne Wilson, Data Manager (awilson@drss.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-4810

Calls for **copies of reports** for other counties and inquiries regarding more recent reports should be made to:

Kim Hazel-Lohr, Project Manager (khazel@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
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Dr. A. Baron Holmes, Project Director (bholmes@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
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Comparable reports for all 46 counties and for the state can also be found on the World Wide Web at

www.sckidscount.org

Our website also provides: links to other websites for indicators in our report; high to low rankings for individual indicators; information on how to improve SC's national rank; and a glossary of definitions.

The national Kids Count Report can be found on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website at

www.aecf.org

Newberry County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Indicators	Most Recent Year	Number					Percent						
		1980*	1990*	Most Recent Data	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980 Rank	19
Health													
Low Birth Weight	2001	47	56	62	+31.9%	+10.7%	10.3	11.6	11.9	15.5%	2.2%	39	
White babies	*2001*	*20*	*17*	*33*	*+65.0%*	*+94.1%*	*8.7*	*7.5*	*10.3*	*18.4%*	*36.9%*	*44*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*27*	*39*	*29*	*+7.4%*	*-25.6%*	*12.0*	*15.3*	*14.2*	*18.5%*	*-7.1%*	*22*	
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	2001	206	195	140	+32.0%	-28.2%	45.2	40.5	26.8	-40.7%	-33.9%	32	
White babies	*2001*	*69*	*69*	*67*	*-2.9%*	*-2.9%*	*29.9*	*30.5*	*21.0*	*-29.8%*	*-31.2%*	*32*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*137*	*126*	*73*	*-46.7%*	*-42.1%*	*60.9*	*49.4*	*35.8*	*-41.2%*	*-27.6%*	*34*	
Infant Mortality	2001	22	18	18	-18.2%	+0.0%	1.5	1.2	1.2	-21.4%	0.1%	16	
White babies	*2001*	*8*	*6*	*7*	*-12.5%*	*+16.7%*	*1.0*	*0.8*	*0.8*	*-23.9%*	*-6.1%*	*17*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*14*	*12*	*11*	*-21.4%*	*-8.3%*	*2.1*	*1.6*	*1.8*	*-13.6%*	*19.1%*	*18*	
Family													
Births to mothers under 18	2001	41	27	42	+2.4%	+55.6%	9.0	5.6	8.0	-11.0%	42.5%	23	
White babies	*2001*	*9*	*8*	*13*	*+44.4%*	*+62.5%*	*3.9*	*3.5*	*4.1*	*5.2%*	*15.8%*	*9*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*32*	*19*	*29*	*-9.4%*	*+52.6%*	*14.2*	*7.5*	*14.2*	*0.0%*	*90.8%*	*34*	
Births to mothers under 20	2001	92	84	99	+7.6%	+17.9%	20.2	17.5	18.9	-6.3%	8.2%	18	
White babies	*2001*	*26*	*27*	*41*	*+57.7%*	*-51.9%*	*11.3*	*11.9*	*12.9*	*14.6%*	*8.0%*	*5*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*66*	*57*	*58*	*-12.1%*	*-1.8%*	*29.3*	*22.4*	*28.4*	*-3.1%*	*27.2%*	*33*	
Births to mothers with less than a high school education	2001	195	153	164	-15.9%	+7.2%	42.8	31.8	31.4	-26.6%	-1.3%	40	
White babies	*2001*	*62*	*43*	*81*	*+30.6%*	*+88.4%*	*26.8*	*19.0*	*25.4*	*-5.4%*	*33.5%*	*19*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*133*	*110*	*83*	*-37.6%*	*-24.5%*	*59.1*	*43.1*	*40.7*	*-31.2%*	*-5.7%*	*23*	
Births to single mothers****	2001	127	196	255	+100.8%	+30.1%	27.9	40.7	48.8	75.2%	19.8%	27	
White babies	*2001*	*8*	*19*	*94*	*+1075.0%*	*+394.7%*	*3.5*	*8.4*	*29.5*	*751.8%*	*250.9%*	*5*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*119*	*177*	*161*	*+35.3%*	*-9.0%*	*52.9*	*69.4*	*78.9*	*49.2%*	*13.7%*	*41*	
Children in single parent families	2000	1,395	2,125	2,779	+99.2%	+30.8%	17.9	29.5	37.3	108.2%	26.3%	19	
White	*2000*	*418*	*586*	*714*	*+70.8%*	*+21.8%*	*8.3*	*13.6*	*17.1*	*105.5%*	*25.4%*	*8*	
African American and Other	*2000*	*970*	*1,516*	*2,065*	*+112.9%*	*+36.2%*	*33.2*	*53.4*	*63.1*	*90.1%*	*18.2%*	*13*	
Education													
Not Ready for Grade 1	2001	162	113	43	-73.5%	-61.9%	34.0	22.4	10.1	-70.3%	-54.9%	14	
White males	*2001*	*19*	*10*	*8*	*-57.9%*	*-20.0%*	*13.3*	*8.1*	*7.1*	*-46.6%*	*-12.3%*	*1*	
White females	*2001*	*12*	*8*	*2*	*-83.3%*	*-75.0%*	*11.2*	*5.6*	*2.3*	*-79.5%*	*-58.9%*	*4*	
African American and Other males	*2001*	*84*	*58*	*20*	*-76.2%*	*-65.5%*	*70.0*	*43.6*	*18.7*	*-73.3%*	*-57.1%*	*45*	
African American and Other females	*2001*	*47*	*37*	*12*	*-74.5%*	*-67.6%*	*44.8*	*34.9*	*10.3*	*-77.0%*	*-70.5%*	*18*	
Repeating Grades 1-3	2000	81	132	107	+32.1%	-18.9%	16.0	26.5	22.1	38.1%	-16.6%	17	
White males	*2000*	*19*	*19*	*15*	*-21.1%*	*-21.1%*	*14.0*	*15.5*	*13.8*	*-1.4%*	*-11.0%*	*13*	
White females	*2000*	*5*	*17*	*7*	*+40.0%*	*-58.8%*	*4.3*	*12.4*	*7.3*	*69.8%*	*-41.1%*	*6*	
African American and Other males	*2000*	*34*	*62*	*56*	*+64.7%*	*-9.7%*	*26.4*	*52.4*	*39.6*	*50.0%*	*-24.4%*	*23*	
African American and Other females	*2000*	*23*	*34*	*29*	*+26.1%*	*-14.7%*	*19.5*	*28.1*	*21.0*	*7.7%*	*-25.3%*	*28*	
Grade 3 Math below standards*****	2002	271	85	176	-35.1%	+107.1%	49.2	17.9	39.6	-19.5%	121.2%	35	
White males	*2002*	*57*	*9*	*22*	*-61.4%*	*+144.4%*	*38.5*	*7.8*	*24.7*	*-35.8%*	*216.7%*	*37*	
White females	*2002*	*38*	*17*	*22*	*-42.1%*	*+29.4%*	*29.5*	*13.2*	*23.9*	*-19.0%*	*81.1%*	*31*	
African American and Other males	*2002*	*97*	*22*	*75*	*-22.7%*	*+240.9%*	*66.9*	*21.4*	*54.0*	*-19.3%*	*152.3%*	*40*	
African American and Other females	*2002*	*78*	*37*	*57*	*-26.9%*	*+54.1%*	*61.9*	*28.7*	*45.6*	*-26.3%*	*58.9%*	*42*	
Grade 3 Reading below standards*****	2002	239	64	146	-38.9%	+128.1%	43.2	13.5	33.1	-23.4%	145.2%	35	
White males	*2002*	*49*	*12*	*15*	*-69.4%*	*+25.0%*	*32.9*	*10.3*	*17.0*	*-48.3%*	*65.0%*	*31*	
White females	*2002*	*26*	*6*	*9*	*-65.4%*	*+50.0%*	*20.2*	*4.7*	*9.8*	*-51.5%*	*108.5%*	*28*	
African American and Other males	*2002*	*92*	*22*	*75*	*-18.5%*	*+240.9%*	*63.5*	*22.0*	*55.1*	*-13.2%*	*150.5%*	*37*	
African American and Other females	*2002*	*70*	*24*	*47*	*-32.9%*	*+95.8%*	*55.1*	*18.6*	*37.6*	*-31.8%*	*102.2%*	*43*	
Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT Grade 4	1998	188	148	153	-18.6%	+3.4%	39.2	34.5	38.9	-0.8%	12.8%	35	
White males	*1998*	*32*	*32*	*17*	*-46.9%*	*-46.9%*	*28.8*	*27.6*	*17.0*	*-41.0%*	*-38.4%*	*35*	
White females	*1998*	*20*	*15*	*12*	*-40.0%*	*-20.0%*	*16.0*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*-9.4%*	*-8.2%*	*25*	
African American and Other males	*1998*	*69*	*55*	*65*	*-5.8%*	*+18.2%*	*57.0*	*53.9*	*59.6*	*4.6%*	*10.6%*	*34*	
African American and Other females	*1998*	*65*	*46*	*59*	*-9.2%*	*+28.3%*	*57.0*	*40.3*	*58.8*	*3.2%*	*45.9%*	*46*	

*Year of data is approximate in many cases.
**1 is best, 46 is worst.
*** Data include paternity acknowledgements.
**** BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Education (continued)

Indicators		Number					Percent				
	Most Recent Year	1980*	1990*	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres
Grade 8 Math below state standards**	2002	226	138	228	+0.9%	+65.2%	53.7	33.7	55.1	2.6%	63.5%
White males	*2002*	*43*	*26*	*31*	*-27.9%*	*+19.2%*	*32.3*	*20.8*	*31.0*	*-4.0%*	*49.0%*
White females	*2002*	*43*	*24*	*26*	*-39.5%*	*+8.3%*	*39.8*	*22.2*	*29.9*	*-24.9%*	*34.7%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*56*	*46*	*93*	*+66.1%*	*+102.2%*	*72.7*	*52.3*	*80.2*	*10.3%*	*53.3%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*84*	*42*	*78*	*-7.1%*	*+85.7%*	*81.5*	*47.7*	*70.3*	*-13.7%*	*47.4%*
Grade 8 Reading below state standards**	2002	191	108	176	-7.9%	+63.0%	45.1	26.5	42.6	-5.5%	60.8%
White males	*2002*	*37*	*22*	*25*	*-32.4%*	*+13.6%*	*27.8*	*17.6*	*25.0*	*-10.1%*	*42.0%*
White females	*2002*	*20*	*14*	*12*	*-40.0%*	*-14.3%*	*18.2*	*13.1*	*14.0*	*-23.1%*	*6.9%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*57*	*42*	*84*	*+47.4%*	*+100.0%*	*72.2*	*47.7*	*72.4*	*0.3%*	*51.8%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*77*	*30*	*55*	*-28.6%*	*+83.3%*	*75.5*	*34.1*	*49.5*	*-34.4%*	*45.2%*
Grade 9 Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT	1998	NA	131	167	NA	+27.5%	NA	27.8	38.0	NA	36.7%
White males	*1998*	*NA*	*29*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*18.1*	*24.3*	*NA*	*34.3%*
White females	*1998*	*NA*	*9*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*7.6*	*10.0*	*NA*	*31.6%*
African American and Other males	*1998*	*NA*	*46*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*54.8*	*63.9*	*NA*	*16.6%*
African American and Other females	*1998*	*NA*	*47*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*43.5*	*64.9*	*NA*	*49.2%*
Exit Exam (not passing all parts on 1st attempt)	2002	180	88	108	-40.0%	+22.7%	41.2	24.8	35.0	-15.0%	41.1%
White males	*2002*	*28*	*20*	*11*	*-60.7%*	*-45.0%*	*24.6*	*16.1*	*15.3*	*-37.8%*	*-5.0%*
White females	*2002*	*27*	*10*	*14*	*-48.1%*	*+40.0%*	*18.4*	*9.7*	*17.7*	*-3.8%*	*82.5%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*65*	*38*	*35*	*-46.2%*	*-7.9%*	*73.9*	*58.5*	*56.5*	*-23.5%*	*-3.4%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*60*	*20*	*44*	*-26.7%*	*+120.0%*	*68.2*	*31.8*	*47.8*	*-29.9%*	*50.3%*
Dropout Rate (8th graders no longer enrolled in 12th grade 4 years later)	2000-02	167	161	156	-6.5%	-3.0%	30.9	29.3	32.0	3.7%	9.2%
White males	*2000-02*	*35*	*50*	*35*	*+0.5%*	*-30.0%*	*24.3*	*32.8*	*28.3*	*16.6%*	*-13.6%*
White females	*2000-02*	*27*	*30*	*35*	*+30.8%*	*+15.6%*	*18.0*	*22.1*	*25.3*	*40.4%*	*14.7%*
African American and Other males	*2000-02*	*56*	*46*	*56*	*+1.5%*	*+23.8%*	*44.8*	*34.9*	*46.3*	*3.4%*	*32.8%*
African American and Other females	*2000-02*	*50*	*36*	*30*	*-40.0%*	*-15.5%*	*39.8*	*27.4*	*28.6*	*-28.3%*	*4.2%*
Young Adults Not Completing High School (18-24)	2000	1,138	1,111	1,226	+7.7%	+10.4%	29.1	31.4	26.6	-8.4%	-15.1%
White males	*NA*	*337*	*323*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*24.7*	*29.2*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
White females	*NA*	*161*	*229*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*13.9*	*22.9*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other males	*NA*	*331*	*265*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*51.7*	*39.8*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other females	*NA*	*309*	*294*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*41.3*	*38.1*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
Economics											
Poverty Rate	2000	1,178	1,897	2,040	+73.2%	+7.5%	13.9	22.9	23.7	70.5%	3.5%
White children	*2000*	*321*	*486*	*567*	*+76.6%*	*+16.7%*	*6.4*	*10.6*	*12.6*	*96.9%*	*18.9%*
African American and Other children	*2000*	*857*	*1,411*	*1,473*	*+71.9%*	*+4.4%*	*24.8*	*38.1*	*35.9*	*44.9%*	*-5.7%*
Income of Families w/children (1999 $)	2000	$ 42,554	$ 40,389	$ 41,701	-2.0%	+3.2%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
White families	*2000*	*$ 46,096*	*$ 48,075*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other families	*2000*	*$ 35,097*	*$ 28,278*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
Adolescent Risk Factors											
Teenage Pregnancy (ages 14-17)	2001	63	42	48	-23.8%	+14.3%	5.9	4.0	4.6	-21.9%	15.0%
White	*2001*	*18*	*17*	*17*	*-5.6%*	*+0.0%*	*2.9*	*2.9*	*2.9*	*1.4%*	*0.0%*
African American and Other	*2001*	*45*	*25*	*31*	*-31.1%*	*+24.0%*	*10.2*	*5.7*	*6.9*	*-32.6%*	*21.1%*
Delinquency	2002	63	98	84	+33.3%	-14.3%	3.7	6.7	5.2	41.0%	-22.1%
White males	*2002*	*10*	*32*	*24*	*+140.0%*	*-25.0%*	*1.9*	*6.5*	*5.2*	*174.6%*	*-19.7%*
White females	*2002*	*11*	*21*	*12*	*+9.1%*	*-42.9%*	*2.3*	*4.8*	*2.7*	*18.6%*	*-43.2%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*19*	*32*	*36*	*+89.5%*	*+12.5%*	*5.6*	*10.9*	*10.3*	*83.7%*	*-5.6%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*23*	*13*	*12*	*-47.8%*	*-7.7%*	*7.1*	*5.2*	*3.4*	*-51.7%*	*-34.1%*

*Closest available data to this year was used in many cases.
**BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Kids Count 2003

Oconee County

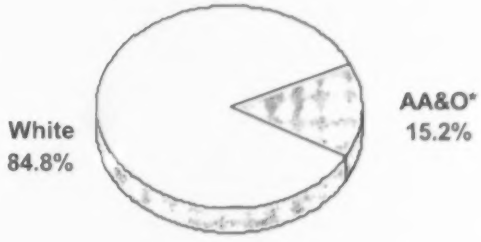
DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2000 there were an estimated 15,132 children under age 18 in the county. Of these, 12,835 were White, 1,68 were African-American, and 609 were other races. There were 14,058 children under age 18 in 1990, 14,205 in 1980 14,162 in 1970, and 14,649 in 1960.

Children represent a shrinking portion of the county's population. Those under 18 constituted 22.9% of the population in 2000, down from 36.4% in 1960, 34.8% in 1970, and 29.2% in 1980.

In 2000 the 4,801 pre-schoolers under age 6 were 7.3% of the overall population: 6.8% of Whites and 9.8% o African Americans.

Figure 1: Population Ages 0-17 in 2000



* In all charts African-American is combined with other races, and often abbreviated as AA&O. Other races comprise 4.0% of children in the county, with "some other race alone" at 1.8% and 'two or more races" at 1.6% as the largest Other groups.

FAMILY

Families have always been the most important influence in a child's life. Children depend on their families fo material needs, stimulation and guidance. Family life is different in numerous ways from previous generations, and man families now face exceptional challenges.

Families with children now make up a smaller share of all households. Only 28.5% of all households in 2000, a compared with 46.0% of households in 1960, had children below the age of 18.

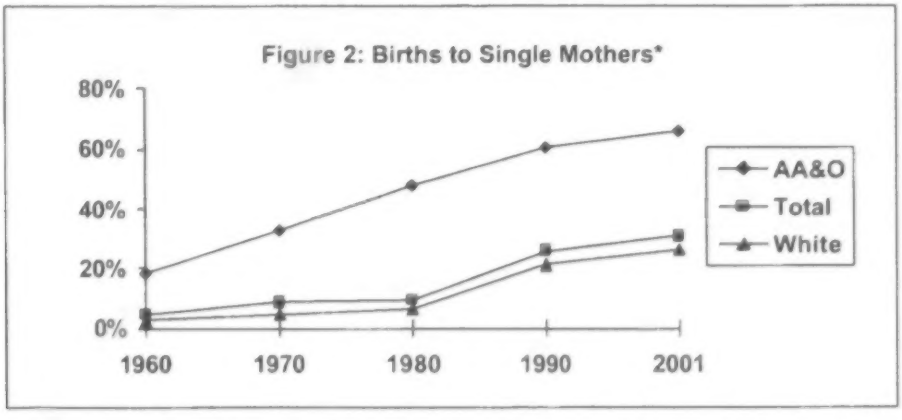
Births to Teen Mothers: In 2001, 45 babies were born to mothers younger than age 18. They were 5.7% o all babies born in the county; 5.6% of all White and 6.8% of all African-American and Other babies were born to tee mothers under the age of 18. Of the babies born to these teens in 2001, 82.2% were born to single mothers, includin babies whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers.

In 2001, 120 babies were born to mothers younger than age 20. These babies were 15.3% of all born in th county; 14.0% of all White and 25.0% of all African-American and Other babies were born to mothers under the age o 20. Of the babies born to these mothers in 2001, 77.5% were born to single mothers, including paternity acknowledege babies.

Education of Mothers Giving Birth: Children's success is strongly influenced by the education of their parents. In 2001, 207 babies, 26.4% of all babies, were born to mothers of all ages who had not completed the 12th grade. In 2001, 25.3% of White and 35.2% of African-American and Other babies were born to mothers who had completed less than the 12th grade. This is a substantial improvement from 51.3% in 1970. In addition, during 2001, 38.6% had completed 12 grades (38.3% of Whites and 40.9% of African Americans and Others) and 35.0% had more than a high school degree (36.4% of Whites and 23.9% of African American and Others).

Births to Single Mothers: Births to single mothers have increased steadily over four decades. In 2001, 105 babies, 13.4% of all babies, were recorded as born to single mothers. A decade earlier in 1990, the percentage was 16.7% and in 1960 it was 4.4%. In 2001, 10.6% of White children and 35.2% of African-American and Other children were born to single mothers. These numbers, however, do not include paternity acknowlegement births.

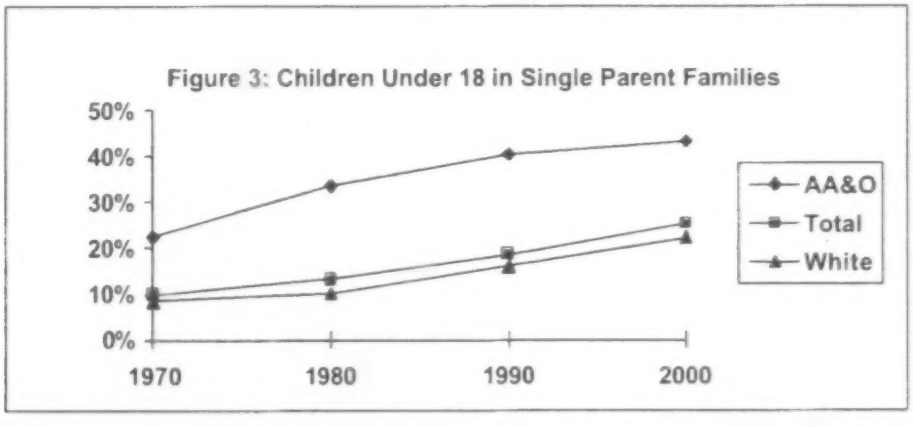
Thus, to these numbers should be added an additional group of 136 babies, 17.3% of all born in 2001, whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers. When the paternity-acknowledged babies are added, the total number born to single mothers in 2001 was 241, constituting 30.7% of all babies, 26.2% of White babies, and 65.9% of African-American and Others.



*Includes paternity acknowleged babies in 1980, 1990 and 2001. Prior to 1979, paternity acknowleged cases were not a statistical category, and thus were included in births to single mothers.

Divorce Rate: In 2001, 1,238 marriage licenses were issued, while 253 divorce decrees involving 177 children were filed. In 1970, only 101 children were in families involved in divorce.

Single-Parent Family: Increasing numbers of children live in single-parent families. In 2000, 3,407 children lived with only one parent. This was 25.3% of all children, up from 18.7% in 1990, 13.3% in 1980, and 9.9% in 1970. In 2000, 22.3% of White and 43.4% of African-American and Other children lived in single-parent families. Also in 2000, 1,052 or 25.0% of children under age 6 lived in single parent families: 20.9% of White and 48.0% of African American and Other pre-schoolers.



Parents Working and Child Care: Increasingly, parents must divide their time between children and employers. In order to meet family financial needs, most parents must work and thus have less time for family life. In 2000, 65.6% of mothers with children under 6 and 70.4% with children 6 - 17 were in the labor force. This has increased substantially from 1960 when 49.7% of mothers with children under 6 were in the labor force. Most fathers also work: 63.1% of children under 6 are in families where the single parent or both parents work. Caring for children is a problem for parents unable to obtain quality, affordable daycare while they are at work.

Overall, there are 1,889 spaces in state-regulated childcare facilities* in the county, 88.8% of these are in licensed programs and 11.2% are in registered programs. Of the spaces, 87.6% are in licensed childcare centers serving more than 12 children, 9.8% are in registered or licensed family childcare homes serving six or fewer children, 1.3% are in licensed group childcare homes serving 7-12 children, and 1.3% are in registered or licensed church programs.

The homes and centers are severely constrained by the limited ability of parents to pay. In the county, the average weekly charge is $ 67.85 for centers and $ 63.51 for homes. Consequently, center wages are low: 7.7% of centers with pre-school staff and 20% of centers with assistant pre-school staff report paying these staff under $6 per hour. Paying $6-$8 per hour are 76.9% of centers with pre-school staff and 60% of centers with assistants. Low wages attract workers with limited education. In 30.8% of centers, most pre-school staff and in 20% of centers most assistants have only a high school degree. In 30.8% of centers few to none of the pre-school staff have early childhood credentials. In childcare homes, 80% of lead providers have no more education than a high school degree or GED; 20% have less than a high school degree.

Family Violence: In 2000, 409 domestic assaults were recorded by law enforcement officials. These domestic assaults comprised 33.8% of all assaults, which include aggravated assaults, simple assaults, and intimidation. Overall, 58.4% of all domestic assaults involve spouse abuse which constitutes 19.7% of all assaults. Since most family violence is not reported, the true incidence of family disruption is much more widespread than even the large number of reported cases would indicate.

Separation from Parents: Some children do not live with their natural parents. In 2000, 7.1% of all children did not live with their natural parents. Approximately 621 or 4.1% of all children lived with relatives, 302 or 2.0% lived with non-relatives, 29 or 0.2% were householders or spouses, and 127 or 0.8% were in institutional facilities.

Abuse and Neglect: In 2000-01, there were 358 investigations into reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children. Through its investigations, the Department of Social Services (DSS) determined that 147 of the investigations were indicated for abuse or neglect: 10.8% for physical abuse, 8.1% for sexual abuse, 0.0% for mental injury, 34.5% for physical neglect, 3.4% for educational neglect, 1.4% for medical neglect, 41.2% for threat of harm for physical/sexual abuse, and 0.7% for other types of abuse.

In the indicated cases of abuse and neglect, DSS determined there were 256 children who were victims of abuse or neglect. Of these, 51.2% were male, 48.8% were female; 87.5% were White, 12.5% were African-American and Other. By age, 46.2% were ages 0 - 5, 39.0% were ages 6 - 12, and 14.7% were ages 13 - 17. In the indicated cases, 49.2% of the children lived in two-parent families, 30.5% in single parent families, 16.8% with unmarried couples, and 3.5% in other circumstances.

Out of Home Placements: As of June 2001, 139 children lived in foster care. The median age at first placement in the county is 5.9 years. The ages of children in foster care were 23.7% 0-2, 14.4% 3-5, 27.3% 6-10, 15.1% 11-13, and 19.4% 14 and above. The foster care population is 54.0% males and 46.0% females. Regarding their future, 31.7% were under a plan for placement in adoptive homes, 48.9% for return to a parent or guardian, 3.6% for placement with a relative, 1.4% for independent living, 14.4% for permanent foster care, and 0.0% for other circumstances.

Adult/Child Ratio: A measure of potential adult attention for children from family and community is the ratio of adults to children and youth. In 2000 there were 3.38 adults for every person below age 18. This was up substantially from 1960, when there were only 1.74 adults for every person under the age 18. This indicates that today there are more adults potentially available to provide attention and care for each child than in the past.

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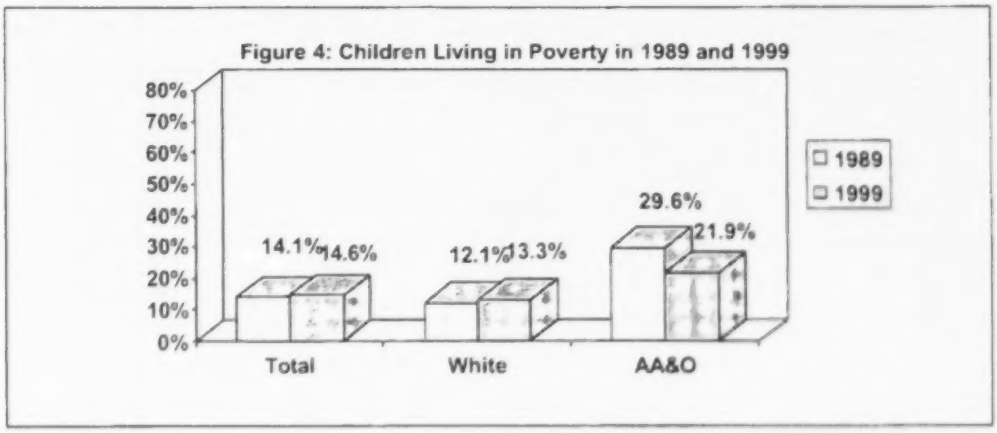
* This data is the best currently available; however, an effort is being made to check the coverage and improve the accuracy. As soon as more recent and complete data becomes available, it will be posted on the website.

ECONOMIC STATUS

Low income makes it difficult for many families to provide the material and environmental enrichment necessary for healthy child development.

Poverty: In 1999, 2,165 children and youth under the age of 18 lved in 1,083 families with incomes below poverty, comprising 14.6% of all children and youth: 13.3% of Whites and 21.9% of African-Americans and Others. A rough estimate of child poverty in 2001 calculated by the Census Bureau was 23.0%.



Poverty has always been a serious problem. While the rate among children under age 18 in 1989 was 14.1%, it was 16.6% in 1979 and 18.9% in 1969.

Children and the elderly are the age groups most seriously affected by poverty. In 1999, 16.1% of children 0 - 5 (13.0% White, 30.8% African-American and Other), and 12.3% of children 6 - 17 (11.7% White, 15.8% African-American and Other), lived in poverty; 12.9% of persons 65 years and older lived in poverty. Historically, the poverty rate among the elderly was much higher. During the last three decades, federal policy actions have substantia lly improved the economic status of older persons but have not done so for children.

Single-parent families are most likely to be poor. In 1999, 34.3% of children in single-parent families lived in poverty, but only 6.6% of children in married-couple families were poor. Children in single-parent families made up 65.9% of all the county's children living in poverty.

In 2002, the poverty level was $15,020 for a family of three and $18,100 for a family of four. The poverty threshold is often criticized as an arbitrary number. People can still be poor but may be just above the poverty level. Federal programs utilize varying thresholds. For example, in 1999 there were 5,907 children ages 0-17 who were less than 200 percent of poverty; thus an additional 3,742 children were above the poverty level but could still be considered poor or near-poor with incomes below $30,040 and $36,200 respectively for 3 and 4 person families.

Children Under 18 in Poverty in 1999

Percent of Poverty	Total		White		African American & Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 50%	1,041	7.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 100%	2,165	14.6%	1,681	13.3%	484	21.9%
Under 125%	3,095	20.9%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 150%	4,076	27.5%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 175%	4,794	32.3%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 185%	5,215	35.2%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 200%	5,907	39.8%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total Children	15,132		12,835		2,297	

Note: Missing data will be released by the Census Bureau later in 2003, and will be posted on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

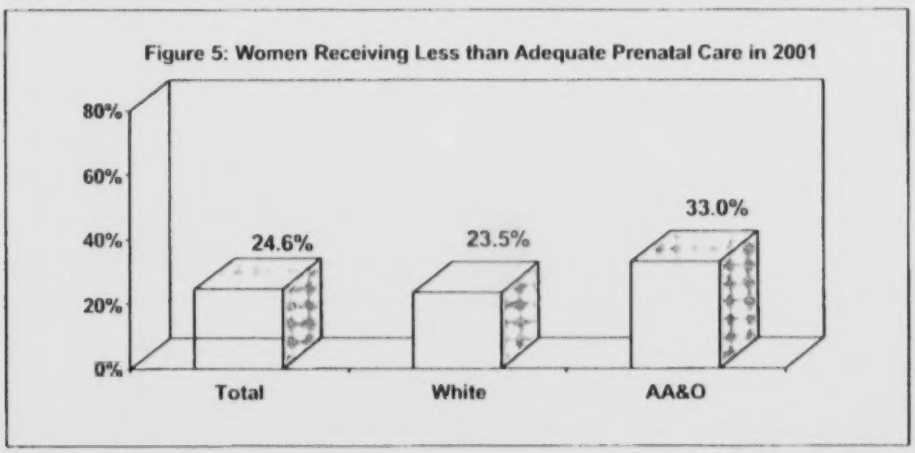
Income: The mean income of families with children in 1999 was $46,540. In 1989 it was $46,691, and 1979, it was $40,999, adjusted for inflation (i.e., in 1999 dollars). The mean income of single-parent families with children was $24,094 for single parents in 1999, as compared with $54,606 in married-couple families with children. From 1999 to 2000, Oconee County real dollar per capita income (eliminating inflation) increased by 1.9%.

Child Support Payments: There were 277[7] families receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families in fiscal year 2002, but only 19.9 % had child support court orders. Their average monthly payment of child support was $ 261, including child support receipts and tax refund intercepts. In addition, during fiscal year 2002, an estimated 672 parents in non-TANF families were obligated to pay a monthly average of $ 247. Information is not available regarding the amount actually paid.

HEALTH

Good health during a child's formative years helps children to reach their maximum potential. Good health requires healthy lifestyles and effective primary care, starting during the prenatal period and continuing through adolescence into adulthood. Children's health reflects the well-being of the community, as well as how adequately they are protected.

Prenatal Care: Early and continuous prenatal care can make a significant difference in assuring births of healthy babies. Delayed or insufficient prenatal care is associated with low birthweight and other health risks for infants. In 2001, 174, or 22.1% of pregnant women received no prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy. In 2001, 193, or 24.6% of pregnant women received less than adequate prenatal care: 164 or 23.5% of Whites and 29 or 33.0% of African-Americans and Others. In that same year, women received no prenatal care at all.



Low Birthweight: Low birthweight of less than 5.5 pounds and very low birthweight of less than 3.3 pounds are associated with health risks and growth and development problems. In 2001, 55 or 7.0% of all babies in the county were born with low birthweight: 8.0% of African-American and Other babies and 6.9% of White babies. During 1999-2001, approximately 32 or 1.4% of all babies were born with very low birthweight and had the most serious complications: 1.4% of White babies and 0.7% of African-American and Other babies. The cost of hospitalization for each newborn low birthweight baby in the county in 1999 - 2001 was $11,577 and $76,601 for each very low birthweight baby, compared with $1,191 for a baby of normal birthweight. The result was excess cost in the county of $924,318 for all low birthweight babies, of which $578,144 was for very low birthweight babies.

Infant Mortality: During the decade since 1989-91, the overall infant mortality rate decreased by 29.9% from 9.7 to 6.8 per 1000 live births. For Whites, the rate decreased 7.6% from 7.3 to 6.7 per 1000 live births, while for African-Americans and Others the rate decreased 71.5% from 25.7 to 7.3 per 1000 live births. Over the three-year period 1999-2001, 14 White and 2 African-American and Other infants died before age one. By comparison, 15 White and 8 African-American and Other infants died during 1989-91.

[7] Number is an unduplicated count for the entire fiscal year.

Child Injuries and Deaths: Childhood deaths and injuries reflect whether communities are safe for children. In 2001, children in the Oconee County went to the emergency room 2,162 times because of injuries. Boys are injured more often than girls. Children visit the emergency room at comparable rates for each age from 0 to 17.

In South Carolina, the major causes of death among young children are unintentional injuries, cancer, homicide, and congenital anomalies. Over the three year period 1999-2001, 5 White and African-American and Other children ages 1-14 died in the county. During 1989-91, 12 White and 2 African-American and Other children died.

Immunization: Immunization rates are an important indication of whether young children are receiving adequate preventive health care. During FY 1989-90, 53.4% of children less than two years old seen in public health clinics were not fully immunized against such preventable diseases as Polio, Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Haemophilus Influenza B and Whooping Cough. After a concerted statewide campaign to increase immunizations, the percentage of children seen in public health clinics who were not fully immunized in January 2001 had declined in the county to 6.1%. The DHEC statewide birth registry survey of all two year old children found that 88.1% were fully immunized in 2001. This success demonstrates the potential to improve the status of children when the leadership of the state and its communities act decisively together.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Children and youth are infected with sexually transmitted diseases through sexual abuse or irresponsible sexual activity. National prevalence rates indicate: a 1 in 8 chance that sexually active 15 year-old girls will develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), the most rapidly increasing cause of infertility; 10% of sexually active adolescent girls and boys are infected with chlamydia, the most common cause of PID; and as many as 15% of teen girls are infected with human papilloma virus, often with strains linked to cervical cancer. Furthermore, research evidence indicates that susceptibility to HIV/AIDS increases by 3 to 8 times through prior infection with various STDs.

According to national studies, approximately 1 in 4 sexually experienced youth aged 13-19 acquires a STD ever year; since two-thirds of all high school students have had sexual intercourse and half engage in intercourse over a three month period, this would suggest that 10-15% of teens are infected with STDs annually. For 2000, this would indicate that an estimated 578 to 867 youth ages 13-19 in the county were infected with a STD. Many infections are either not identified for treatment or not reported. In the county, there were reported cases of children under age 15 and 10 youth ages 15 - 19 infected with gonorrhea; 1 youth under 15 and 62 ages 15 - 19 were reported infected with chlamydia. Youth with undiagnosed and untreated STDs often spread their infections.

Healthy Lifestyles: Although no county data is available, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2001 found that many high school students are not following good health habits. The YRBS revealed that 26% felt that they were overweight; 42% were trying to lose weight: 27% of boys and 57% of girls. Although during a week 79% of high school students ate fruit, 59% ate salad, and over 83% ate vegetables, only 17% ate the recommended five or more servings of fruit and vegetables per day. During a week, 49% did stretching or muscle strengthening exercises, and 59% exercised three or more times for 20 minutes in sports that made them sweat or breathe hard. However, 11% of students engaged in no vigorous or moderate activity at all during a week: 8% of boys and 13% of girls.

Tobacco Use:* Cigarette smoking starts at a young age and often becomes habitual. In the county during 2002 among all students 15 and older, 19.8% first smoked by age 11, 40.1% by age 13, and 54.3% by age 15. In a typical month, 17.6% of 7th and 8th graders and 27.1% of high school students smoked cigarettes. White youths were much more likely than African-Americans to smoke: 26.1% of White male and 24.1% of White female 7th to 12th graders used cigarettes, as compared with 20.2% of African-American males and 10.6% of African American females. A smaller but significant group of high school students (10.9%) used smokeless tobacco monthly; it was used primarily by White males (22.6% compared with 1.5% of all other race and sex groups).

* Data is from the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking.

Disabilities: No data are collected on the true prevalence of disabilities within the county. According to national reported estimates, over 10% of children and youth have developmental disabilities at any point in time, and more than 17 are affected at some time before age 18 by deafness, blindness, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, speech defects, development delays, learning disabilities, and emotional or behavioral problems. For 2000 this suggests that at least 1,513 children ar youth under age 18 in the county are currently affected by disabilities.

Approximately 5% of children and youth nationally have serious disabilities which have lifelong implications f work, social life and community living. Typically among children and youth, there are 1 - 2% who are mentally retarded, - 3% with serious emotional disturbances, over 1% with orthopedic or multiple disabilities, including cerebral palsy an many hereditary conditions, and under 1% with visual or hearing impairments.

Other chronic health problems also affect the lives of many children. Over 3% of children have one or more these limitations. Such serious chronic conditions affect 1 - 2% who have respiratory problems (asthma and chron bronchitis), 0.5 - 1.0% with neurological problems (epilepsy and seizures), and less than 1% with circulatory problen (congenital heart defects and acquired diseases).

Other disabilities are identified primarily in school performance. These would include 1,121 students in grades 12 with learning disabilities and 348 students in grades 1-12 with speech/language deficits.

Disabilities are caused by genetics, disease, poor prenatal conditions, injuries, and environmental factors. For example, lead exposure, primarily from paint dust, was detected in over 1% of all children screened, including 3 in Oconee County.

Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: While over 20% of 9-17 year olds meet diagnostic criteria for some form of mental disorder, the number with serious emotional disturbance and impaired functioning in family, school, or community activities is: 9-13% for substantial functional impairment and 5-9% for extreme functional impairment. The rates among poor children are at the higher end of these ranges. Based on a federal formula for estimating prevalence, in the county there are 12% or 938 seriously emotionally disturbed 9-17 year olds with substantial functional impairment and 8% or 625 with extreme functional impairment during the course of a year. Conduct disorders, attention deficit, depression, and anxiety disorders are the most prevalent, each affecting 3% or more of school-aged children. These disorders may occur simultaneously in a child. The prevalence rates are highest among males, adolescents, and disadvantaged persons in communities under stress and lacking social cohesion; depression, however, is more prevalent among females. On the YRBS, 20% of boys and 33% of girls in high school reported that during the past year they felt so sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that they stopped doing some usual activities. Another indicator of emotional problems is the 8% of high school students in South Carolina who reported that they had "attempted suicide" in the past year: 5% of boys and 10% of girls. Suicide attempts resulted in 4% of high school students reporting that they required treatment by a doctor or nurse for injury, poisoning, or overdose.

Inadequate Healthcare: No county level data is routinely collected regarding the number of children and youth with inadequate healthcare. According to estimates for 2000-02 by the Bureau of the Census through the annual Current Population Survey, the statewide average rate of uninsured children and youth under age 18 in families with incomes under 200% of poverty in South Carolina was 16.6%, and 9.9% above 200% of poverty. If these rates are applied to the county, there are 982 children in the county below 200% of poverty with no health insurance, and 915 children above 200% of poverty with no health insurance, for a total of 1,897 uninsured children in Oconee County. The number lacking basic accessible primary care is at least double the number lacking insurance. Those lacking primary care are often dependent on health services at school. The ratio of students to nurses recommended nationally is 750:1. In the county, this would suggest the need for 13 nurses, compared with 3 currently working in the schools.

Medicaid: For several years, the State of South Carolina has emphasized enrolling eligible children into Medicaid. In late 1997, South Carolina implemented its version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, Partners for Healthy Children (PHC), and aggressively pursued outreach enrollment for PHC and Medicaid. As a result, enrollment of children ages 0 through 18 in Oconee County has increased by 123.0% from June 1997 to June 2001; thus Medicaid and PHC were serving 38.1% of all children in that age range. The total Medicaid expenditures in South Carolina for services provided to children ages 0 through 18 for state fiscal year 2002 were $991 million, at an average statewide expenditure of $2,343 per child enrolled, approximate Medicaid expenditure for children in the county would be $13.5 million.

In June 2001, the total number of Oconee County children, birth through 18, enrolled in Medicaid was 5,764. The total can be broken down into the following age and race groupings:

	White	African American	Hispanic	Other	Total
Children under 1	383	63	34	6	486
Children 1 - 5	1,303	297	120	42	1,762
Children 6 - 14	1,961	433	110	85	2,589
Children 15 - 18	742	130	33	22	927
Total	4,389	923	297	155	5,764

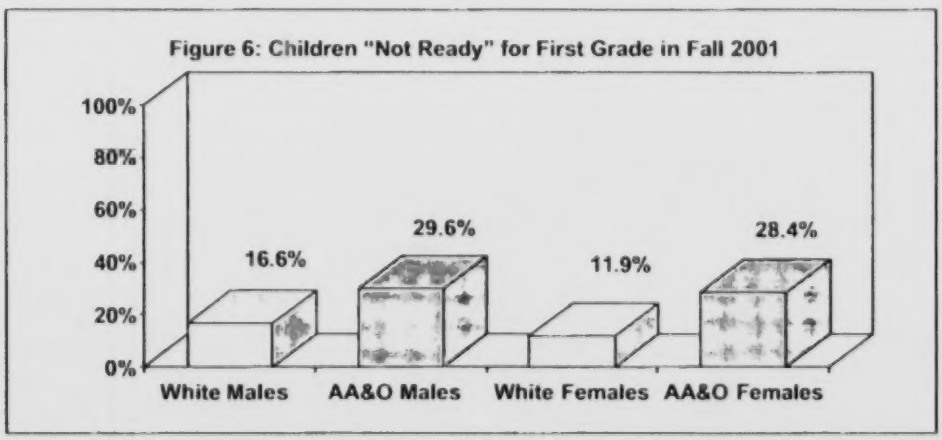
Ambulatory Care: When children lack adequate primary care, whether through lack of insurance, through limite access, or through failing to utilize available care, preventable and treatable conditions become serious and requi hospitalization. A useful indicator of inadequate primary care is the percentage of all hospitalizations that could typicall have been avoided through ambulatory care, especially for pneumonia, asthma, diarrhea and vomiting, dehydration, a severe ear, nose, and throat infections. The share of hospitalizations for these types of conditions could normally be ke below 20%; for children in the county under the age of 18 during 2001, the share was 25.1% for Whites and 37.0% f African-Americans and Others.

READINESS AND EARLY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Too many children reach school without the readiness skills needed for success in learning, such as language, soci skills, visual and auditory discrimination, memory recall, and knowledge of colors, letters, numbers, names of objects, et Likewise, some schools are not ready to respond appropriately to the varying developmental levels of children in the ear grades. As a result, too many students do not experience the success needed to create the motivation and engagement th sustain learning.

1st Grade "Readiness" on 2001-02 Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB):

136 children not ready 17.4% children not ready

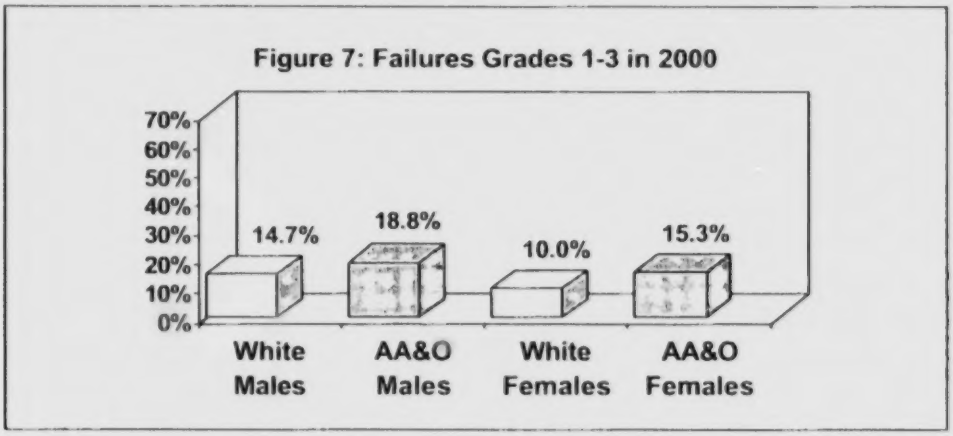


1st Grade Failures in 2002:

57 children failing 7.1% children failing

Failures Grades 1-3 in 2002 (approximate cumulative percentage of grades one, two and three):

110 children failing 14.1% children failing



Over-age for Grade 3 in 2001

156 children over-age 20.6% children over-age

Special Education: Large numbers of children are placed in special education classes. In elementary school, 286 six and seven year olds and 372 eight and nine year-olds were enrolled in special education classes during 2001-02 approximately 17.4% and 23.6% of their age groups respectively: 23.8% of White 8 – 9 year olds were in special education and 22.6% of African American and Others.

Readiness Summary: A serious problem exists in terms of student readiness and school success in the early grades. With 17.4% assessed not ready for the 1st grade, 20.6% over age in grade 3, and 23.6% of eight and nine year-olds placed in special education, unacceptably large numbers of students still begin school without good prospects of success in future school achievement and graduation; however, great improvement has occurred since the mid 1990s.

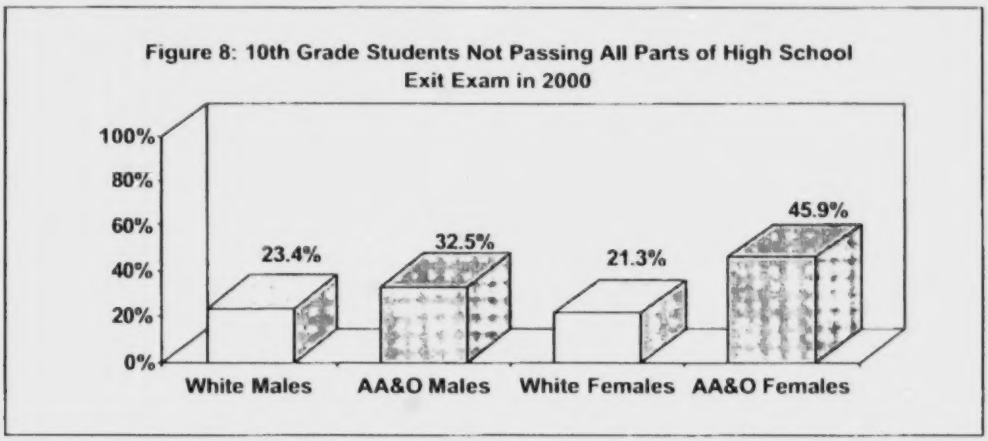
SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

By the end of elementary school, significant numbers of students perform below minimum standards. The following standardized test measures, comparing student performance to state minimum standards, should be used in combination with routine classroom assessments more reflective of real-world performance skills.

Special Education: Special education placements reflect both the significant number of children with serious handicapping conditions and a large number of students with mild learning and behavioral problems that have not been accommodated successfully by the regular educational program. The result is a large system of self-contained, resource and itinerant services to meet the needs of 348 speech and language impaired, 1,121 learning disabled, 205 emotionally disabled, 151 mentally impaired, and 228 physically handicapped, deaf, blind, and other handicapped students. Special education classes served approximately 20.4% of all students in grades 1 - 12 during 2001-2002.

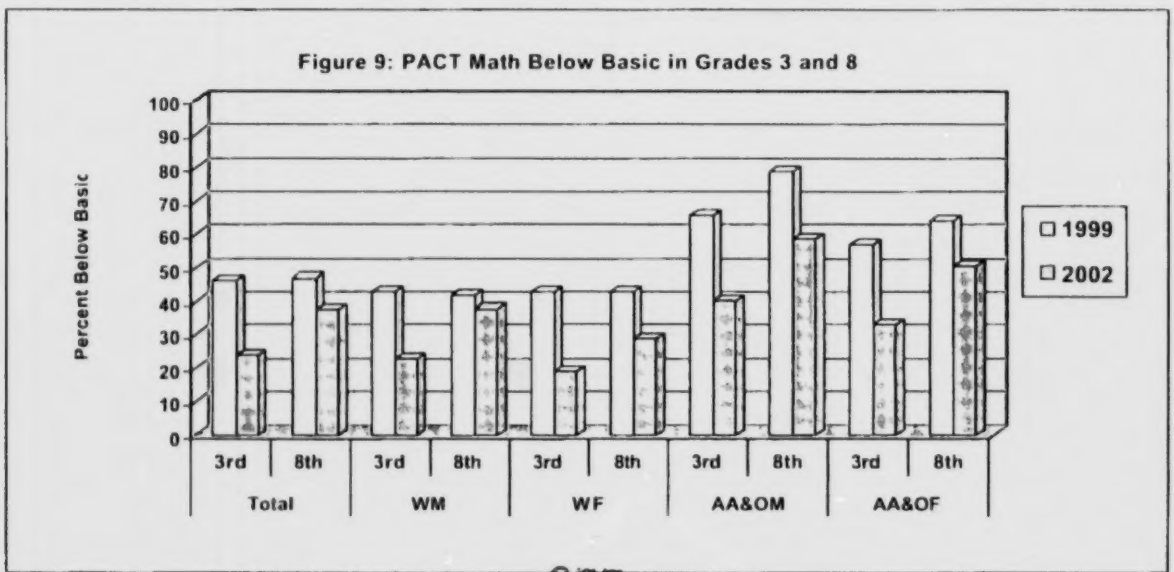
Exit Exam - not passing all parts of Exit Exam on first attempt in the 10th grade in 2002

153 students did not pass all parts — 24.3% of students did not pass all parts



Achievement Trends: How has performance on standardized achievement tests changed over the past 20 years? During the 1980s, student performance on the BSAP tests improved dramatically. Between 1981 and 1990, the percentage of 8th grade students in Oconee County who did not meet standards declined from 52.7% to 23.5% in math and from 36.6% to 17.3% in reading. During the 1990's the BSAP trend changed, with 30.2% not meeting 8th grade math standards in 1998 and 23.4% in reading. On standardized tests, the first year when South Carolina students take the exam is comparable to the challenge encountered by the national norm group which took the test only once. Looking at first year data, the percentage of 4th grade students at or below the 25th percentile of national norms was 25.9% in 1983 on the CTBS, 30.4% in 1990 on the Stanford, and 30.5% in 1995 on the Metropolitan; for 9th graders, the percentage in the bottom quarter was 25.9% in 1990 and 17.8% in 1995. Although not comparable, the percent below basic on the 4th grade PACT in 1999, the first year of administration, was 37.8%, but in 2002 21.2% of 4th graders were below basic in reading and math; the percentage of 8th graders below basic in reading and math averaged 39.8% in 1999 and 34.8% in 2002.

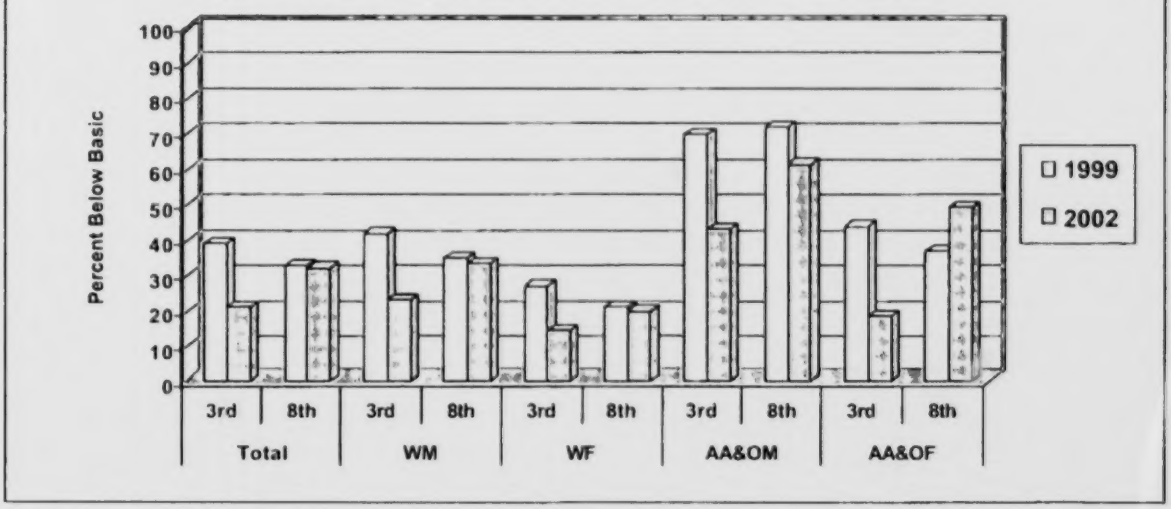
PACT: The Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) was first administered in 1999 for grades 3 - 8 in math and reading/language arts. Math assesses skills in numbers, numerical and algebraic concepts, patterns and functions, geometry, measurement, probability and statistics. The percentage of students scoring below basic in math has decreased by 33.4% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 769 students below basic in grades 3-8 but there would have been an additional 386 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
		Math (%)				
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	23.7	22.6	19.1	40.5	33.3
	4	22.0	16.3	19.9	35.9	42.9
	5	24.3	23.7	18.2	37.2	40.6
	6	29.0	30.3	19.6	59.6	37.5
	7	38.1	39.7	28.3	63.2	47.1
	8	37.3	37.8	28.7	58.6	50.7
Basic	3	43.3	42.6	43.7	45.9	41.7
	4	37.8	32.6	42.5	35.9	45.5
	5	40.3	36.3	42.1	47.4	43.8
	6	39.0	34.0	46.0	31.6	40.6
	7	31.6	29.4	33.8	23.7	41.2
	8	45.1	41.0	52.8	34.3	43.5
Proficient	3	20.6	21.7	22.7	13.5	11.7
	4	25.1	30.3	24.3	20.3	9.1
	5	22.9	24.9	25.6	12.8	12.5
	6	21.3	21.5	25.8	3.5	15.6
	7	14.8	15.6	16.6	9.2	8.8
	8	13.6	16.2	14.2	7.1	4.3
Advanced	3	12.4	13.0	14.6	0.0	13.3
	4	15.0	20.8	13.4	7.8	2.6
	5	12.4	15.1	14.1	2.6	3.1
	6	10.7	14.2	8.6	5.3	6.3
	7	15.5	15.3	21.3	3.9	2.9
	8	4.0	5.0	4.3	0.0	1.4

Reading/Language Arts assesses reading, listening, speaking, writing, research, and communication with technology. The first PACT assessment found a high percentage of elementary and middle grades students performing below standards and only a modest number above basic. The percentage of students scoring below basic in reading/language arts has decreased by 27.4% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 689 students below basic in grades 3 - 8 but there would have been an additional 260 at 1999 performance rates.

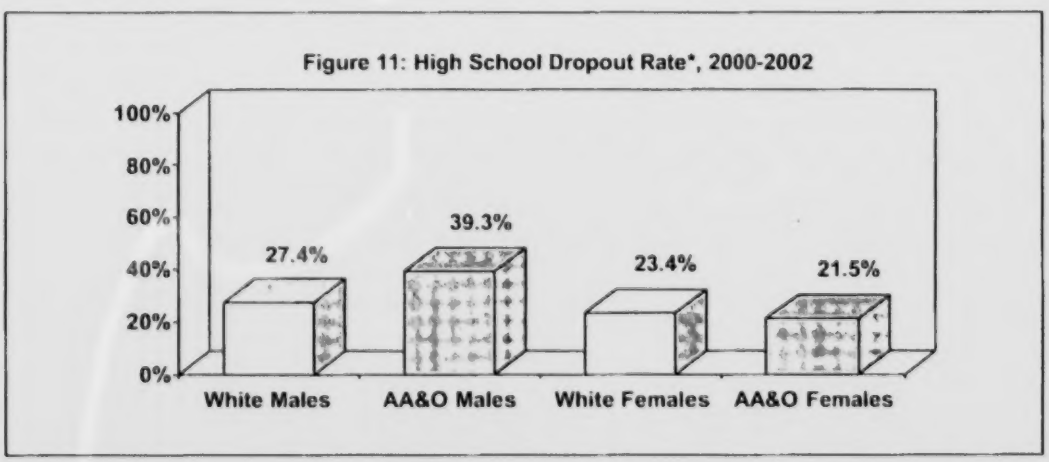
Figure 10: PACT Reading/Language Arts Below Basic in Grades 3 and 8



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
	Reading/Language Arts (%)					
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	21.2	23.3	14.2	43.2	18.3
	4	20.4	19.0	15.5	40.6	28.6
	5	25.0	27.7	13.8	50.0	32.8
	6	29.8	35.4	16.8	61.4	29.7
	7	32.1	37.9	16.9	57.9	44.1
	8	32.2	33.5	19.9	61.4	49.3
Basic	3	40.3	39.8	36.6	40.5	61.7
	4	46.2	45.7	44.3	40.6	58.4
	5	49.6	45.8	53.9	44.9	54.7
	6	35.7	35.1	36.8	28.1	40.6
	7	40.8	39.1	43.5	35.5	42.6
	8	41.1	41.5	42.1	32.9	43.5
Proficient	3	35.1	35.2	43.0	16.2	16.7
	4	32.3	34.4	38.5	17.2	13.0
	5	24.3	26.2	30.3	5.1	10.9
	6	27.7	23.2	37.1	8.8	26.6
	7	23.8	21.2	33.5	6.6	11.8
	8	22.7	22.3	31.1	4.3	7.2
Advanced	3	3.4	1.7	6.1	0.0	3.3
	4	1.2	0.9	1.7	1.6	0.0
	5	1.0	0.3	2.0	0.0	1.6
	6	6.8	6.2	9.3	1.8	3.1
	7	3.3	1.8	6.1	0.0	1.5
	8	4.0	2.7	7.0	1.4	0.0

Dropout Rate - 8th grade students no longer enrolled in grade 12
(average of students for the three years ending 2000-2002)

217 students drop out annually **26.2% students drop out?**



Dropouts: Distressing numbers of students drop out and fail to graduate. An average of 29.7% of 8th graders failed to graduate** from county schools five years later during the period 1980-84, 26.9% during 1985-89, and 23.4% during 1990-94, 27.0% during 1995-97 and 33.5% during 1998-2000***.

During 2001-02, 99.8% of all who did graduate received the State High School Diploma, while the remaining 0.2% received a State Certificate for meeting the required Carnegie units but not passing the Exit Exam.

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* 12th grade enrollment compared to 8th grade enrollment four years earlier

** This is calculated by using 8th grade enrollment to graduation data.

*** 2001 data will be available soon and will be posted on the website.

Fortunately, many dropouts enroll in adult education programs and either earn a high school diploma or obtain a GED. During 2001-02, 9 Adult Education high school diplomas were awarded to school completers and in 2001 181 GEDs were awarded in the county. Over time, adult education high school diplomas and GEDs increase the effective school completion rate substantially. In the 2000 Census, 20.0% of county resident 25 - 34 year-olds said they had not completed either high school or a GED.

Achievement Summary: The numbers of students testing below basic on the PACT and dropping out range from 20.4% to 38.1%. Thus, far too many students fail to acquire the knowledge, skills, learning habits, and motivation necessary to compete in the economy or contribute to society in the 21st Century.

ADOLESCENT RISK BEHAVIORS

Academic achievement is greatly influenced by the prevailing youth culture which often promotes popularity with peers and partying rather than studying and doing well in school. The prevalence of adolescent risk-taking and under-achievement is illustrated by the poor grades of substance-abusing teens.

Substance Abuser Rates at Levels of Academic Performance

	Usual School Grades in Past Year					Total
	A Range	B Range	C Range	D Range	F Range	
Smoked Cigarettes (in past 30 days)	12.6%	24.1%	37.9%	45.8%	54.5%	27.1%
Drank 5 or More Drinks on One Occasion (in past 30 days)	13.7%	21.7%	30.5%	30.9%	50.3%	23.3%
Used Any Illicit Drug (in past 30 days)	10.9%	20.1%	31.0%	40.8%	60.2%	22.9%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

As influence from parents and other adults declines during adolescence, significant numbers of students engage in violence, crime, school offenses, depressive emotions and attempted suicide:

Risk Behaviors Participated in During Past 12 Months	White Male		White Female		African American Male		African American Female		Total		Total (Grade 7-12)
	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	
Carried a handgun or knife for self-defense?	27.4%	28.3%	6.2%	8.4%	13.3%	29.3%	NA%	7.1%	0.0%	18.2%	9.7%
Carried a handgun or knife as a weapon?	7.0%	11.6%	1.4%	2.0%	7.8%	16.8%	NA%	3.9%	0.0%	7.1%	3.8%
Been in a fight with someone?	36.0%	27.7%	16.5%	14.9%	38.2%	40.1%	21.2%	19.6%	26.5%	22.1%	24.1%
Hit your boyfriend or girlfriend?	2.1%	1.4%	3.9%	7.2%	8.2%	3.3%	12.4%	15.9%	3.5%	4.9%	4.2%
Been hit by your boyfriend or girlfriend?	5.8%	4.4%	6.1%	6.6%	15.8%	9.3%	16.4%	13.7%	6.6%	6.1%	6.3%
Rec'd detention or in-school suspension?	36.5%	35.7%	17.5%	22.0%	54.4%	42.5%	19.7%	29.1%	27.8%	29.5%	28.7%
Been suspended from school?	13.2%	12.3%	2.9%	5.9%	35.2%	27.5%	19.2%	14.5%	9.4%	10.3%	9.9%
Stolen anything worth > $5?	12.3%	13.7%	6.0%	9.5%	15.4%	28.6%	5.2%	9.8%	9.3%	12.3%	10.9%
Had an accident while driving?	NA	13.7%	NA	12.7%	NA	6.5%	NA	6.7%	NA	12.6%	NA
Been arrested and booked?	3.8%	4.5%	1.2%	2.6%	7.6%	6.6%	NA%	4.1%	0.0%	3.7%	2.0%
Felt hopeless for two weeks or more?	12.7%	17.0%	23.1%	27.3%	17.9%	23.2%	22.9%	32.6%	18.1%	22.8%	20.6%
Seriously considered attempting suicide?	5.4%	9.6%	8.9%	12.0%	2.2%	7.2%	NA%	15.7%	0.0%	10.8%	5.8%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

Adolescence is often a time of taking risks and asserting independence from adults. When asked whether they would tell an adult about a problem, the following percentages of county students said they would be "not likely" or "very unlikely" to tell if they:

-heard a student threaten to harm someone: 26.5% middle school, 44.2% high school;
-saw a student with a handgun at school: 15.3% middle school, 13.3% high school;
-saw a student with a knife at school: 19.3% middle school, 37.2% high school;
-saw a student with drugs at school: 23.6% middle school, 57.0% high school;

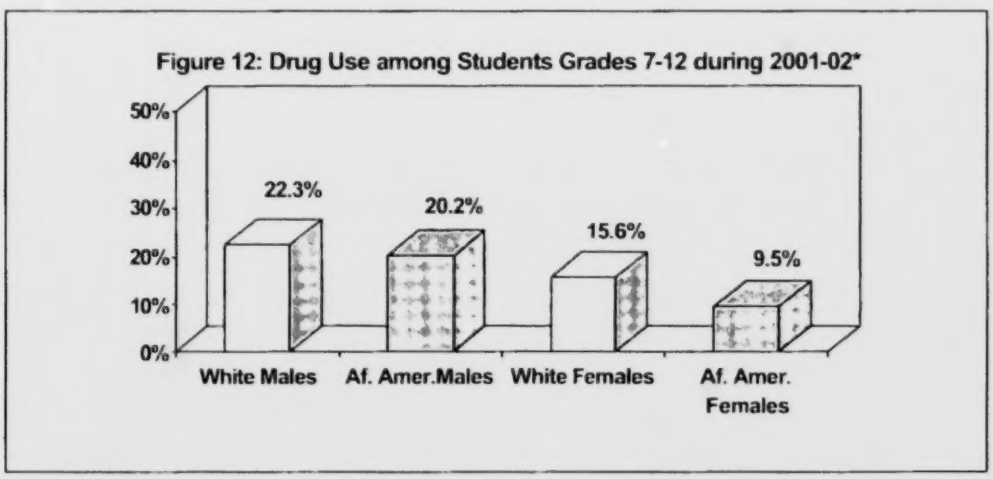
Alcohol Use:* In the county during 2001-02, 20.6% of 7th and 8th graders and 39.2% of high schoolers said they had used alcohol in the past month. Of White males in grades 7 - 12, 33.1% had used it in the past month, compared with 34.8% of African-American males; likewise, 33.7% of White females said they had used alcohol, compared with 22.9% of African-American females. Many youth first used alcohol at an early age: 14.0% had used alcohol by age 11 or younger, 33.1% by age 13, and 61.4% by age 15.

During the previous year, 21.9% of 7th and 8th graders and 31.5% of high schoolers said they had ridden with a drinking driver. Of seniors who drive, 21.7% said they had driven after drinking. Widespread use is encouraged by the ready availability and perceived low risk of alcohol use. Among students who expressed an opinion, 44.2% of eighth graders and 74.1% of seniors felt that beer was easy to get. Also, 68.1% of eighth graders and 72.0% of seniors felt there was not a great risk in drinking two drinks a day, and 48.4% of eighth graders and 54.8% of high schoolers felt there was not a great risk in drinking 5 drinks every weekend.

Heavy Drinking:* In 2001-02, 10.4% of 7th and 8th graders and 23.3% of high school students in the county repor drinking 5 or more drinks in a day during the past month. When asked how many drinks, if any, they usually consur 17.6% of all county students in grades 7 - 12 in 2001-02 responded 3 or more drinks at a time and 10.1% reported usuall or more drinks. Among high school students, 22.9% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 13.2% 5 more. Among seniors, 27.9% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 15.8% 5 or more; however 25.1% seniors said that they drank 5 or more drinks in a day once or more during the past month.

Drugs:* In 2001-02, 10.4% of 7th and 8th graders and 22.9% of high schoolers in the county reported using ille drugs during the previous month. Among students in grades 7 - 12, use was reported by 22.3% of White males, 15.6% Wh females, 20.2% of African-American males, and 9.5% of African-American females. Some young people initiated drug u at an early age: 6.9% had experienced their first use by age 11 or sooner; 17.6% had used a drug by age 13, and 36.0% by a 15.

In the past year, 10.2% of all high school students in the county who drive and 13.2% of seniors who drive said that they had driven after using drugs. Such use is encouraged by the ready availability of drugs: 21.8% of 8th graders who had an opinion said it is easy to get marijuana and 11.0% said it is easy to get cocaine or crack; 58.0% of seniors said it is easy to get marijuana and 24.9% said it was easy to get cocaine or crack.



* Data is from the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking.

Sexual Activity and Pregnancy: Many teenagers now engage in sexual activity. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) administered to a representative sample of high school students throughout South Carolina in 2001 showed that sexual activity begins at an early age: 7% of female and 21% of male students have engaged in intercourse before age 13; by age 15, 38% the females and 49% of males have engaged in sexual intercourse. Statewide, 48% of females and 50% of males in the 11th and 12th grades reported engaging in intercourse during the past three months. Furthermore, 27% of female and 33% of male 12th graders have had intercourse with four or more partners during their lifetimes.

Premature sexual activity often results in pregnancy. In the county, 59 girls between the ages of 14 and 17 became pregnant in 1999, 52 in 2000 and 56 in 2001. This represented 3.4% of all girls ages 14 – 17 in 2001; several times this percentage become pregnant at least once by age 18. The 2001 pregnancy rate for ages 14 - 17 was 3.4% for Whites and 3.7% for African-Americans and Others. Of all pregnancies of 14-17 year olds, 78.6% resulted in live births, with almost all other pregnancies ending in abortions.

Teen pregnancy rates increased substantially across the state during the 1980s; as a result, greater emphasis v devoted to preventing teen pregnancy. Since 1989, the teen pregnancy rate in Oconee County has decreased by 20.9 Overall, it has decreased by 15.0% for Whites, and decreased by 40.3% for African Americans and Others.

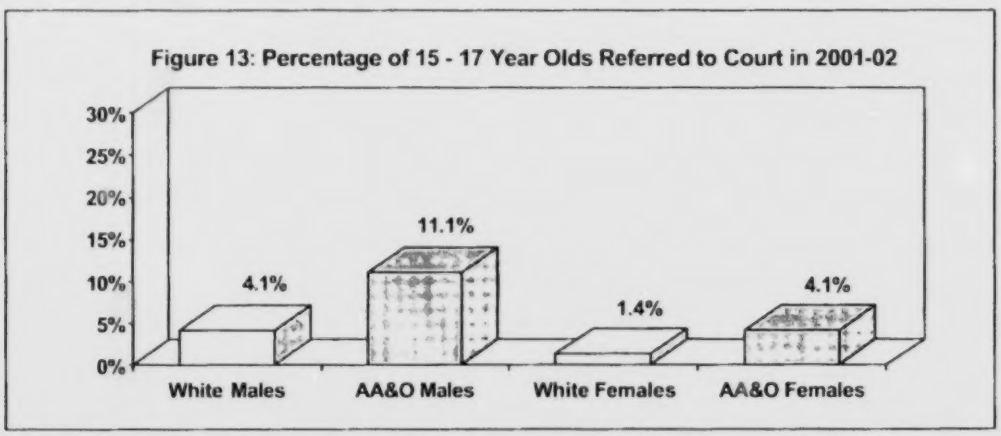
Juvenile Delinquency: In 2001-02, 180 individual juvenile offenders in the county were referred to the Solicitor for delinquency; of these, 10.6% were age 12 or younger, 41.1% were 13 or 14, and 48.3% were 15 or older.

Of the referrals to the family court, 8.8% of all referrals were for violent and serious crimes which include drug trafficking, acts against persons for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and serious property offenses for arson and burglary. Also, 11 juvenile cases constituting 5.1% of all referrals were for status offenses. Status offenses include truancy, running away, incorrigibility, and other offenses that would not be crimes for adults.

Delinquents are likely to live in families with low income: 0.0% lived in families with income under $10,000, 38.2% with $10,000-$19,999 and 61.8% with $20,000 or more. Furthermore, only 18.1% of delinquents lived with both natural parents, while 45.7% lived in a single parent household, 32.4% lived with other relatives, and 3.8% in other situations including parent plus step-parent. Delinquency or criminal activity occurs among many related family members: 21.2% had at least one family member who was delinquent or had some criminal record.

Youth referred to the family courts are likely to have been there before. In 2001-02, 46.1% had at least one prior referral and 12.8% had been referred to court 3 times or more. Many were referred at an early age. For delinquents 15 - 17 years old, 2.3% had been referred by the age of 10, 8.5% by the age of 12, and 21.7% by the age of 14.

During 2001-02, 87 youth ages 15 to 17 were referred to the family courts. In the county, 3.5% of all youth 15 to 17 were referred to court in one year and roughly double that percentage are referred at least once by age 18. Furthermore, the National Youth Survey indicates that typically across the United States the proportion of youth engaging in crime is two or three times the number ever apprehended. In 2001-02, there were 2 juveniles committed from the county to DJJ custody and placed in residential programs.



Not in School or Employed: During 2000, 395 teenagers ages 16-19 were idle, meaning they neither worked any hours nor were enrolled in school, even part-time. Idle teens comprised 12.3% of their age group: 11.8% for White and 15.8% African-American & Other teens. A much larger number, perhaps twice as many, were not engaged in either school full time or work full time. The data reflect a serious failure in both school completion and the critical transition from school to work, significantly affecting their development as future workers. For an in-depth description of the problems of young adults seeking to enter the labor force, visit our website at www.scyoungadults.org for our state and county reports on 18-29 year olds.

Deaths: During 1997-2001, 16 youth ages 15 to 19 died. Historically, automobile accidents have been the major cause, resulting in 11 deaths between 1996 and 2000; homicides killed youth 15 to 19 years old during the five-year period, and 0 youth committed suicide. Alcohol use is often a significant factor in deaths among teenagers.

SUMMARY

Facing the Scope of Problems: The data on families, economic status, health, readiness, school achievement, and adolescent risk behaviors provide a troublesome picture of the condition of children in Oconee County. The 25.3% of children in single-parent families, 14.6% in poverty, 33.5% not graduating from school, 39.2% of high school students using alcohol and 22.9% using drugs each month, and other data profiled in this report suggest that too many children are at risk of not growing up to become self-supporting adults, good family members, and responsible community citizens.

Emphasizing the Positive: South Carolina Kids Count reports have been developed to describe the problems of children in each of the counties. Fortunately, the majority of children and youth are doing well, and some very well. One simple description is the percentage of children who do not fall into the problem categories reported. For the county, 84.7% of children are born to non-teen mothers ages 20 or older, 69.3% are born to married parents, and 74.7% lived in two-parent families; 85.4% were not poor and 60.2% lived in families with incomes above twice the poverty level for a family of three, $30,040 in 2002; 93.0% of babies were born with normal birthweights; 82.6% were assessed as ready for the first grade, 62.7% scored basic or better on PACT for 8th grade math and 67.8% for 8th grade reading, 75.7% passed all parts of the Exit Exam in the 10th grade, and 66.5% graduated with their class. In a typical month, 60.8% of high school students do not drink alcohol, 77.1% do not use drugs, and 72.9% do not smoke. Unfortunately, the absence of a problem is not always an indicator of success. Some data is available for exemplary performance: for example, 38.5% of 3rd graders and 26.7% of 8th graders scored proficient or advanced on PACT in reading and 33.0% of 3rd graders and 17.6% of 8th graders in math. Unfortunately, data on success is not generally available.

Despite the limitations of success data, we must emphasize the positive in providing good support and appropriate influences for children and youth. Recent philosophy and publications such as those of the Search Institute (700 South Third Street, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN, 55415-1138, tel. 1-800-888-7828, www.search-institute.org), emphasize the critical importance of "developmental assets" to promote and support positive development. One short book from the Search Institute, (What Kids Need to Succeed, by Peter J. Benson, Judy Gailbraith, and Pamela Espeland, 1995) presents an excellent array of suggestions for promoting developmental assets through families, community, faith congregations, and schools. If each family, school, religious congregation and community organization assertively worked to build such assets, the problems described in this report would be reduced dramatically. Such positive family-school-community efforts could improve South Carolina's national Kids Count ranking from the bottom 10 to the average or even into the top 10 by prevention of unnecessary problems affecting children and youth, as shown on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

All data presented in this report is the most recent available at the date it goes to the printer. This version of the Kids Count report will be revised as more recent and additional data become available. Please send us your corrections and suggestions for improvement. We welcome your ideas for ways to make the state and county reports more useful and accurate. Please utilize local data sources whenever possible to supplement the profile provided through our report.

Data related inquiries should be directed to:

Anne Wilson, Data Manager (awilson@drss.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-4810

Calls for **copies of reports** for other counties and inquiries regarding more recent reports should be made to:

Kim Hazel-Lohr, Project Manager (khazel@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-1295

For **policy questions and general comments**, please contact:

Dr. A. Baron Holmes, Project Director (bholmes@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
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Comparable reports for all 46 counties and for the state can also be found on the World Wide Web at

www.sckidscount.org

Our website also provides: links to other websites for indicators in our report; high to low rankings for individual indicators; information on how to improve SC's national rank; and a glossary of definitions.

The national Kids Count Report can be found on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website at

www.aecf.org

Oconee County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Indicators	Most Recent Year	Number					Percent					R
		1980*	1990*	Most Recent Data	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980 Rank	199
Health													
Low Birth Weight	2001	52	52	55	+5.8%	+5.8%	7.0	6.5	7.0	0.7%	8.5%	5	
White babies	2001	45	40	48	+6.7%	+20.0%	6.8	5.6	6.9	1.5%	22.8%	31	
African American and Other babies	2001	7	12	7	+0.0%	-41.7%	7.8	12.8	8.0	2.3%	-37.7%	1	
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	2001	265	247	193	-27.2%	-21.9%	35.4	30.6	24.6	-30.5%	-19.7%	15	
White babies	2001	209	206	164	-21.5%	-20.4%	31.8	28.9	23.5	-26.1%	-18.8%	33	
African American and Other babies	2001	56	41	29	-48.2%	-29.3%	62.2	43.6	33.0	-47.0%	-24.4%	37	
Infant Mortality	2001	25	23	16	-36.0%	-30.4%	1.2	1.0	0.7	-41.2%	-29.9%	3	
White babies	2001	19	15	14	-26.3%	-6.7%	1.0	0.7	0.7	-32.8%	-7.6%	15	
African American and Other babies	2001	6	8	2	-66.7%	-75.0%	2.3	2.6	0.7	-67.5%	-71.5%	23	
Family													
Births to mothers under 18	2001	50	43	45	-10.0%	+4.7%	6.7	5.3	5.7	-14.7%	6.8%	7	
White babies	2001	39	32	39	+0.0%	+21.9%	5.9	4.5	5.6	-5.5%	24.6%	26	
African American and Other babies	2001	11	11	6	-45.5%	-45.5%	12.2	11.7	6.8	-44.2%	-41.7%	19	
Births to mothers under 20	2001	137	165	120	-12.4%	-27.3%	18.3	20.5	15.3	-16.5%	-25.3%	9	
White babies	2001	117	138	98	-16.2%	-29.0%	17.8	19.4	14.0	-21.3%	-27.8%	31	
African American and Other babies	2001	20	27	22	+10.0%	+18.5%	22.2	28.7	25.0	12.5%	-13.0%	8	
Births to mothers with less than a high school education	2001	240	267	207	-13.8%	-22.5%	32.1	33.1	26.3	-18.0%	-20.6%	16	
White babies	2001	209	238	176	-15.8%	-26.1%	31.8	33.4	25.2	-20.7%	-24.6%	28	
African American and Other babies	2001	31	29	31	+0.0%	+6.9%	34.4	30.9	35.2	2.3%	14.2%	1	
Births to single mothers****	2001	85	208	241	+183.5%	+15.9%	11.4	25.8	30.7	170.2%	19.0%	3	
White babies	2001	42	151	183	+335.7%	+21.2%	6.4	21.2	26.2	310.5%	23.5%	23	
African American and Other babies	2001	43	57	58	+34.9%	+1.8%	47.8	60.6	65.9	37.9%	8.7%	28	
Children in single parent families	2000	1,768	2,377	3,407	+92.7%	+43.3%	13.3	18.7	25.3	90.1%	35.2%	3	
White	2000	1,252	1,828	2,586	+106.5%	+41.5%	10.2	16.1	22.3	118.9%	38.7%	25	
African American and Other	2000	504	533	821	+62.9%	+54.0%	33.6	40.4	43.4	29.1%	7.4%	3	
Education													
Not Ready for Grade 1	2001	230	131	136	-40.9%	+3.8%	30.3	16.1	17.4	-42.6%	8.1%	6	
White males	2001	108	59	57	-47.2%	-3.4%	31.3	16.5	16.6	-47.0%	0.6%	24	
White females	2001	71	40	34	-52.1%	-15.0%	23.2	11.7	11.9	-48.7%	1.7%	29	
African American and Other males	2001	21	18	21	+0.0%	+16.7%	43.7	32.1	29.6	-32.3%	-7.8%	5	
African American and Other females	2000	92	164	110	+19.6%	-32.9%	49.2	25.0	28.4	-42.3%	13.6%	30	
Repeating Grades 1-3	2000	45	77	54	+20.0%	-29.9%	12.0	20.4	13.3	10.8%	-34.8%	7	
White males	2000	29	45	33	+13.8%	-26.7%	12.9	21.5	14.7	14.0%	-31.6%	8	
White females	2000	10	20	13	+30.0%	-35.0%	9.3	13.2	10.0	7.5%	-24.2%	21	
African American and Other males	2000	7	22	10	+42.9%	-54.5%	20.9	38.9	18.8	-10.0%	-51.7%	13	
African American and Other females	2002	245	72	187	-23.7%	+159.7%	13.4	40.4	15.3	14.2%	-62.1%	14	
Grade 3 Math below standards****	2002	97	36	78	-19.6%	+116.7%	29.7	9.7	23.7	-20.2%	144.3%	4	
White males	2002	87	25	59	-32.2%	+136.0%	25.8	10.8	22.6	-12.4%	109.3%	13	
White females	2002	41	8	30	-26.8%	+275.0%	25.2	7.6	19.1	-24.2%	151.3%	15	
African American and Other males	2002	20	3	20	+0.0%	+566.7%	70.7	19.1	40.5	-42.7%	112.0%	42	
African American and Other females	2002	192	45	167	-13.0%	+271.1%	43.5	7.5	33.3	-23.4%	344.0%	10	
Grade 3 Reading below standards****	2002	88	23	80	-9.1%	+247.8%	23.3	6.0	21.2	-9.0%	253.3%	4	
White males	2002	50	15	44	-12.0%	+193.3%	23.4	6.9	23.3	-0.4%	237.7%	11	
White females	2002	36	4	32	-11.1%	+700.0%	14.5	4.6	14.2	-2.1%	208.7%	14	
African American and Other males	2002	18	3	11	-38.9%	+266.7%	62.1	9.5	43.2	-30.4%	354.7%	14	
African American and Other females	1998	184	247	196	+6.5%	-20.6%	39.1	7.5	18.3	-53.2%	144.0%	20	
Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT Grade 4	1998	89	128	86	-3.4%	-32.8%	25.9	30.4	27.2	5.0%	-10.5%	12	
White males	1998	48	80	59	+22.9%	-26.3%	27.1	33.9	26.6	-1.8%	-21.5%	30	
White females	1998	28	18	27	-3.6%	+50.0%	17.3	23.5	20.3	17.3%	-13.6%	32	
African American and Other males	1998	13	21	23	+76.9%	+9.5%	52.8	42.9	50.0	-5.3%	16.6%	24	
African American and Other females							34.2	40.4	39.1	14.3%	-3.2%	18	

*Year of data is approximate in many cases.
**1 is best, 46 is worst.
*** Data include paternity acknowledgements.
**** BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Oconee County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Education (continued)

Indicators		Number					Percent				
	Most Recent Year	1980*	1990*	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres
Grade 8 Math below state standards**	2002	417	170	292	-30.0%	+71.8%	52.7	23.5	37.3	-29.2%	58.7%
White males	2002	181	74	128	-29.3%	+73.0%	48.8	20.9	37.8	-22.5%	80.9%
White females	2002	164	69	87	-47.0%	+26.1%	49.4	24.3	28.7	-41.9%	18.1%
African American and Other males	2002	37	12	41	+10.8%	+241.7%	84.1	25.0	58.6	-30.3%	134.4%
African American and Other females	2002	33	15	35	+6.1%	+133.3%	78.6	38.5	50.7	-35.5%	31.7%
Grade 8 Reading below state standards**	2002	290	125	251	-13.4%	+100.8%	36.6	17.3	32.2	-12.0%	86.1%
White males	2002	138	71	113	-18.1%	+59.2%	37.3	20.2	33.5	-10.2%	65.8%
White females	2002	91	38	60	-34.1%	+57.9%	27.3	13.4	19.9	-27.1%	48.5%
African American and Other males	2002	34	9	43	+26.5%	+377.8%	77.3	18.8	61.4	-20.6%	226.6%
African American and Other females	2002	25	7	34	+36.0%	+385.7%	59.5	18.0	49.3	-17.1%	173.9%
Grade 9 Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT	1998	NA	191	149	NA	-22.0%	NA	25.9	19.8	NA	-23.6%
White males	1998	NA	92	NA	NA	NA	NA	27.8	18.3	NA	-34.2%
White females	1998	NA	49	NA	NA	NA	NA	15.9	14.4	NA	-9.4%
African American and Other males	1998	NA	33	NA	NA	NA	NA	55.9	45.5	NA	-18.6%
African American and Other females	1998	NA	16	NA	NA	NA	NA	40	40.7	NA	1.8%
Exit Exam (not passing all parts on 1st attempt)	2002	275	163	153	-44.4%	-6.1%	39.5	27.5	24.3	-38.5%	-11.6%
White males	2002	112	73	62	-44.6%	-15.1%	36.5	27.6	23.4	-35.9%	-15.2%
White females	2002	108	51	61	-43.5%	+19.6%	35.1	20.3	21.3	-39.3%	4.9%
African American and Other males	2002	23	19	13	-43.5%	-31.6%	71.9	55.9	32.5	-54.8%	-41.9%
African American and Other females	2002	31	19	17	-45.2%	-10.5%	64.6	47.5	45.9	-28.9%	-3.4%
Dropout Rate (8th graders no longer enrolled in 12th grade 4 years later)	2000-02	247	204	217	-12.3%	+6.2%	27.5	24.6	26.2	-4.7%	6.7%
White males	2000-02	143	99	100	-29.8%	+1.9%	33.7	25.1	27.4	-18.8%	9.3%
White females	2000-02	85	86	80	-5.3%	-6.4%	23.9	24.9	23.4	-2.0%	-5.9%
African American and Other males	2000-02	12	12	24	+100.0%	+100.0%	20.9	22.9	39.3	88.5%	72.1%
African American and Other females	2000-02	8	8	12	+64.4%	+54.2%	11.7	19.5	21.5	83.6%	10.2%
Young Adults Not Completing High School (18-24)	2000	1,776	1,369	1,701	-4.2%	+24.3%	31.7	25.7	20.0	-37.0%	-22.3%
White males	NA	779	713	NA	NA	NA	31.4	28.7	NA	NA	NA
White females	NA	799	508	NA	NA	NA	31.8	22.4	NA	NA	NA
African American and Other males	NA	154	85	NA	NA	NA	49.5	32.2	NA	NA	NA
African American and Other females	NA	44	63	NA	NA	NA	14.6	20.5	NA	NA	NA

Economics

Poverty Rate	2000	2,335	1,949	2,165	-7.3%	+11.1%	16.6	14.1	14.6	-12.0%	3.5%
White children	2000	1,802	1,482	1,681	-6.7%	+13.4%	14.7	12.1	13.3	-9.5%	9.9%
African American and Other children	2000	514	467	484	-5.8%	+3.6%	29.4	29.6	21.9	-25.5%	-26.0%
Income of Families w/children (1999 $)	2000	$ 40,999	$ 46,691	$ 46,540	+13.5%	-0.3%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
White families	2000	$ 41,429	$ 47,561	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
African American and Other families	2000	$ 36,809	$ 38,749	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Adolescent Risk Factors

Teenage Pregnancy (ages 14-17)	2001	61	60	56	-8.2%	-6.7%	3.8	3.8	3.4	-9.8%	-10.5%
White	2001	48	46	49	+2.1%	+6.5%	3.4	3.4	3.4	0.0%	0.0%
African American and Other	2001	13	14	7	-46.2%	-50.0%	6.2	7.0	3.7	-40.2%	-47.1%
Delinquency	2002	74	62	87	+17.6%	+40.3%	3.0	2.5	3.5	16.5%	39.8%
White males	2002	39	38	46	+17.9%	+21.1%	3.4	3.3	4.1	21.9%	25.6%
White females	2002	19	10	14	-26.3%	+40.0%	1.8	1.0	1.4	-24.5%	35.9%
African American and Other males	2002	12	11	20	+66.7%	+81.8%	7.1	6.0	11.1	56.5%	85.2%
African American and Other females	2002	4	3	7	+75.0%	+133.3%	2.4	1.8	4.1	71.6%	128.8%

*Closest available data to this year was used in many cases.
**BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Kids Count 2003

Orangeburg County

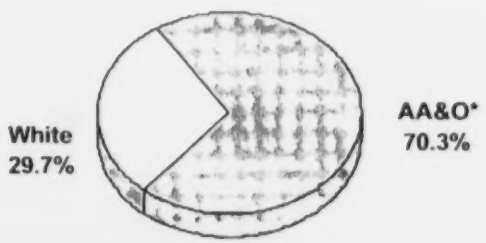
Demographics

In 2000 there were an estimated 23,769 children under age 18 in the county. Of these, 7,066 were White, 16,123 were African-American, and 580 were other races. There were 23,882 children under age 18 in 1990, 26,163 in 1980, 27,484 in 1970, and 31,151 in 1960.

Children represent a shrinking portion of the county's population. Those under 18 constituted 26.0% of the population in 2000, down from 45.4% in 1960, 39.4% in 1970, and 31.8% in 1980.

In 2000 the 7,147 pre-schoolers under age 6 were 7.8% of the overall population: 6.4% of Whites and 8.5% of African Americans.

Figure 1: Population Ages 0-17 in 2000



* In all charts African-American is combined with other races, and often abbreviated as AA&O. Other races comprise 2.4% of children in the county, with "two or more races" at 1.1% and American Indian and Alaska Native Alone at 0.5% as the largest Other groups.

Family

Families have always been the most important influence in a child's life. Children depend on their families for material needs, stimulation and guidance. Family life is different in numerous ways from previous generations, and many families now face exceptional challenges.

Families with children now make up a smaller share of all households. Only 32.0% of all households in 2000, as compared with 48.0% of households in 1960, had children below the age of 18.

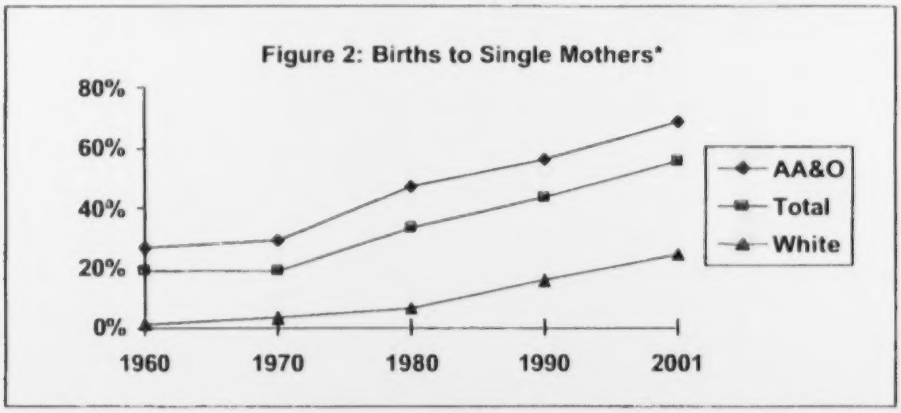
Births to Teen Mothers: In 2001, 76 babies were born to mothers younger than age 18. They were 6.0% of all babies born in the county; 2.7% of all White and 7.4% of all African-American and Other babies were born to teen mothers under the age of 18. Of the babies born to these teens in 2001, 97.4% were born to single mothers, including babies whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers.

In 2001, 224 babies were born to mothers younger than age 20. These babies were 17.7% of all born in the county; 13.1% of all White and 19.7% of all African-American and Other babies were born to mothers under the age of 20. Of the babies born to these mothers in 2001, 90.2% were born to single mothers, including paternity acknowledeged babies.

Education of Mothers Giving Birth: Children's success is strongly influenced by the education of their parents. In 2001, 256 babies, 20.3% of all babies, were born to mothers of all ages who had not completed the 12th grade. In 2001, 18.5% of White and 21.0% of African-American and Other babies were born to mothers who had completed less than the 12th grade. This is a substantial improvement from 50.7% in 1970. In addition, during 2001, 37.6% had completed 12 grades (31.6% of Whites and 40.0% of African Americans and Others) and 42.2% had more than a high school degree (49.9% of Whites and 38.9% of African American and Others).

Births to Single Mothers: Births to single mothers have increased steadily over four decades. In 2001, 387 babies, 30.6% of all babies, were recorded as born to single mothers. A decade earlier in 1990, the percentage was 39.3% and in 1960 it was 18.9%. In 2001, 8.8% of White children and 39.8% of African-American and Other children were born to single mothers. These numbers, however, do not include paternity acknowlegement births.

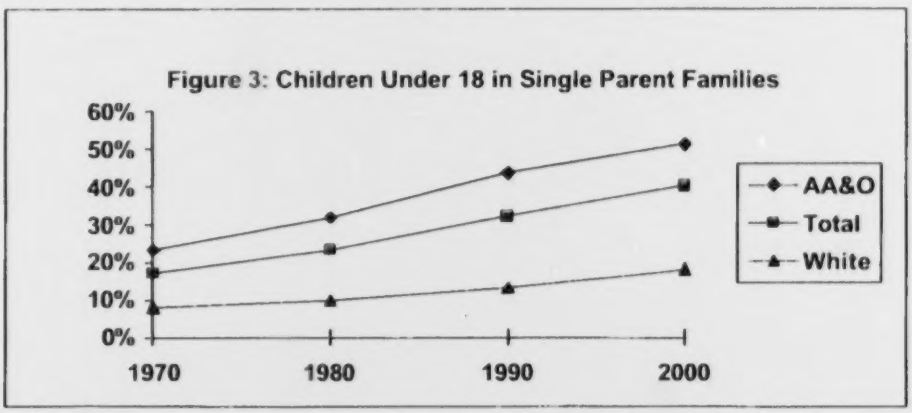
Thus, to these numbers should be added an additional group of 317 babies, 25.1% of all born in 2001, whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers. When the paternity-acknowledged babies are added, the total number born to single mothers in 2001 was 704, constituting 55.7% of all babies, 24.4% of White babies, and 68.9% of African-American and Others.



*Includes paternity acknowleged babies in 1980, 1990 and 2001. Prior to 1979, paternity acknowleged cases were not a statistical category, and thus were included in births to single mothers.

Divorce Rate: In 2001, 568 marriage licenses were issued, while 272 divorce decrees involving 217 children were filed. In 1970, only 83 children were in families involved in divorce.

Single-Parent Family: Increasing numbers of children live in single-parent families. In 2000, 7,800 children lived with only one parent. This was 40.3% of all children, up from 32.1% in 1990, 23.3% in 1980, and 17.0% in 1970. In 2000, 18.2% of White and 51.3% of African-American and Other children lived in single-parent families. Also in 2000, 2,043 or 40.0% of children under age 6 lived in single parent families: 15.0% of White and 54.1% of African American and Other pre-schoolers.



Parents Working and Child Care: Increasingly, parents must divide their time between children and employers. In order to meet family financial needs, most parents must work and thus have less time for family life. In 2000, 67.9% of mothers with children under 6 and 71.8% with children 6 - 17 were in the labor force. This has increased substantially from 1960 when 44.5% of mothers with children under 6 were in the labor force. Most fathers also work: 62.5% of children under 6 are in families where the single parent or both parents work. Caring for children is a problem for parents unable to obtain quality, affordable daycare while they are at work.

Overall, there are 3,332 spaces in state-regulated childcare facilities* in the county, 94.4% of these are in licensed programs and 5.6% are in registered programs. Of the spaces, 79.1% are in licensed childcare centers serving more than 12 children, 4.5% are in registered or licensed family childcare homes serving six or fewer children, 1.1% are in licensed group childcare homes serving 7-12 children, and 15.3% are in registered or licensed church programs.

The homes and centers are severely constrained by the limited ability of parents to pay. In the county, the average weekly charge is $ 64.44 for centers and $ 59.81 for homes. Consequently, center wages are low: 42.9% of centers with pre-school staff and 84.6% of centers with assistant pre-school staff report paying these staff under $6 per hour. Paying $6-$8 per hour are 39.3% of centers with pre-school staff and 0% of centers with assistants. Low wages attract workers with limited education. In 50% of centers, most pre-school staff and in 61.5% of centers most assistants have only a high school degree. In 64.3% of centers few to none of the pre-school staff have early childhood credentials. In childcare homes, 46.6% of lead providers have no more education than a high school degree or GED; 13.3% have less than a high school degree.

Family Violence: In 2000, 1,268 domestic assaults were recorded by law enforcement officials. These domestic assaults comprised 31.1% of all assaults, which include aggravated assaults, simple assaults, and intimidation. Overall, 42.6% of all domestic assaults involve spouse abuse which constitutes 13.2% of all assaults. Since most family violence is not reported, the true incidence of family disruption is much more widespread than even the large number of reported cases would indicate.

Separation from Parents: Some children do not live with their natural parents. In 2000, 10.3% of all children did not live with their natural parents. Approximately 2,000 or 8.4% of all children lived with relatives, 374 or 1.6% lived with non-relatives, 33 or 0.1% were householders or spouses, and 40 or 0.2% were in institutional facilities.

Abuse and Neglect: In 2000-01, there were 289 investigations into reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children. Through its investigations, the Department of Social Services (DSS) determined that 79 of the investigations were indicated for abuse or neglect: 15.9% for physical abuse, 9.8% for sexual abuse, 0.0% for mental injury, 42.7% for physical neglect, 1.2% for educational neglect, 1.2% for medical neglect, 28.0% for threat of harm for physical/sexual abuse, and 1.2% for other types of abuse.

In the indicated cases of abuse and neglect, DSS determined there were 132 children who were victims of abuse or neglect. Of these, 53.0% were male, 47.0% were female; 25.8% were White, 74.2% were African-American and Other. By age, 39.2% were ages 0 - 5, 36.9% were ages 6 - 12, and 23.8% were ages 13 - 17. In the indicated cases, 29.6% of the children lived in two-parent families, 60.6% in single parent families, 7.6% with unmarried couples, and 2.3% in other circumstances.

Out of Home Placements: As of June 2001, 122 children lived in foster care. The median age at first placement in the county is 6.6 years. The ages of children in foster care were 12.3% 0-2, 10.7% 3-5, 23.8% 6-10, 18.0% 11-13, and 35.3% 14 and above. The foster care population is 49.2% males and 50.8% females. Regarding their future, 24.6% were under a plan for placement in adoptive homes, 39.3% for return to a parent or guardian, 0.8% for placement with a relative, 20.5% for independent living, 14.8% for permanent foster care, and 0.0% for other circumstances.

Adult/Child Ratio: A measure of potential adult attention for children from family and community is the ratio of adults to children and youth. In 2000 there were 2.85 adults for every person below age 18. This was up substantially from 1960, when there were only 1.20 adults for every person under the age 18. This indicates that today there are more adults potentially available to provide attention and care for each child than in the past.

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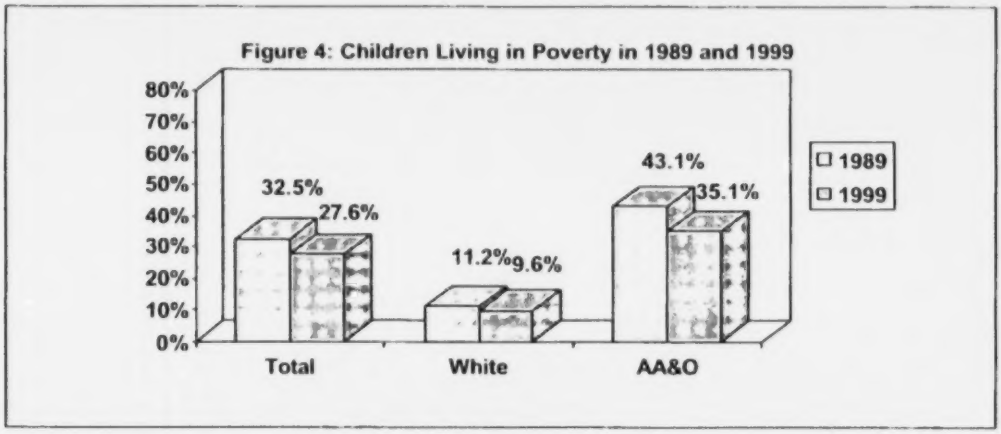
* This data is the best currently available; however, an effort is being made to check the coverage and improve the accuracy. As soon as more recent and complete data becomes available, it will be posted on the website.

ECONOMIC STATUS

Low income makes it difficult for many families to provide the material and environmental enrichment necessary for healthy child development.

Poverty: In 1999, 6,490 children and youth under the age of 18 lved in 2,982 families with incomes below poverty, comprising 27.6% of all children and youth: 9.6% of Whites and 35.1% of Africa n-Americans and Others. A rough estimate of child poverty in 2001 calculated by the Census Bureau was 23.0%.



Poverty has always been a serious problem. While the rate among children under age 18 in 1989 was 32.5%, it was 34.3% in 1979 and 46.8% in 1969.

Children and the elderly are the age groups most seriously affected by poverty. In 1999, 33.5% of children 0 - 5 (10.8% White, 43.4% African-American and Other), and 25.0% of children 6 - 17 (8.4% White, 31.8% African-American and Other), lived in poverty; 22.3% of persons 65 years and older lived in poverty. Historically, the poverty rate among the elderly was much higher. During the last three decades, federal policy actions have substantia lly improved the economic status of older persons but have not done so for children.

Single-parent families are most likely to be poor. In 1999, 48.1% of children in single-parent families lived in poverty, but only 11.4% of children in married-couple families were poor. Children in single-parent families made up 64.4% of all the county's children living in poverty.

In 2002, the poverty level was $15,020 for a family of three and $18,100 for a family of four. The poverty threshold is often criticized as an arbitrary number. People can still be poor but may be just above the poverty level. Federal programs utilize varying thresholds. For example, in 1999 there were 12,630 children ages 0-17 who were less than 200 percent of poverty; thus an additional 6,140 children were above the poverty level but could still be considered poor or near-poor with incomes below $30,040 and $36,200 respectively for 3 and 4 person families.

Children Under 18 in Poverty in 1999

Percent of Poverty	Total		White		African American & Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 50%	3,350	14.2%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 100%	6,490	27.6%	668	9.6%	5,822	35.1%
Under 125%	8,241	35.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 150%	9,928	42.1%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 175%	11,516	48.9%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 185%	12,013	51.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 200%	12,630	53.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total Children	23,769		7,066		16,703	

Note: Missing data will be released by the Census Bureau later in 2003, and will be posted on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

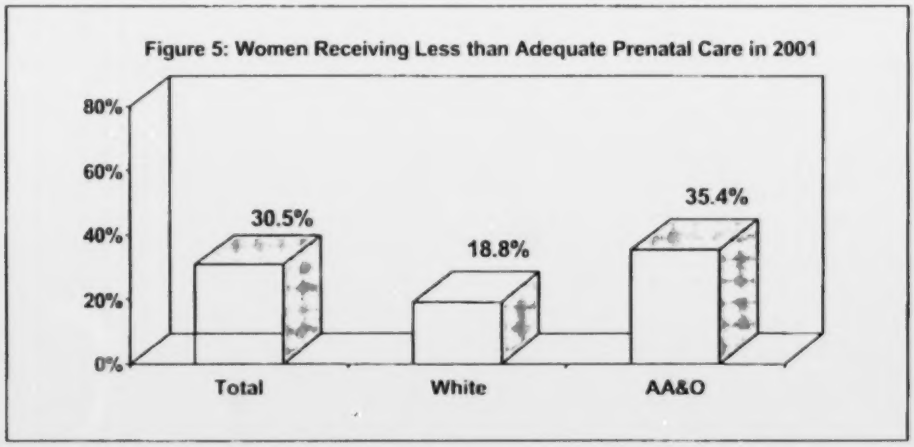
Income: The mean income of families with children in 1999 was $41,669. In 1989 it was $36,950, and 1979, it was $35,752, adjusted for inflation (i.e., in 1999 dollars). The mean income of single-parent families with children was $21,032 for single parents in 1999, as compared with $55,108 in married-couple families with children. From 1999 to 2000, Orangeburg County real dollar per capita income (eliminating inflation) increased by 1.3%.

Child Support Payments: There were 1,172[7] families receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families in fiscal year 2002, but only 29.4 % had child support court orders. Their average monthly payment of child support was $ 244, including child support receipts and tax refund intercepts. In addition, during fiscal year 2002, an estimated 2,249 parents in non-TANF families were obligated to pay a monthly average of $ 215. Information is not available regarding the amount actually paid.

HEALTH

Good health during a child's formative years helps children to reach their maximum potential. Good health requires healthy lifestyles and effective primary care, starting during the prenatal period and continuing through adolescence into adulthood. Children's health reflects the well-being of the community, as well as how adequately they are protected.

Prenatal Care: Early and continuous prenatal care can make a significant difference in assuring births of healthy babies. Delayed or insufficient prenatal care is associated with low birthweight and other health risks for infants. In 2001, 296, or 23.4% of pregnant women received no prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy. In 2001, 385, or 30.5% of pregnant women received less than adequate prenatal care: 70 or 18.8% of Whites and 315 or 35.4% of African-Americans and Others. In that same year, 13 women received no prenatal care at all.



Low Birthweight: Low birthweight of less than 5.5 pounds and very low birthweight of less than 3.3 pounds are associated with health risks and growth and development problems. In 2001, 159 or 12.6% of all babies in the county were born with low birthweight: 14.8% of African-American and Other babies and 7.2% of White babies. During 1999-2001, approximately 110 or 2.8% of all babies were born with very low birthweight and had the most serious complications: 0.9% of White babies and 3.7% of African-American and Other babies. The cost of hospitalization for each newborn low birthweight baby in the county in 1999 - 2001 was $9,778 and $73,798 for each very low birthweight baby, compared with $2,199 for a baby of normal birthweight. The result was excess cost in the county of $2,270,208 for all low birthweight babies, of which $1,742,239 was for very low birthweight babies.

Infant Mortality: During the decade since 1989-91, the overall infant mortality rate increased by 32.6% from 10.0 to 13.2 per 1000 live births. For Whites, the rate decreased 43.3% from 5.7 to 3.3 per 1000 live births, while for African-Americans and Others the rate increased 49.0% from 11.9 to 17.7 per 1000 live births. Over the three-year period 1999-2001, 4 White and 48 African-American and Other infants died before age one. By comparison, 8 White and 36 African-American and Other infants died during 1989-91.

[7] Number is an unduplicated count for the entire fiscal year.

Child Injuries and Deaths: Childhood deaths and injuries reflect whether communities are safe for children. In 2001, children in the Orangeburg County went to the emergency room 2,647 times because of injuries. Boys are injured more often than girls. Children visit the emergency room at comparable rates for each age from 0 to 17.

In South Carolina, the major causes of death among young children are unintentional injuries, cancer, homicide, and congenital anomalies. Over the three year period 1999-2001, 3 White and 7 African-American and Other children ages 1-14 died in the county. During 1989-91, 5 White and 17 African-American and Other children died.

Immunization: Immunization rates are an important indication of whether young children are receiving adequate preventive health care. During FY 1989-90, 56.8% of children less than two years old seen in public health clinics were not fully immunized against such preventable diseases as Polio, Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Haemophilus Influenza B and Whooping Cough. After a concerted statewide campaign to increase immunizations, the percentage of children seen in public health clinics who were not fully immunized in January 2001 had declined in the county to 8.7%. The DHEC statewide birth registry survey of all two year old children found that 88.1% were fully immunized in 2001. This success demonstrates the potential to improve the status of children when the leadership of the state and its communities act decisively together.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Children and youth are infected with sexually transmitted diseases through sexual abuse or irresponsible sexual activity. National prevalence rates indicate: a 1 in 8 chance that sexually active 15 year-old girls will develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), the most rapidly increasing cause of infertility; 10% of sexually active adolescent girls and boys are infected with chlamydia, the most common cause of PID; and as many as 15% of teen girls are infected with human papilloma virus, often with strains linked to cervical cancer. Furthermore, research evidence indicates that susceptibility to HIV/AIDS increases by 3 to 8 times through prior infection with various STDs.

According to national studies, approximately 1 in 4 sexually experienced youth aged 13-19 acquires a STD ever year; since two-thirds of all high school students have had sexual intercourse and half engage in intercourse over a thr month period, this would suggest that 10-15% of teens are infected with STDs annually. For 2000, this would indicate th an estimated 1,078 to 1,617 youth ages 13-19 in the county were infected with a STD. Many infections are either n identified for treatment or not reported. In the county, there were 7 reported cases of children under age 15 and 131 you ages 15 - 19 infected with gonorrhea; 19 youth under 15 and 268 ages 15 - 19 were reported infected with chlamydi Youth with undiagnosed and untreated STDs often spread their infections.

Healthy Lifestyles: Although no county data is available, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2001 found that mar high school students are not following good health habits. The YRBS revealed that 26% felt that they were overweight; 42 were trying to lose weight: 27% of boys and 57% of girls. Although during a week 79% of high school students ate fru 59% ate salad, and over 83% ate vegetables, only 17% ate the recommended five or more servings of fruit and vegetabl per day. During a week, 49% did stretching or muscle strengthening exercises, and 59% exercised three or more times f 20 minutes in sports that made them sweat or breathe hard. However, 11% of students engaged in no vigorous or modera activity at all during a week: 8% of boys and 13% of girls.

Tobacco Use:* Cigarette smoking starts at a young age and often becomes habitual. In the county during 2002 among all students 15 and older, 15.1% first smoked by age 11, 32.7% by age 13, and 46.8% by age 15. In a typical month, 16.1% of 7th and 8th graders and 19.9% of high school students smoked cigarettes. White youths were much more likely than African-Americans to smoke: 32.9% of White male and 29.0% of White female 7th to 12th graders used cigarettes, as compared with 17.9% of African-American males and 13.0% of African American females. A smaller but significant group of high school students (2.1%) used smokeless tobacco monthly; it was used primarily by White males (13.6% compared with 0.9% of all other race and sex groups).

* County participation in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking was not complete but county data is presented to provide the best available picture of teen risk-taking attitudes and behavior in

Disabilities: No data are collected on the true prevalence of disabilities within the county. According to national reported estimates, over 10% of children and youth have developmental disabilities at any point in time, and more than 17 are affected at some time before age 18 by deafness, blindness, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, speech defects, development delays, learning disabilities, and emotional or behavioral problems. For 2000 this suggests that at least 2,377 children ar youth under age 18 in the county are currently affected by disabilities.

Approximately 5% of children and youth nationally have serious disabilities which have lifelong implications f work, social life and community living. Typically among children and youth, there are 1 - 2% who are mentally retarded, - 3% with serious emotional disturbances, over 1% with orthopedic or multiple disabilities, including cerebral palsy an many hereditary conditions, and under 1% with visual or hearing impairments.

Other chronic health problems also affect the lives of many children. Over 3% of children have one or more these limitations. Such serious chronic conditions affect 1 - 2% who have respiratory problems (asthma and chron bronchitis), 0.5 - 1.0% with neurological problems (epilepsy and seizures), and less than 1% with circulatory problen (congenital heart defects and acquired diseases).

Other disabilities are identified primarily in school performance. These would include 808 students in grades 1- with learning disabilities and 624 students in grades 1-12 with speech/language deficits.

Disabilities are caused by genetics, disease, poor prenatal conditions, injuries, and environmental factors. For example, lead exposure, primarily from paint dust, was detected in over 1% of all children screened, including 11 in Orangeburg County.

Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: While over 20% of 9-17 year olds meet diagnostic criteria for some form of mental disorder, the number with serious emotional disturbance and impaired functioning in family, school, or community activities is: 9-13% for substantial functional impairment and 5-9% for extreme functional impairment. The rates among poor children are at the higher end of these ranges. Based on a federal formula for estimating prevalence, in the county there are 12% or 1,515 seriously emotionally disturbed 9-17 year olds with substantial functional impairment and 8% or 1,010 with extreme functional impairment during the course of a year. Conduct disorders, attention deficit, depression, and anxiety disorders are the most prevalent, each affecting 3% or more of school-aged children. These disorders may occur simultaneously in a child. The prevalence rates are highest among males, adolescents, and disadvantaged persons in communities under stress and lacking social cohesion; depression, however, is more prevalent among females. On the YRBS, 20% of boys and 33% of girls in high school reported that during the past year they felt so sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that they stopped doing some usual activities. Another indicator of emotional problems is the 8% of high school students in South Carolina who reported that they had "attempted suicide" in the past year: 5% of boys and 10% of girls. Suicide attempts resulted in 4% of high school students reporting that they required treatment by a doctor or nurse for injury, poisoning, or overdose.

Inadequate Healthcare: No county level data is routinely collected regarding the number of children and youth with inadequate healthcare. According to estimates for 2000-02 by the Bureau of the Census through the annual Current Population Survey, the statewide average rate of uninsured children and youth under age 18 in families with incomes under 200% of poverty in South Carolina was 16.6%, and 9.9% above 200% of poverty. If these rates are applied to the county, there are 2,099 children in the county below 200% of poverty with no health insurance, and 1,105 children above 200% of poverty with no health insurance, for a total of 3,205 uninsured children in Orangeburg County. The number lacking basic accessible primary care is at least double the number lacking insurance. Those lacking primary care are often dependent on health services at school. The ratio of students to nurses recommended nationally is 750:1. In the county, this would suggest the need for 20 nurses, compared with 18 currently working in the schools.

Medicaid: For several years, the State of South Carolina has emphasized enrolling eligible children into Medicaid. In late 1997, South Carolina implemented its version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, Partners for Healthy Children (PHC), and aggressively pursued outreach enrollment for PHC and Medicaid. As a result, enrollment of children ages 0 through 18 in Orangeburg County has increased by 57.3% from June 1997 to June 2001; thus Medicaid and PHC were serving 61.2% of all children in that age range. The total Medicaid expenditures in South Carolina for services provided to children ages 0 through 18 for state fiscal year 2002 were $991 million, at an average statewide expenditure of $2,343 per child enrolled, approximate Medicaid expenditure for children in the county would be $34.1 million.

In June 2001, the total number of Orangeburg County children, birth through 18, enrolled in Medicaid was 14,539. The total can be broken down into the following age and race groupings:

	White	African American	Hispanic	Other	Total
Children under 1	172	770	5	29	976
Children 1 - 5	690	3,087	13	135	3,925
Children 6 - 14	969	5,535	14	261	6,779
Children 15 - 18	453	2,357	0	49	2,859
Total	2,284	11,749	32	474	14,539

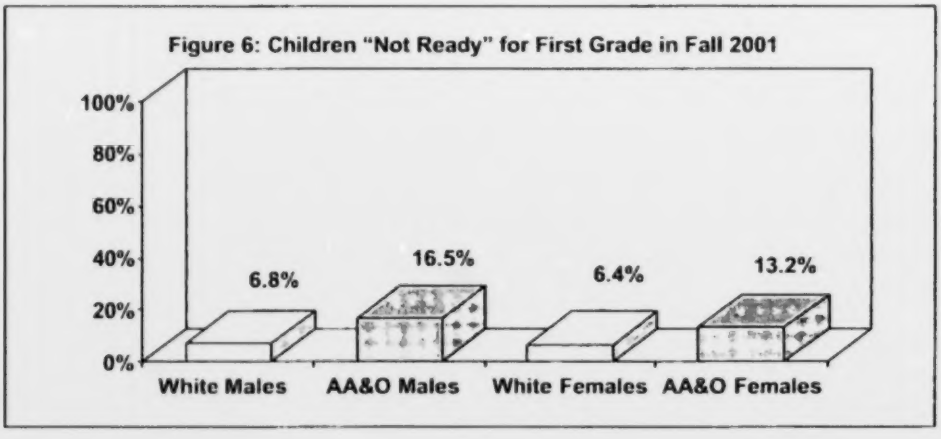
Ambulatory Care: When children lack adequate primary care, whether through lack of insurance, through limite access, or through failing to utilize available care, preventable and treatable conditions become serious and requi hospitalization. A useful indicator of inadequate primary care is the percentage of all hospitalizations that could typicall have been avoided through ambulatory care, especially for pneumonia, asthma, diarrhea and vomiting, dehydration, a severe ear, nose, and throat infections. The share of hospitalizations for these types of conditions could normally be ke below 20%; for children in the county under the age of 18 during 2001, the share was 34.4% for Whites and 31.9% f African-Americans and Others.

READINESS AND EARLY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Too many children reach school without the readiness skills needed for success in learning, such as language, soc skills, visual and auditory discrimination, memory recall, and knowledge of colors, letters, numbers, names of objects, et Likewise, some schools are not ready to respond appropriately to the varying developmental levels of children in the ear grades. As a result, too many students do not experience the success needed to create the motivation and engagement th sustain learning.

1st Grade "Readiness" on 2001-02 Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB):

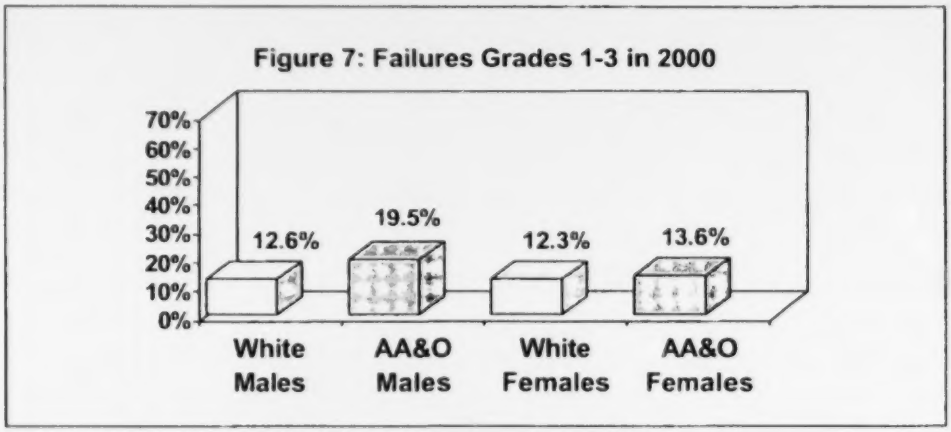
144 children not ready 13.3% children not ready



1st Grade Failures in 2002:

76 children failing 6.7% children failing

Failures Grades 1-3 in 2002 (approximate cumulative percentage of grades one, two and three):	
151 children failing	13.1% children failing



Over-age for Grade 3 in 2001	
215 children over-age	18.6% children over-age

Special Education: Large numbers of children are placed in special education classes. In elementary school, 360 six and seven year olds and 364 eight and nine year-olds were enrolled in special education classes during 2001-02, approximately 16.6% and 15.6% of their age groups respectively: 12.2% of White 8 – 9 year olds were in special education and 16.4% of African American and Others.

Readiness Summary: A serious problem exists in terms of student readiness and school success in the early grades. With 13.3% assessed not ready for the 1st grade, 18.6% over age in grade 3, and 15.6% of eight and nine year-olds placed in special education, unacceptably large numbers of students still begin school without good prospects of success in future school achievement and graduation; however, great improvement has occurred since the mid 1990s.

School Achievement

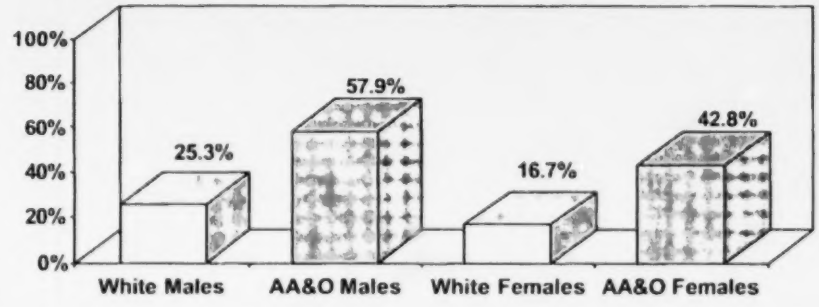
By the end of elementary school, significant numbers of students perform below minimum standards. The following standardized test measures, comparing student performance to state minimum standards, should be used in combination with routine classroom assessments more reflective of real-world performance skills.

Special Education: Special education placements reflect both the significant number of children with serious handicapping conditions and a large number of students with mild learning and behavioral problems that have not been accommodated successfully by the regular educational program. The result is a large system of self-contained, resource, and itinerant services to meet the needs of 624 speech and language impaired, 808 learning disabled, 109 emotionally disabled, 740 mentally impaired, and 100 physically handicapped, deaf, blind, and other handicapped students. Special education classes served approximately 15.8% of all students in grades 1 - 12 during 2001-2002.

Exit Exam - not passing all parts of Exit Exam on first attempt in the 10th grade in 2002

396 students did not pass all parts | 43.8% of students did not pass all parts

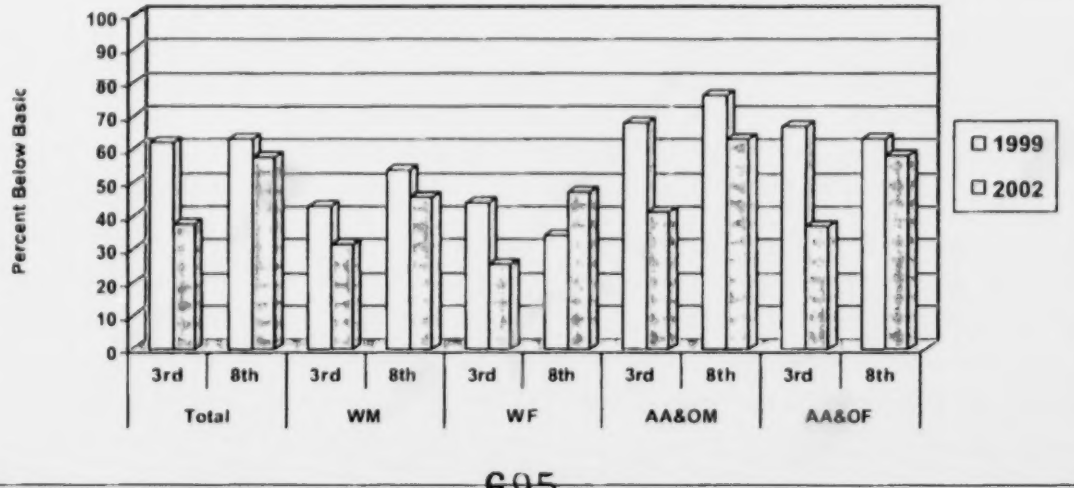
Figure 8: 10th Grade Students Not Passing All Parts of High School Exit Exam in 2000



Achievement Trends: How has performance on standardized achievement tests changed over the past 20 years? During the 1980s, student performance on the BSAP tests improved dramatically. Between 1981 and 1990, the percentage of 8th grade students in Orangeburg County who did not meet standards declined from 80.4% to 29.2% in math and from 68% to 23.6% in reading. During the 1990's the BSAP trend changed, with 49.8% not meeting 8th grade math standards in 1998 and 46.8% in reading. On standardized tests, the first year when South Carolina students take the exam is comparable to the challenge encountered by the national norm group which took the test only once. Looking at first year data, the percentage of 4th grade students at or below the 25th percentile of national norms was 41.9% in 1983 on the CTBS, 41.9% in 1990 on the Stanford, and 40.5% in 1995 on the Metropolitan; for 9th graders, the percentage in the bottom quarter was 40.1% in 1990 and 38.5% in 1995. Although not comparable, the percent below basic on the 4th grade PACT in 1999, the first year of administration, was 53.5%, but in 2002 37.9% of 4th graders were below basic in reading and math; the percentage of 8th graders below basic in reading and math averaged 57.0% in 1999 and 52.8% in 2002.

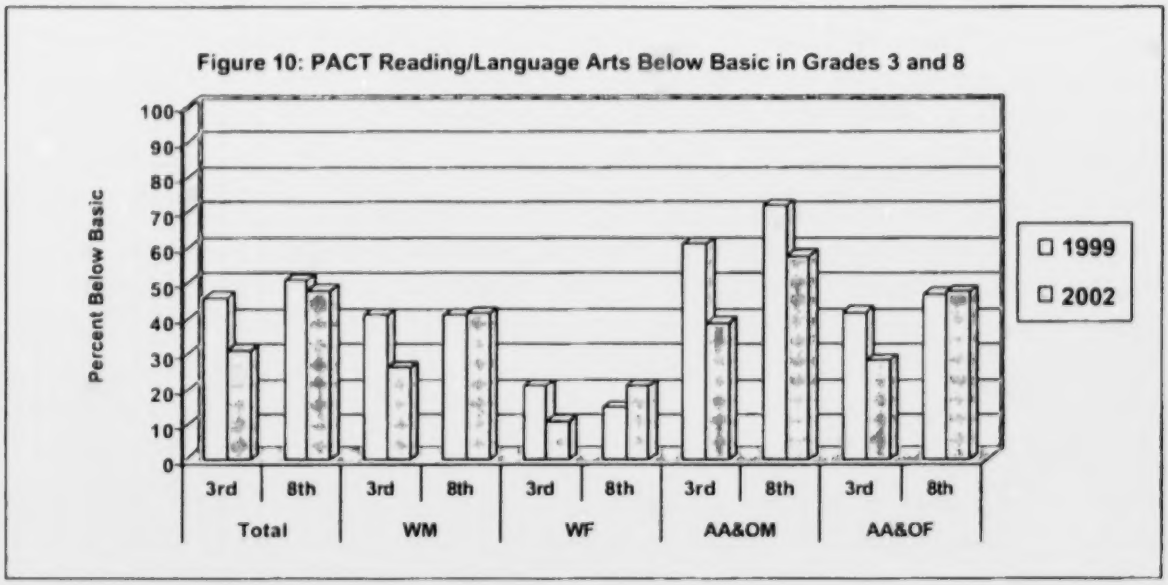
PACT: The Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) was first administered in 1999 for grades 3 - 8 in math and reading/language arts. Math assesses skills in numbers, numerical and algebraic concepts, patterns and functions, geometry, measurement, probability and statistics. The percentage of students scoring below basic in math has decreased by 20.4% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 2,250 students below basic in grades 3-8 but there would have been an additional 577 at 1999 performance rates.

Figure 9: PACT Math Below Basic in Grades 3 and 8



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
	Math (%)					
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	37.2	31.7	25.5	41.1	37.1
	4	44.4	25.0	18.6	51.2	48.3
	5	53.7	41.6	37.8	59.6	54.7
	6	49.3	28.9	25.7	60.0	49.5
	7	58.7	44.1	46.9	66.9	57.7
	8	57.5	45.8	47.3	63.1	58.3
Basic	3	40.4	38.6	44.9	40.0	40.3
	4	37.7	48.1	46.6	34.7	36.1
	5	37.3	41.6	50.0	32.7	37.9
	6	37.6	42.2	50.5	30.4	40.4
	7	29.0	39.6	34.6	24.3	29.3
	8	37.0	43.9	45.1	33.2	36.3
Proficient	3	16.0	23.8	21.4	14.3	14.7
	4	12.6	17.6	20.3	10.2	12.0
	5	6.4	8.9	7.1	6.5	5.4
	6	10.1	18.9	16.8	7.8	8.6
	7	7.7	13.5	12.3	4.8	7.9
	8	4.8	8.4	5.5	3.4	4.8
Advanced	3	6.3	5.9	8.2	4.6	7.9
	4	5.3	9.3	14.4	4.0	3.5
	5	2.6	7.9	5.1	1.2	2.0
	6	3.1	10.0	6.9	1.8	1.6
	7	4.6	2.7	6.2	4.1	5.1
	8	0.8	1.9	2.2	0.3	0.5

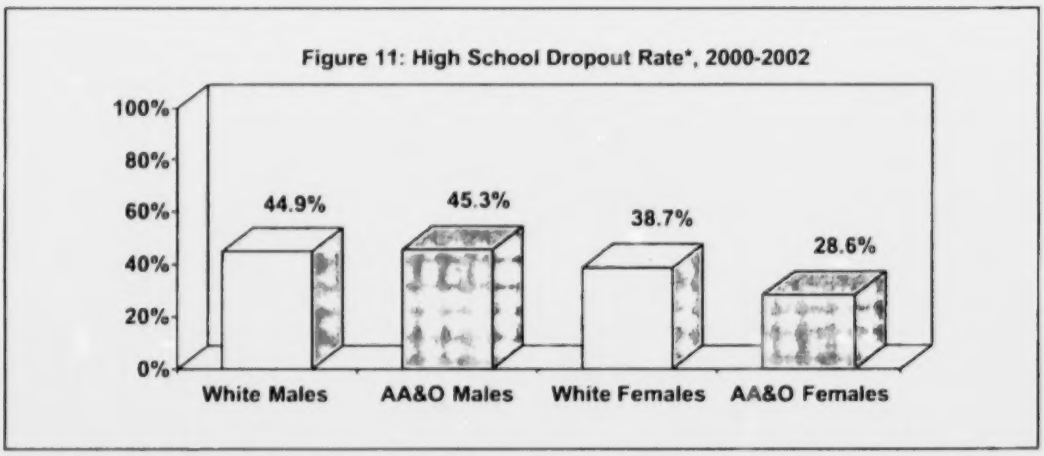
Reading/Language Arts assesses reading, listening, speaking, writing, research, and communication with technology. The first PACT assessment found a high percentage of elementary and middle grades students performing below standards and only a modest number above basic. The percentage of students scoring below basic in reading/language arts has decreased by 25.7% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 1,689 students below basic in grades 3 - 8 but there would have been an additional 584 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
	Reading/Language Arts (%)					
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	31.1	26.0	11.2	38.8	28.4
	4	31.3	25.0	12.6	43.5	26.3
	5	44.8	35.6	21.4	56.7	40.4
	6	40.9	35.6	14.0	56.4	33.4
	7	41.7	38.9	20.8	55.1	35.1
	8	48.1	41.5	20.9	57.9	48.0
Basic	3	40.7	38.0	32.7	41.4	42.4
	4	50.6	58.3	47.9	46.8	52.9
	5	46.5	47.5	56.1	39.9	50.6
	6	39.7	41.1	47.0	30.8	46.5
	7	45.4	50.4	53.1	36.4	50.8
	8	41.0	40.6	56.0	36.9	41.0
Proficient	3	26.5	33.0	48.0	19.1	28.0
	4	17.5	16.7	37.0	9.7	20.0
	5	8.5	16.8	22.4	3.4	8.2
	6	17.7	22.2	34.0	11.7	18.4
	7	11.8	9.7	22.3	8.0	12.9
	8	9.9	17.0	19.8	4.6	10.2
Advanced	3	1.7	3.0	8.2	0.7	1.2
	4	0.6	0.0	2.5	0.0	0.8
	5	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8
	6	1.7	1.1	5.0	1.0	1.6
	7	1.2	0.9	3.8	0.5	1.2
	8	1.0	0.9	3.3	0.6	0.8

Dropout Rate - 8th grade students no longer enrolled in grade 12
(average of students for the three years ending 2000-2002)

536 students drop out annually **38.3% students drop out?**



Dropouts: Distressing numbers of students drop out and fail to graduate. An average of 24.3% of 8th graders failed to graduate** from county schools five years later during the period 1980-84, 31.3% during 1985-89, and 26.0% during 1990-94, 27.7% during 1995-97 and 35.6% during 1998-2000***.

During 2001-02, 89.1% of all who did graduate received the State High School Diploma, while the remaining 10.9% received a State Certificate for meeting the required Carnegie units but not passing the Exit Exam.

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*12th grade enrollment compared to 8th grade enrollment four years earlier

** This is calculated by using 8th grade enrollment to graduation data.

*** 2001 data will be available soon and will be posted on the website.

Fortunately, many dropouts enroll in adult education programs and either earn a high school diploma or obtain a GED. During 2001-02, 12 Adult Education high school diplomas were awarded to school completers and in 2001 87 GEDs were awarded in the county. Over time, adult education high school diplomas and GEDs increase the effective school completion rate substantially. In the 2000 Census, 15.7% of county resident 25 - 34 year-olds said they had not completed either high school or a GED.

Achievement Summary: The numbers of students testing below basic on the PACT and dropping out range from 31.1% to 58.7%. Thus, far too many students fail to acquire the knowledge, skills, learning habits, and motivation necessary to compete in the economy or contribute to society in the 21st Century.

ADOLESCENT RISK BEHAVIORS

Academic achievement is greatly influenced by the prevailing youth culture which often promotes popularity with peers and partying rather than studying and doing well in school. The prevalence of adolescent risk-taking and under-achievement is illustrated by the poor grades of substance-abusing teens.

Substance Abuser Rates at Levels of Academic Performance

	Usual School Grades in Past Year					Total
	A Range	B Range	C Range	D Range	F Range	
Smoked Cigarettes (in past 30 days)	9.6%	16.3%	23.9%	32.2%	57.7%	20.1%
Drank 5 or More Drinks on One Occasion (in past 30 days)	6.9%	12.0%	16.3%	21.2%	43.0%	14.0%
Used Any Illicit Drug (in past 30 days)	8.8%	10.5%	16.3%	24.7%	54.4%	14.1%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

As influence from parents and other adults declines during adolescence, significant numbers of students engage in violence, crime, school offenses, depressive emotions and attempted suicide:

Risk Behaviors Participated in During Past 12 Months	White Male		White Female		African American Male		African American Female		Total		Total (Grade 7-12)
	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	
Carried a handgun or knife for self-defense?	21.1%	26.7%	5.4%	6.7%	13.2%	17.8%	3.8%	7.8%	9.2%	12.9%	11.3%
Carried a handgun or knife as a weapon?	10.7%	15.3%	2.4%	1.2%	9.3%	11.2%	2.6%	6.5%	5.9%	8.4%	7.3%
Been in a fight with someone?	46.1%	37.0%	24.5%	14.9%	42.9%	27.3%	29.0%	20.8%	35.4%	23.9%	28.9%
Hit your boyfriend or girlfriend?	3.0%	3.4%	10.1%	12.7%	6.7%	3.7%	16.8%	21.7%	11.0%	12.8%	12.0%
Been hit by your boyfriend or girlfriend?	12.0%	9.5%	5.6%	7.4%	12.1%	7.4%	9.7%	9.5%	10.4%	8.5%	9.3%
Rec'd detention or in-school suspension?	33.8%	33.3%	24.6%	17.4%	36.9%	22.1%	30.9%	21.1%	32.8%	22.2%	26.8%
Been suspended from school?	19.2%	18.7%	10.3%	6.7%	27.1%	20.1%	15.5%	17.3%	19.7%	17.2%	18.3%
Stolen anything worth > $5?	16.3%	22.8%	9.3%	16.5%	13.2%	14.1%	9.0%	8.1%	11.3%	12.5%	12.0%
Had an accident while driving?	NA	18.9%	NA	12.2%	NA	5.9%	NA	6.6%	NA	8.4%	NA
Been arrested and booked?	5.5%	9.6%	2.4%	1.7%	5.1%	6.3%	1.9%	2.8%	3.5%	4.5%	4.1%
Felt hopeless for two weeks or more?	17.9%	15.7%	22.2%	32.4%	14.7%	12.3%	22.3%	21.9%	19.0%	19.1%	19.1%
Seriously considered attempting suicide?	8.0%	9.5%	9.4%	16.7%	5.1%	5.1%	6.0%	8.8%	6.2%	8.4%	7.5%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

Adolescence is often a time of taking risks and asserting independence from adults. When asked whether they would tell an adult about a problem, the following percentages of county students said they would be "not likely" or "very unlikely" to tell if they:

-heard a student threaten to harm someone: 37.1% middle school, 48.7% high school;
-saw a student with a handgun at school: 33.1% middle school, 33.8% high school;
-saw a student with a knife at school: 32.9% middle school, 39.9% high school;
-saw a student with drugs at school: 41.6% middle school, 61.2% high school;

Alcohol Use:* In the county during 2001-02, 23.9% of 7th and 8th graders and 30.6% of high schoolers said they had used alcohol in the past month. Of White males in grades 7 - 12, 39.4% had used it in the past month, compared with 24.0% of African-American males; likewise, 35.7% of White females said they had used alcohol, compared with 26.9% of African-American females. Many youth first used alcohol at an early age: 15.7% had used alcohol by age 11 or younger, 32.6% by age 13, and 57.2% by age 15.

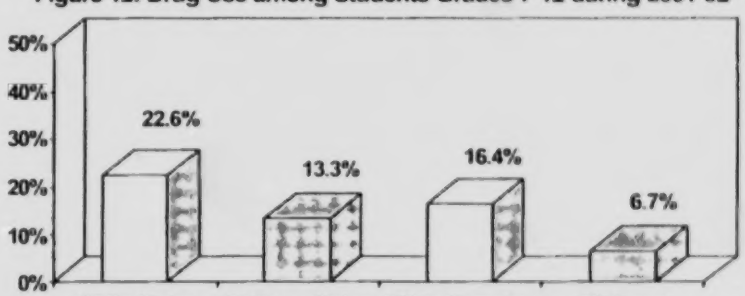
During the previous year, 20.7% of 7th and 8th graders and 25.7% of high schoolers said they had ridden with a drinking driver. Of seniors who drive, 15.2% said they had driven after drinking. Widespread use is encouraged by the ready availability and perceived low risk of alcohol use. Among students who expressed an opinion, 37.5% of eighth graders and 69.8% of seniors felt that beer was easy to get. Also, 65.3% of eighth graders and 62.3% of seniors felt there was not a great risk in drinking two drinks a day, and 43.6% of eighth graders and 50.3% of high schoolers felt there was not a great risk in drinking 5 drinks every weekend.

Heavy Drinking:* In 2001-02, 7.5% of 7th and 8th graders and 14.0% of high school students in the county repor drinking 5 or more drinks in a day during the past month. When asked how many drinks, if any, they usually consume, 9.(of all county students in grades 7 - 12 in 2001-02 responded 3 or more drinks at a time and 4.0% reported usually 5 or m drinks. Among high school students, 11.4% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 5.4% 5 or more. Amc seniors, 13.6% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 7.4% 5 or more; however 16.5% of seniors said t they drank 5 or more drinks in a day once or more during the past month.

Drugs:* In 2001-02, 7.2% of 7th and 8th graders and 14.3% of high schoolers in the county reported using ille drugs during the previous month. Among students in grades 7 - 12, use was reported by 22.6% of White males, 16.4% Wl females, 13.3% of African-American males, and 6.7% of African-American females. Some young people initiated drug (at an early age: 4.1% had experienced their first use by age 11 or sooner; 11.6% had used a drug by age 13, and 25.6% by a 15.

In the past year, 6.7% of all high school students in the county who drive and 7.9% of seniors who drive said that they had driven after using drugs. Such use is encouraged by the ready availability of drugs: 18.2% of 8th graders who had an opinion said it is easy to get marijuana and 7.4% said it is easy to get cocaine or crack; 58.8% of seniors said it is easy to get marijuana and 32.2% said it was easy to get cocaine or crack.

Figure 12: Drug Use among Students Grades 7-12 during 2001-02*



* County participation in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking was not complete but county data is presented to provide the best available picture of teen risk-taking attitudes and behavior in Orangeburg County.

Sexual Activity and Pregnancy: Many teenagers now engage in sexual activity. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) administered to a representative sample of high school students throughout South Carolina in 2001 showed that sexual activity begins at an early age: 7% of female and 21% of male students have engaged in intercourse before age 13; by age 15, 38% the females and 49% of males have engaged in sexual intercourse. Statewide, 48% of females and 50% of males in the 11th and 12th grades reported engaging in intercourse during the past three months. Furthermore, 27% of female and 33% of male 12th graders have had intercourse with four or more partners during their lifetimes.

Premature sexual activity often results in pregnancy. In the county, 153 girls between the ages of 14 and 17 became pregnant in 1999, 121 in 2000 and 95 in 2001. This represented 3.0% of all girls ages 14 – 17 in 2001; several times this percentage become pregnant at least once by age 18. The 2001 pregnancy rate for ages 14 - 17 was 1.9% for Whites and 3.3% for African-Americans and Others. Of all pregnancies of 14-17 year olds, 78.9% resulted in live births, with almost all other pregnancies ending in abortions.

Teen pregnancy rates increased substantially across the state during the 1980s; as a result, greater emphasis v devoted to preventing teen pregnancy. Since 1989, the teen pregnancy rate in Orangeburg County has decreased by 45.6 Overall, it has decreased by 42.4% for Whites, and decreased by 51.5% for African Americans and Others.

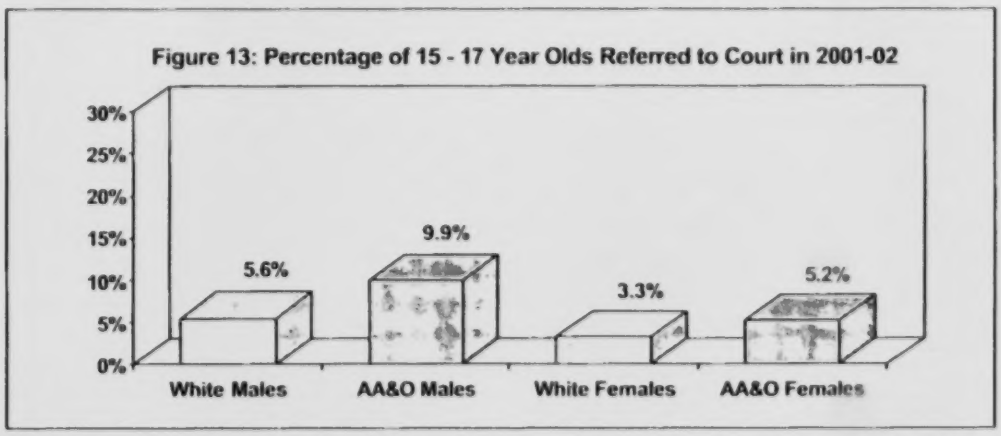
Juvenile Delinquency: In 2001-02, 719 individual juvenile offenders in the county were referred to the Solicitor for delinquency; of these, 26.6% were age 12 or younger, 28.4% were 13 or 14, and 45.1% were 15 or older.

Of the referrals to the family court, 6.2% of all referrals were for violent and serious crimes which include drug trafficking, acts against persons for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and serious property offenses for arson and burglary. Also, 225 juvenile cases constituting 20.6% of all referrals were for status offenses. Status offenses include truancy, running away, incorrigibility, and other offenses that would not be crimes for adults.

Delinquents are likely to live in families with low income: 50.0% lived in families with income under $10,000, 24.6% with $10,000-$19,999 and 25.4% with $20,000 or more. Furthermore, only 14.0% of delinquents lived with both natural parents, while 60.8% lived in a single parent household, 21.3% lived with other relatives, and 3.8% in other situations including parent plus step-parent. Delinquency or criminal activity occurs among many related family members: 37.7% had at least one family member who was delinquent or had some criminal record.

Youth referred to the family courts are likely to have been there before. In 2001-02, 56.6% had at least one prior referral and 22.8% had been referred to court 3 times or more. Many were referred at an early age. For delinquents 15 - 17 years old, 5.2% had been referred by the age of 10, 11.2% by the age of 12, and 26.6% by the age of 14.

During 2001-02, 321 youth ages 15 to 17 were referred to the family courts. In the county, 6.7% of all youth 15 to 17 were referred to court in one year and roughly double that percentage are referred at least once by age 18. Furthermore, the National Youth Survey indicates that typically across the United States the proportion of youth engaging in crime is two or three times the number ever apprehended. In 2001-02, there were 48 juveniles committed from the county to DJJ custody and placed in residential programs.



Not in School or Employed: During 2000, 685 teenagers ages 16-19 were idle, meaning they neither worked any hours nor were enrolled in school, even part-time. Idle teens comprised 10.6% of their age group: 7.7% for White and 11.5% African-American & Other teens. A much larger number, perhaps twice as many, were not engaged in either school full time or work full time. The data reflect a serious failure in both school completion and the critical transition from school to work, significantly affecting their development as future workers. For an in-depth description of the problems of young adults seeking to enter the labor force, visit our website at www.scyoungadults.org for our state and county reports on 18-29 year olds.

Deaths: During 1997-2001, 40 youth ages 15 to 19 died. Historically, automobile accidents have been the major cause, resulting in 11 deaths between 1996 and 2000; homicides killed 5 youth 15 to 19 years old during the five-year period, and 4 youth committed suicide. Alcohol use is often a significant factor in deaths among teenagers.

Summary

Facing the Scope of Problems: The data on families, economic status, health, readiness, school achievement, and adolescent risk behaviors provide a troublesome picture of the condition of children in Orangeburg County. The 40.3% of children in single-parent families, 27.6% in poverty, 35.6% not graduating from school, 30.6% of high school students using alcohol and 14.3% using drugs each month, and other data profiled in this report suggest that too many children are at risk of not growing up to become self-supporting adults, good family members, and responsible community citizens.

Emphasizing the Positive: South Carolina Kids Count reports have been developed to describe the problems of children in each of the counties. Fortunately, the majority of children and youth are doing well, and some very well. One simple description is the percentage of children who do not fall into the problem categories reported. For the county, 82.3% of children are born to non-teen mothers ages 20 or older, 44.3% are born to married parents, and 59.7% lived in two-parent families; 72.4% were not poor and 46.4% lived in families with incomes above twice the poverty level for a family of three, $30,040 in 2002; 87.4% of babies were born with normal birthweights; 86.7% were assessed as ready for the first grade, 42.5% scored basic or better on PACT for 8th grade math and 51.9% for 8th grade reading, 56.2% passed all parts of the Exit Exam in the 10th grade, and 64.4% graduated with their class. In a typical month, 69.4% of high school students do not drink alcohol, 85.7% do not use drugs, and 80.1% do not smoke. Unfortunately, the absence of a problem is not always an indicator of success. Some data is available for exemplary performance: for example, 28.2% of 3rd graders and 10.9% of 8th graders scored proficient or advanced on PACT in reading and 22.3% of 3rd graders and 5.6% of 8th graders in math. Unfortunately, data on success is not generally available.

Despite the limitations of success data, we must emphasize the positive in providing good support and appropriate influences for children and youth. Recent philosophy and publications such as those of the Search Institute (700 South Third Street, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN, 55415-1138, tel. 1-800-888-7828, www.search-institute.org), emphasize the critical importance of "developmental assets" to promote and support positive development. One short book from the Search Institute, (What Kids Need to Succeed, by Peter J. Benson, Judy Gailbraith, and Pamela Espeland, 1995) presents an excellent array of suggestions for promoting developmental assets through families, community, faith congregations, and schools. If each family, school, religious congregation and community organization assertively worked to build such assets, the problems described in this report would be reduced dramatically. Such positive family-school-community efforts could improve South Carolina's national Kids Count ranking from the bottom 10 to the average or even into the top 10 by prevention of unnecessary problems affecting children and youth, as shown on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

All data presented in this report is the most recent available at the date it goes to the printer. This version of the Kids Count report will be revised as more recent and additional data become available. Please send us your corrections and suggestions for improvement. We welcome your ideas for ways to make the state and county reports more useful and accurate. Please utilize local data sources whenever possible to supplement the profile provided through our report.

Data related inquiries should be directed to:

Anne Wilson, Data Manager (awilson@drss.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-4810

Calls for **copies of reports** for other counties and inquiries regarding more recent reports should be made to:

Kim Hazel-Lohr, Project Manager (khazel@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-1295

For **policy questions and general comments**, please contact:

Dr. A. Baron Holmes, Project Director (bholmes@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-2291

Comparable reports for all 46 counties and for the state can also be found on the World Wide Web at

www.sckidscount.org

Our website also provides: links to other websites for indicators in our report; high to low rankings for individual indicators; information on how to improve SC's national rank; and a glossary of definitions.

The national Kids Count Report can be found on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website at

www.aecf.org

Orangeburg County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Indicators	Most Recent Year	Number					Percent					R	
		1980*	1990*	Most Recent Data	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1998 Rank	199
Health													
Low Birth Weight	2001	131	145	159	+21.4%	+9.7%	8.7	9.9	12.6	44.5%	26.8%	24	
White babies	*2001*	*23*	*24*	*27*	*+17.4%*	*+12.5%*	*4.8*	*5.4*	*7.2*	*50.0%*	*34.1%*	*10*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*108*	*121*	*132*	*+22.2%*	*+9.1%*	*10.5*	*12.0*	*14.8*	*41.0%*	*24.0%*	*13*	
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	2001	513	696	385	+25.0%	-44.7%	34.2	47.7	30.5	-10.8%	-36.1%	12	
White babies	*2001*	*80*	*135*	*70*	*-12.5%*	*-48.1%*	*16.8*	*30.2*	*18.8*	*11.9%*	*-37.8%*	*2*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*433*	*561*	*315*	*-27.3%*	*-43.9%*	*42.2*	*55.4*	*35.4*	*-16.1%*	*-36.2%*	*5*	
Infant Mortality	2001	70	44	52	-25.7%	+18.2%	1.6	1.0	1.3	-18.2%	32.6%	20	
White babies	*2001*	*24*	*8*	*4*	*-83.3%*	*-50.0%*	*1.7*	*0.6*	*0.3*	*-80.4%*	*-43.3%*	*36*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*46*	*36*	*48*	*+4.3%*	*+33.3%*	*1.5*	*1.2*	*1.8*	*15.5%*	*49.0%*	*3*	
Family													
Births to mothers under 18	2001	173	104	76	-56.1%	-26.9%	11.5	7.1	6.0	-47.9%	-15.8%	41	
White babies	*2001*	*34*	*18*	*10*	*-70.6%*	*-44.4%*	*7.2*	*4.0*	*2.7*	*-62.3%*	*-33.0%*	*37*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*139*	*86*	*66*	*-52.5%*	*-23.3%*	*13.5*	*8.5*	*7.4*	*-45.2%*	*-12.7%*	*30*	
Births to mothers under 20	2001	350	249	224	-36.0%	-10.0%	23.3	17.1	17.7	-24.0%	3.7%	34	
White babies	*2001*	*74*	*67*	*49*	*-33.8%*	*+26.9%*	*15.6*	*15.0*	*13.1*	*15.9%*	*-12.6%*	*19*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*276*	*182*	*175*	*-36.6%*	*+3.8%*	*26.9*	*18.0*	*19.7*	*-26.8%*	*9.3%*	*25*	
Births to mothers with less than a high school education	2001	502	310	256	-49.0%	-17.4%	33.4	21.2	20.3	-39.3%	-4.5%	21	
White babies	*2001*	*133*	*85*	*69*	*-48.1%*	*-18.8%*	*28.0*	*19.0*	*18.5*	*-33.9%*	*-2.7%*	*21*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*369*	*225*	*187*	*-49.3%*	*-16.9%*	*35.9*	*22.2*	*21.0*	*-41.5%*	*5.5%*	*41*	
Births to single mothers****	2001	515	638	704	+36.7%	+10.3%	34.3	43.7	55.7	62.4%	27.4%	37	
White babies	*2001*	*30*	*70*	*91*	*+203.3%*	*+30.0%*	*6.3*	*15.7*	*24.4*	*286.3%*	*55.8%*	*20*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*485*	*568*	*613*	*+26.4%*	*+7.9%*	*47.2*	*56.1*	*68.9*	*45.8%*	*22.7%*	*25*	
Children in single parent families	2000	5,441	6,281	7,800	+43.4%	+24.2%	23.3	32.1	40.3	73.0%	25.6%	40	
White	*2000*	*968*	*991*	*1,174*	*+21.3%*	*+18.5%*	*10.0*	*13.3*	*18.2*	*82.4%*	*37.1%*	*22*	
African American and Other	*2000*	*4,447*	*5,261*	*6,626*	*+49.0%*	*+25.9%*	*31.8*	*43.6*	*51.3*	*61.4%*	*17.7%*	*41*	
Education													
Not Ready for Grade 1	2001	508	323	144	-71.7%	-55.4%	43.5	21.0	13.3	-69.4%	-36.7%	32	
White males	*2001*	*50*	*33*	*7*	*-86.0%*	*-78.8%*	*34.7*	*15.1*	*6.8*	*-80.4%*	*-55.0%*	*31*	
White females	*2001*	*29*	*15*	*7*	*-75.9%*	*-53.3%*	*21.0*	*8.1*	*6.4*	*-69.5%*	*-21.0%*	*22*	
African American and Other males	*2001*	*241*	*160*	*76*	*-68.5%*	*-52.5%*	*50.0*	*26.3*	*16.5*	*-67.0%*	*-37.3%*	*11*	
African American and Other females	*2001*	*188*	*115*	*54*	*-71.3%*	*-53.0%*	*46.6*	*21.8*	*13.2*	*-71.7%*	*-39.4%*	*23*	
Repeating Grades 1-3	2000	164	307	203	+23.8%	-33.9%	14.1	21.5	15.6	10.6%	-27.4%	13	
White males	*2000*	*19*	*30*	*17*	*-10.5%*	*-43.3%*	*12.2*	*15.5*	*12.6*	*3.3%*	*-18.7%*	*5*	
White females	*2000*	*11*	*14*	*17*	*+54.5%*	*+21.4%*	*7.8*	*7.8*	*12.3*	*57.7%*	*57.7%*	*13*	
African American and Other males	*2000*	*90*	*174*	*100*	*+11.1%*	*-42.5%*	*20.3*	*32.0*	*19.5*	*-3.9%*	*-39.1%*	*11*	
African American and Other females	*2000*	*44*	*89*	*69*	*+56.8%*	*-22.5%*	*10.8*	*17.7*	*13.6*	*25.9%*	*-23.2%*	*8*	
Grade 3 Math below standards****	2002	614	217	405	-34.0%	+86.6%	54.0	15.8	37.2	-31.1%	135.4%	42	
White males	*2002*	*61*	*22*	*32*	*-47.5%*	*+45.5%*	*39.3*	*12.1*	*31.7*	*-19.3%*	*162.0%*	*38*	
White females	*2002*	*58*	*14*	*25*	*-56.9%*	*+78.6%*	*38.4*	*8.2*	*25.5*	*-33.6%*	*211.0%*	*44*	
African American and Other males	*2002*	*265*	*91*	*189*	*-28.7%*	*+107.7%*	*63.7*	*17.8*	*41.1*	*-35.5%*	*130.9%*	*36*	
African American and Other females	*2002*	*228*	*90*	*159*	*-30.3%*	*+76.7%*	*55.5*	*17.6*	*37.1*	*-33.2%*	*110.8%*	*30*	
Grade 3 Reading below standards****	2002	546	178	338	-38.1%	+89.9%	47.9	13.0	31.1	-35.1%	139.2%	40	
White males	*2002*	*64*	*23*	*26*	*-59.4%*	*+13.0%*	*41.3*	*12.7*	*26.0*	*-37.0%*	*104.7%*	*42*	
White females	*2002*	*45*	*7*	*11*	*-75.6%*	*+57.1%*	*29.8*	*4.1*	*11.2*	*-62.4%*	*173.2%*	*42*	
African American and Other males	*2002*	*248*	*84*	*179*	*-27.8%*	*+113.1%*	*59.3*	*16.5*	*38.8*	*-34.6%*	*135.2%*	*27*	
African American and Other females	*2002*	*188*	*64*	*122*	*-35.1%*	*+90.6%*	*45.7*	*12.6*	*28.4*	*-37.9%*	*125.4%*	*31*	
Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT Grade 4	1998	349	537	382	+9.5%	-28.9%	41.9	41.9	34.3	-18.1%	-18.1%	37	
White males	*1998*	*37*	*50*	*31*	*-16.2%*	*-38.0%*	*29.1*	*30.7*	*23.5*	*-19.2%*	*-23.5%*	*36*	
White females	*1998*	*26*	*47*	*25*	*-3.8%*	*-46.8%*	*21.0*	*28.7*	*19.7*	*-6.2%*	*-31.4%*	*36*	
African American and Other males	*1998*	*162*	*248*	*165*	*+1.9%*	*-33.5%*	*53.3*	*51.3*	*42.1*	*-21.0%*	*-17.9%*	*27*	
African American and Other females	*1998*	*124*	*191*	*159*	*+28.2%*	*-16.8%*	*44.8*	*40.6*	*34.9*	*-22.1%*	*14.0%*	*35*	

*Year of data is approximate in many cases.
**1 is best, 46 is worst.
*** Data include paternity acknowledgements.
**** BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Orangeburg County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Education (continued)

Indicators		Number					Percent				
	Most Recent Year	1980*	1990*	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres
Grade 8 Math below state standards**	2002	978	309	516	-47.2%	+67.0%	80.4	29.2	57.5	-28.5%	96.9%
White males	*2002*	*102*	*41*	*49*	*-52.0%*	*+19.5%*	*57.6*	*25.2*	*45.8*	*-20.5%*	*81.7%*
White females	*2002*	*89*	*31*	*43*	*-51.7%*	*+38.7%*	*58.2*	*21.8*	*47.3*	*-18.7%*	*117.0%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*366*	*102*	*207*	*-43.4%*	*+102.9%*	*90.4*	*28.1*	*63.1*	*-30.2%*	*124.6%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*415*	*135*	*217*	*-47.7%*	*+60.7%*	*87.5*	*34.7*	*58.3*	*-33.4%*	*68.0%*
Grade 8 Reading below state standards**	2002	831	250	432	-48.0%	+72.8%	68.0	23.6	48.1	-29.3%	103.8%
White males	*2002*	*91*	*42*	*44*	*-51.6%*	*+4.8%*	*51.1*	*25.6*	*41.5*	*-18.8%*	*62.1%*
White females	*2002*	*53*	*18*	*19*	*-64.2%*	*+5.6%*	*34.6*	*12.7*	*20.9*	*-39.6%*	*64.6%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*336*	*94*	*190*	*-43.5%*	*+102.1%*	*82.6*	*26.0*	*57.9*	*-29.9%*	*122.7%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*346*	*96*	*179*	*-48.3%*	*+86.5%*	*72.7*	*24.7*	*48.0*	*-34.0%*	*94.3%*
Grade 9 Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT	1998	NA	509	638	NA	+25.3%	NA	40.1	44.8	NA	11.7%
White males	*1998*	*NA*	*50*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*28.7*	*24.7*	*NA*	*-13.9%*
White females	*1998*	*NA*	*27*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*16.1*	*20.0*	*NA*	*24.2%*
African American and Other males	*1998*	*NA*	*234*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*49.7*	*56.2*	*NA*	*13.1%*
African American and Other females	*1998*	*NA*	*195*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*43*	*47.4*	*NA*	*10.2%*
Exit Exam (not passing all parts on 1st attempt)	2002	717	415	396	-44.8%	-4.6%	65.1	43.1	43.8	-32.7%	1.6%
White males	*2002*	*66*	*31*	*22*	*-66.7%*	*-29.0%*	*50.0*	*25.8*	*25.3*	*-49.4%*	*-1.9%*
White females	*2002*	*56*	*29*	*14*	*-75.0%*	*-51.7%*	*37.6*	*20.0*	*16.7*	*-55.6%*	*-16.5%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*296*	*181*	*173*	*-41.6%*	*-4.4%*	*73.5*	*53.9*	*57.9*	*-21.2%*	*7.4%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*299*	*172*	*183*	*-38.8%*	*+6.4%*	*71.7*	*48.0*	*42.8*	*-40.3%*	*-10.8%*
Dropout Rate (8th graders no longer enrolled in 12th grade 4 years later)	2000-02	351	324	536	+52.8%	+65.3%	26.6	26.2	38.3	43.8%	46.2%
White males	*2000-02*	*66*	*59*	*76*	*+15.7%*	*+29.4%*	*36.6*	*33.0*	*44.9*	*22.8%*	*36.2%*
White females	*2000-02*	*65*	*45*	*64*	*-0.3%*	*+44.6%*	*37.2*	*27.6*	*38.7*	*4.0%*	*39.9%*
African American and Other males	*2000-02*	*149*	*147*	*246*	*+65.3%*	*+68.1%*	*29.6*	*32.2*	*45.3*	*53.0%*	*40.7%*
African American and Other females	*2000-02*	*71*	*74*	*149*	*+109.4%*	*+100.9%*	*15.4*	*16.7*	*28.6*	*86.2%*	*71.2%*
Young Adults Not Completing High School (18-24)	2000	3,060	2,232	1,621	-47.0%	-27.4%	25.3	20.9	15.7	-37.8%	-24.8%
White males	*NA*	*631*	*400*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*35.6*	*31.3*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
White females	*NA*	*527*	*341*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*28.5*	*24.7*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other males	*NA*	*1,039*	*796*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*28.0*	*21.3*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other females	*NA*	*863*	*695*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*18.1*	*16.2*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*

Economics

Poverty Rate	2000	8,953	7,653	6,490	-27.5%	-15.2%	34.3	32.5	27.6	-19.5%	-15.1%
White children	*2000*	*1,222*	*874*	*668*	*-45.3%*	*-23.6%*	*12.8*	*11.2*	*9.6*	*-25.0%*	*-14.3%*
African American and Other children	*2000*	*7,713*	*6,779*	*5,822*	*-24.5%*	*-14.1%*	*46.8*	*43.1*	*35.1*	*-25.0%*	*-18.6%*
Income of Families w/children (1999 $)	2000	$ 35,752	$ 36,950	$ 41,669	+16.5%	+12.8%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
White families	*2000*	*$ 45,030*	*$ 49,038*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other families	*2000*	*$ 27,875*	*$ 28,862*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*

Adolescent Risk Factors

Teenage Pregnancy (ages 14-17)	2001	232	157	95	-59.1%	-39.5%	6.2	5.1	3.0	-51.6%	-41.2%
White	*2001*	*51*	*30*	*15*	*-70.6%*	*-50.0%*	*4.4*	*3.4*	*1.9*	*-57.1%*	*-44.1%*
African American and Other	*2001*	*181*	*127*	*80*	*-55.8%*	*-37.0%*	*7.0*	*5.7*	*3.3*	*-52.8%*	*-42.1%*
Delinquency	2002	100	153	321	+221.0%	+109.8%	1.9	3.4	6.7	250.5%	95.9%
White males	*2002*	*23*	*21*	*35*	*+52.2%*	*+66.7%*	*2.6*	*2.5*	*5.6*	*113.7%*	*122.2%*
White females	*2002*	*13*	*20*	*19*	*+46.2%*	*-5.0%*	*1.6*	*2.5*	*3.3*	*108.3%*	*33.3%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*55*	*76*	*168*	*+205.5%*	*+121.1%*	*3.3*	*5.3*	*9.9*	*199.5%*	*86.5%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*9*	*36*	*99*	*+1000.0%*	*+175.0%*	*0.5*	*2.6*	*5.2*	*936.6%*	*99.4%*

*Closest available data to this year was used in many cases.
**BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Kids Count 2003

Pickens County

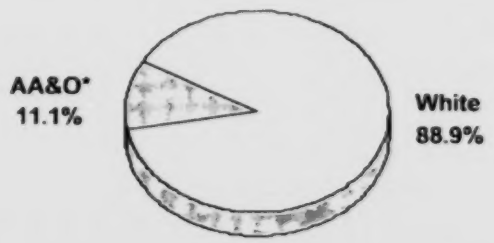
DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2000 there were an estimated 24,692 children under age 18 in the county. Of these, 21,949 were White, 1,935 were African-American, and 808 were other races. There were 20,778 children under age 18 in 1990, 20,916 in 1980, 18,626 in 1970, and 17,477 in 1960.

Children represent a shrinking portion of the county's population. Those under 18 constituted 22.3% of the population in 2000, down from 38.0% in 1960, 31.6% in 1970, and 26.4% in 1980.

In 2000 the 8,024 pre-schoolers under age 6 were 7.2% of the overall population: 7.0% of Whites and 8.0% of African Americans.

Figure 1: Population Ages 0-17 in 2000



* In all charts African-American is combined with other races, and often abbreviated as AA&O. Other races comprise 3.3% of children in the county, with "two or more races" at 1.4% and "some other race alone" at 0.9% as the largest Other groups.

FAMILY

Families have always been the most important influence in a child's life. Children depend on their families for material needs, stimulation and guidance. Family life is different in numerous ways from previous generations, and many families now face exceptional challenges.

Families with children now make up a smaller share of all households. Only 31.2% of all households in 2000, as compared with 46.0% of households in 1960, had children below the age of 18.

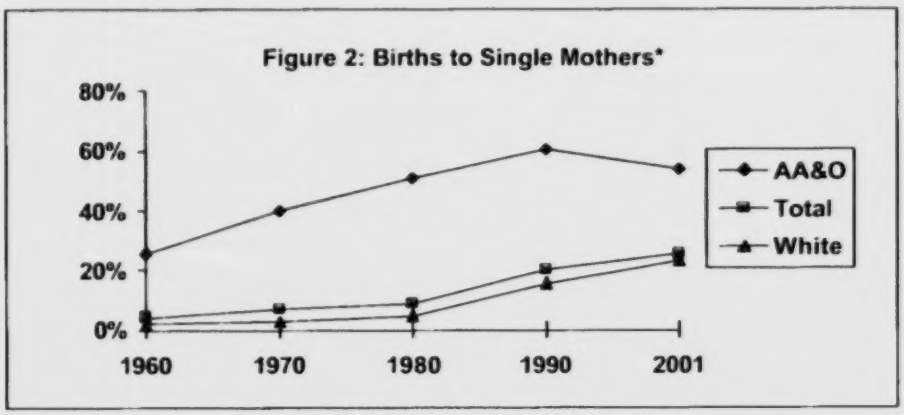
Births to Teen Mothers: In 2001, 51 babies were born to mothers younger than age 18. They were 3.8% of all babies born in the county; 4.0% of all White and 1.0% of all African-American and Other babies were born to teen mothers under the age of 18. Of the babies born to these teens in 2001, 74.5% were born to single mothers, including babies whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers.

In 2001, 177 babies were born to mothers younger than age 20. These babies were 13.1% of all born in the county; 13.0% of all White and 13.4% of all African-American and Other babies were born to mothers under the age of 20. Of the babies born to these mothers in 2001, 59.9% were born to single mothers, including paternity acknowledeged babies.

Education of Mothers Giving Birth: Children's success is strongly influenced by the education of their parents. In 2001, 340 babies, 25.1% of all babies, were born to mothers of all ages who had not completed the 12th grade. In 2001, 25.3% of White and 22.7% of African-American and Other babies were born to mothers who had completed less than the 12th grade. This is a substantial improvement from 44.0% in 1970. In addition, during 2001, 33.7% had completed 12 grades (32.9% of Whites and 43.3% of African Americans and Others) and 41.3% had more than a high school degree (41.8% of Whites and 34.0% of African American and Others).

Births to Single Mothers: Births to single mothers have increased steadily over four decades. In 2001, 147 babies, 10.8% of all babies, were recorded as born to single mothers. A decade earlier in 1990, the percentage was 17.0% and in 1960 it was 4.3%. In 2001, 9.3% of White children and 30.9% of African-American and Other children were born to single mothers. These numbers, however, do not include paternity acknowlegement births.

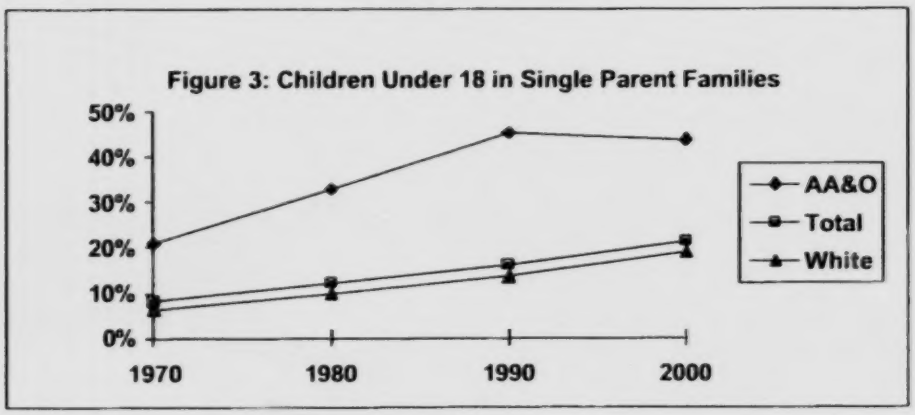
Thus, to these numbers should be added an additional group of 197 babies, 14.5% of all born in 2001, whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers. When the paternity-acknowledged babies are added, the total number born to single mothers in 2001 was 344, constituting 25.4% of all babies, 23.2% of White babies, and 53.6% of African-American and Others.



*Includes paternity acknowleged babies in 1980, 1990 and 2001. Prior to 1979, paternity acknowleged cases were not a statistical category, and thus were included in births to single mothers.

Divorce Rate: In 2001, 755 marriage licenses were issued, while 497 divorce decrees involving 438 children were filed. In 1970, only 159 children were in families involved in divorce.

Single-Parent Family: Increasing numbers of children live in single-parent families. In 2000, 4,813 children lived with only one parent. This was 21.4% of all children, up from 16.2% in 1990, 12.2% in 1980, and 8.0% in 1970. In 2000, 18.9% of White and 43.8% of African-American and Other children lived in single-parent families. Also in 2000, 1,406 or 19.1% of children under age 6 lived in single parent families: 16.2% of White and 41.6% of African American and Other pre-schoolers.



Parents Working and Child Care: Increasingly, parents must divide their time between children and employers. In order to meet family financial needs, most parents must work and thus have less time for family life. In 2000, 64.2% of mothers with children under 6 and 73.0% with children 6 - 17 were in the labor force. This has increased substantially from 1960 when 41.5% of mothers with children under 6 were in the labor force. Most fathers also work: 62.1% of children under 6 are in families where the single parent or both parents work. Caring for children is a problem for parents unable to obtain quality, affordable daycare while they are at work.

Overall, there are 2,920 spaces in state-regulated childcare facilities* in the county, 88.9% of these are in licensed programs and 11.1% are in registered programs. Of the spaces, 75.2% are in licensed childcare centers serving more than 12 children, 9.9% are in registered or licensed family childcare homes serving six or fewer children, 4.1% are in licensed group childcare homes serving 7-12 children, and 10.8% are in registered or licensed church programs.

The homes and centers are severely constrained by the limited ability of parents to pay. In the county, the average weekly charge is $ 83.92 for centers and $ 70.31 for homes. Consequently, center wages are low: 20% of centers with pre-school staff and 33.3% of centers with assistant pre-school staff report paying these staff under $6 per hour. Paying $6-$8 per hour are 60% of centers with pre-school staff and 33.3% of centers with assistants. Low wages attract workers with limited education. In 33.3% of centers, most pre-school staff and in 50% of centers most assistants have only a high school degree. In 26.7% of centers few to none of the pre-school staff have early childhood credentials. In childcare homes, 70.6% of lead providers have no more education than a high school degree or GED; 20.6% have less than a high school degree.

Family Violence: In 2000, 641 domestic assaults were recorded by law enforcement officials. These domestic assaults comprised 42.6% of all assaults, which include aggravated assaults, simple assaults, and intimidation. Overall, 57.3% of all domestic assaults involve spouse abuse which constitutes 31.0% of all assaults. Since most family violence is not reported, the true incidence of family disruption is much more widespread than even the large number of reported cases would indicate.

Separation from Parents: Some children do not live with their natural parents. In 2000, 4.7% of all children did not live with their natural parents. Approximately 674 or 2.7% of all children lived with relatives, 393 or 1.6% lived with non-relatives, 53 or 0.2% were householders or spouses, and 42 or 0.2% were in institutional facilities.

Abuse and Neglect: In 2000-01, there were 386 investigations into reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children. Through its investigations, the Department of Social Services (DSS) determined that 205 of the investigations were indicated for abuse or neglect: 15.2% for physical abuse, 9.4% for sexual abuse, 2.1% for mental injury, 26.2% for physical neglect, 6.3% for educational neglect, 0.0% for medical neglect, 40.3% for threat of harm for physical/sexual abuse, and 0.5% for other types of abuse.

In the indicated cases of abuse and neglect, DSS determined there were 222 children who were victims of abuse or neglect. Of these, 46.8% were male, 53.2% were female; 86.5% were White, 13.5% were African-American and Other. By age, 32.9% were ages 0 - 5, 41.4% were ages 6 - 12, and 25.7% were ages 13 - 17. In the indicated cases, 26.1% of the children lived in two-parent families, 27.0% in single parent families, 14.9% with unmarried couples, and 32.0% in other circumstances.

Out of Home Placements: As of June 2001, 75 children lived in foster care. The median age at first placement in the county is 7.7 years. The ages of children in foster care were 17.3% 0-2, 13.3% 3-5, 28.0% 6-10, 9.3% 11-13, and 32.0% 14 and above. The foster care population is 56.0% males and 44.0% females. Regarding their future, 29.3% were under a plan for placement in adoptive homes, 36.0% for return to a parent or guardian, 10.7% for placement with a relative, 17.3% for independent living, 5.3% for permanent foster care, and 1.3% for other circumstances.

Adult/Child Ratio: A measure of potential adult attention for children from family and community is the ratio of adults to children and youth. In 2000 there were 3.49 adults for every person below age 18. This was up substantially from 1960, when there were only 1.63 adults for every person under the age 18. This indicates that today there are more adults potentially available to provide attention and care for each child than in the past.

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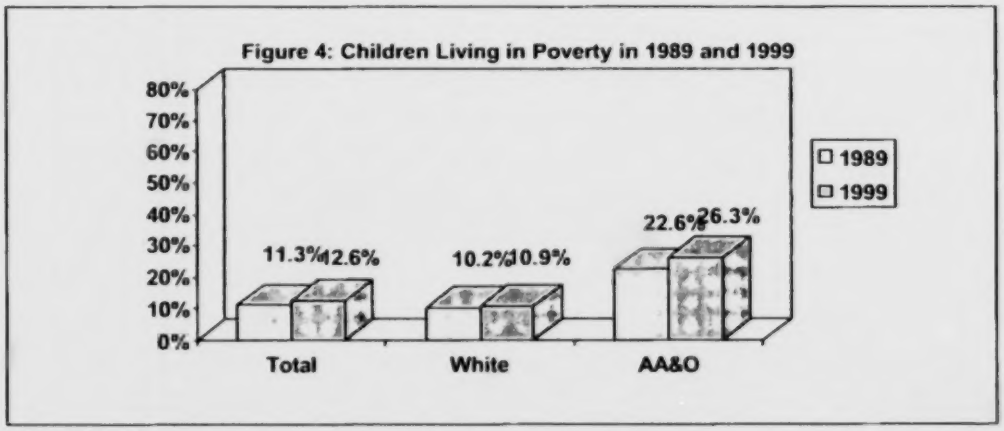
* This data is the best currently available; however, an effort is being made to check the coverage and improve the accuracy. As soon as more recent and complete data becomes available, it will be posted on the website.

ECONOMIC STATUS

Low income makes it difficult for many families to provide the material and environmental enrichment necessary for healthy child development.

Poverty: In 1999, 3,075 children and youth under the age of 18 lved in 1,494 families with incomes below poverty, comprising 12.6% of all children and youth: 10.9% of Whites and 26.3% of African-Americans and Others. A rough estimate of child poverty in 2001 calculated by the Census Bureau was 23.0%.



Poverty has always been a serious problem. While the rate among children under age 18 in 1989 was 11.3%, it was 10.5% in 1979 and 14.3% in 1969.

Children and the elderly are the age groups most seriously affected by poverty. In 1999, 14.1% of children 0 - 5 (12.3% White, 25.8% African-American and Other), and 11.3% of children 6 - 17 (9.7% White, 25.8% African-Americ an and Other), lived in poverty; 11.7% of persons 65 years and older lived in poverty. Historically, the poverty rate among the elderly was much higher. During the last three decades, federal policy actions have substantially improved the economic status of older persons but have not done so for children.

Single-parent families are most likely to be poor. In 1999, 33.2% of children in single-parent families lived in poverty, but only 6.3% of children in married-couple families were poor. Children in single-parent families made up 64.5% of all the county's children living in poverty.

In 2002, the poverty level was $15,020 for a family of three and $18,100 for a family of four. The poverty threshold is often criticized as an arbitrary number. People can still be poor but may be just above the poverty level. Federal programs utilize varying thresholds. For example, in 1999 there were 8,544 children ages 0-17 who were less than 200 percent of poverty; thus an additional 5,469 children were above the poverty level but could still be considered poor or near-poor with incomes below $30,040 and $36,200 respectively for 3 and 4 person families.

Children Under 18 in Poverty in 1999

Percent of Poverty	Total		White		African American & Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 50%	1,381	5.7%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 100%	3,075	12.6%	2,379	10.9%	696	26.3%
Under 125%	4,353	17.9%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 150%	5,750	23.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 175%	7,109	29.2%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 185%	7,713	31.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 200%	8,544	35.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total Children	24,692		21,949		2,743	

Note: Missing data will be released by the Census Bureau later in 2003, and will be posted on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

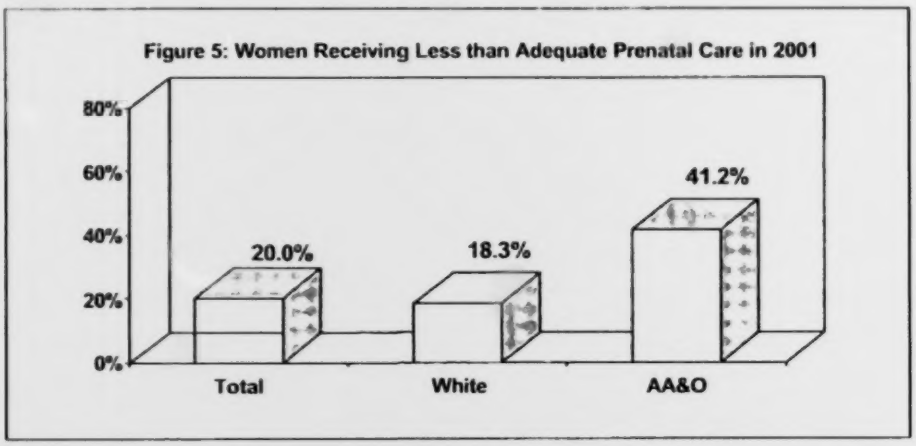
Income: The mean income of families with children in 1999 was $50,447. In 1989 it was $48,065, and 1979, it was $44,450, adjusted for inflation (i.e., in 1999 dollars). The mean income of single-parent families with children was $24,921 for single parents in 1999, as compared with $57,975 in married-couple families with children. From 1999 to 2000, Pickens County real dollar per capita income (eliminating inflation) increased by 1.7%.

Child Support Payments: There were 312[7] families receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families in fiscal year 2002, but only 15.7 % had child support court orders. Their average monthly payment of child support was $ 294, including child support receipts and tax refund intercepts. In addition, during fiscal year 2002, an estimated 764 parents in non-TANF families were obligated to pay a monthly average of $ 250. Information is not available regarding the amount actually paid.

HEALTH

Good health during a child's formative years helps children to reach their maximum potential. Good health requires healthy lifestyles and effective primary care, starting during the prenatal period and continuing through adolescence into adulthood. Children's health reflects the well-being of the community, as well as how adequately they are protected.

Prenatal Care: Early and continuous prenatal care can make a significant difference in assuring births of healthy babies. Delayed or insufficient prenatal care is associated with low birthweight and other health risks for infants. In 2001, 228, or 16.8% of pregnant women received no prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy. In 2001, 271, or 20.0% of pregnant women received less than adequate prenatal care: 231 or 18.3% of Whites and 40 or 41.2% of African-Americans and Others. In that same year, 10 women received no prenatal care at all.



Low Birthweight: Low birthweight of less than 5.5 pounds and very low birthweight of less than 3.3 pounds are associated with health risks and growth and development problems. In 2001, 95 or 7.0% of all babies in the county were born with low birthweight: 14.4% of African-American and Other babies and 6.4% of White babies. During 1999-2001, approximately 43 or 1.1% of all babies were born with very low birthweight and had the most serious complications: 1.1% of White babies and 1.3% of African-American and Other babies. The cost of hospitalization for each newborn low birthweight baby in the county in 1999 - 2001 was $16,210 and $142,598 for each very low birthweight baby, compared with $1,669 for a baby of normal birthweight. The result was excess cost in the county of $2,646,715 for all low birthweight babies, of which $1,973,000 was for very low birthweight babies.

Infant Mortality: During the decade since 1989-91, the overall infant mortality rate decreased by 45.0% from 9.5 to 5.2 per 1000 live births. For Whites, the rate decreased 41.0% from 9.1 to 5.4 per 1000 live births, while for African-Americans and Others the rate decreased 74.3% from 12.2 to 3.1 per 1000 live births. Over the three-year period 1999-2001, 20 White and 1 African-American and Other infants died before age one. By comparison, 31 White and 5 African-American and Other infants died during 1989-91.

[7] Number is an unduplicated count for the entire fiscal year.

Child Injuries and Deaths: Childhood deaths and injuries reflect whether communities are safe for children. In 2001, children in the Pickens County went to the emergency room 3,175 times because of injuries. Boys are injured more often than girls. Children visit the emergency room at comparable rates for each age from 0 to 17.

In South Carolina, the major causes of death among young children are unintentional injuries, cancer, homicide, and congenital anomalies. Over the three year period 1999-2001, 19 White and 3 African-American and Other children ages 1-14 died in the county. During 1989-91, 23 White and 3 African-American and Other children died.

Immunization: Immunization rates are an important indication of whether young children are receiving adequate preventive health care. During FY 1989-90, 54.2% of children less than two years old seen in public health clinics were not fully immunized against such preventable diseases as Polio, Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Haemophilus Influenza B and Whooping Cough. After a concerted statewide campaign to increase immunizations, the percentage of children seen in public health clinics who were not fully immunized in January 2001 had declined in the county to 11.9%. The DHEC statewide birth registry survey of all two year old children found that 88.1% were fully immunized in 2001. This success demonstrates the potential to improve the status of children when the leadership of the state and its communities act decisively together.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Children and youth are infected with sexually transmitted diseases through sexual abuse or irresponsible sexual activity. National prevalence rates indicate: a 1 in 8 chance that sexually active 15 year-old girls will develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), the most rapidly increasing cause of infertility; 10% of sexually active adolescent girls and boys are infected with chlamydia, the most common cause of PID; and as many as 15% of teen girls are infected with human papilloma virus, often with strains linked to cervical cancer. Furthermore, research evidence indicates that susceptibility to HIV/AIDS increases by 3 to 8 times through prior infection with various STDs.

According to national studies, approximately 1 in 4 sexually experienced youth aged 13-19 acquires a STD ever year; since two-thirds of all high school students have had sexual intercourse and half engage in intercourse over a three month period, this would suggest that 10-15% of teens are infected with STDs annually. For 2000, this would indicate that an estimated 1,296 to 1,944 youth ages 13-19 in the county were infected with a STD. Many infections are either not identified for treatment or not reported. In the county, there were 1 reported cases of children under age 15 and 11 youth ages 15 - 19 infected with gonorrhea; 2 youth under 15 and 26 ages 15 - 19 were reported infected with chlamydia. Youth with undiagnosed and untreated STDs often spread their infections.

Healthy Lifestyles: Although no county data is available, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2001 found that many high school students are not following good health habits. The YRBS revealed that 26% felt that they were overweight; 42% were trying to lose weight: 27% of boys and 57% of girls. Although during a week 79% of high school students ate fruit, 59% ate salad, and over 83% ate vegetables, only 17% ate the recommended five or more servings of fruit and vegetables per day. During a week, 49% did stretching or muscle strengthening exercises, and 59% exercised three or more times for 20 minutes in sports that made them sweat or breathe hard. However, 11% of students engaged in no vigorous or moderate activity at all during a week: 8% of boys and 13% of girls.

Tobacco Use:* Cigarette smoking starts at a young age and often becomes habitual. In the county during 2002 among all students 15 and older, 15.8% first smoked by age 11, 33.0% by age 13, and 48.6% by age 15. In a typical month, 14.3% of 7th and 8th graders and 22.8% of high school students smoked cigarettes. White youths were much more likely than African-Americans to smoke: 19.3% of White male and 19.0% of White female 7th to 12th graders used cigarettes, as compared with 13.6% of African-American males and 17.2% of African American females. A smaller but significant group of high school students (9.8%) used smokeless tobacco monthly; it was used primarily by White males (19.1% compared with 1.8% of all other race and sex groups).

* Data is from the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking.

Disabilities: No data are collected on the true prevalence of disabilities within the county. According to national reported estimates, over 10% of children and youth have developmental disabilities at any point in time, and more than 17 are affected at some time before age 18 by deafness, blindness, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, speech defects, development delays, learning disabilities, and emotional or behavioral problems. For 2000 this suggests that at least 2,469 children ar youth under age 18 in the county are currently affected by disabilities.

Approximately 5% of children and youth nationally have serious disabilities which have lifelong implications fi work, social life and community living. Typically among children and youth, there are 1 - 2% who are mentally retarded, - 3% with serious emotional disturbances, over 1% with orthopedic or multiple disabilities, including cerebral palsy an many hereditary conditions, and under 1% with visual or hearing impairments.

Other chronic health problems also affect the lives of many children. Over 3% of children have one or more these limitations. Such serious chronic conditions affect 1 - 2% who have respiratory problems (asthma and chron bronchitis), 0.5 - 1.0% with neurological problems (epilepsy and seizures), and less than 1% with circulatory problen (congenital heart defects and acquired diseases).

Other disabilities are identified primarily in school performance. These would include 1,152 students in grades 12 with learning disabilities and 334 students in grades 1-12 with speech/language deficits.

Disabilities are caused by genetics, disease, poor prenatal conditions, injuries, and environmental factors. For example, lead exposure, primarily from paint dust, was detected in over 1% of all children screened, including 3 in Pickens County.

Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: While over 20% of 9-17 year olds meet diagnostic criteria for some form of mental disorder, the number with serious emotional disturbance and impaired functioning in family, school, or community activities is: 9-13% for substantial functional impairment and 5-9% for extreme functional impairment. The rates among poor children are at the higher end of these ranges. Based on a federal formula for estimating prevalence, in the county there are 12% or 1,493 seriously emotionally disturbed 9-17 year olds with substantial functional impairment and 8% or 996 with extreme functional impairment during the course of a year. Conduct disorders, attention deficit, depression, and anxiety disorders are the most prevalent, each affecting 3% or more of school-aged children. These disorders may occur simultaneously in a child. The prevalence rates are highest among males, adolescents, and disadvantaged persons in communities under stress and lacking social cohesion; depression, however, is more prevalent among females. On the YRBS, 20% of boys and 33% of girls in high school reported that during the past year they felt so sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that they stopped doing some usual activities. Another indicator of emotional problems is the 8% of high school students in South Carolina who reported that they had "attempted suicide" in the past year: 5% of boys and 10% of girls. Suicide attempts resulted in 4% of high school students reporting that they required treatment by a doctor or nurse for injury, poisoning, or overdose.

Inadequate Healthcare: No county level data is routinely collected regarding the number of children and youth with inadequate healthcare. According to estimates for 2000-02 by the Bureau of the Census through the annual Current Population Survey, the statewide average rate of uninsured children and youth under age 18 in families with incomes under 200% of poverty in South Carolina was 16.6%, and 9.9% above 200% of poverty. If these rates are applied to the county, there are 1,420 children in the county below 200% of poverty with no health insurance, and 1,602 children above 200% of poverty with no health insurance, for a total of 3,023 uninsured children in Pickens County. The number lacking basic accessible primary care is at least double the number lacking insurance. Those lacking primary care are often dependent on health services at school. The ratio of students to nurses recommended nationally is 750:1. In the county, this would suggest the need for 21 nurses, compared with 13 currently working in the schools.

Medicaid: For several years, the State of South Carolina has emphasized enrolling eligible children into Medicaid. In late 1997, South Carolina implemented its version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, Partners for Healthy Children (PHC), and aggressively pursued outreach enrollment for PHC and Medicaid. As a result, enrollment of children ages 0 through 18 in Pickens County has increased by 106.3% from June 1997 to June 2001; thus Medicaid and PHC were serving 29.5% of all children in that age range. The total Medicaid expenditures in South Carolina for services provided to children ages 0 through 18 for state fiscal year 2002 were $991 million, at an average statewide expenditure of $2,343 per child enrolled, approximate Medicaid expenditure for children in the county would be $17.1 million.

In June 2001, the total number of Pickens County children, birth through 18, enrolled in Medicaid was 7,282. The total can be broken down into the following age and race groupings:

	White	African American	Hispanic	Other	Total
Children under 1	520	71	34	16	641
Children 1 - 5	1,799	306	56	84	2,245
Children 6 - 14	2,689	470	65	94	3,318
Children 15 - 18	911	144	8	15	1,078
Total	5,919	991	163	209	7,282

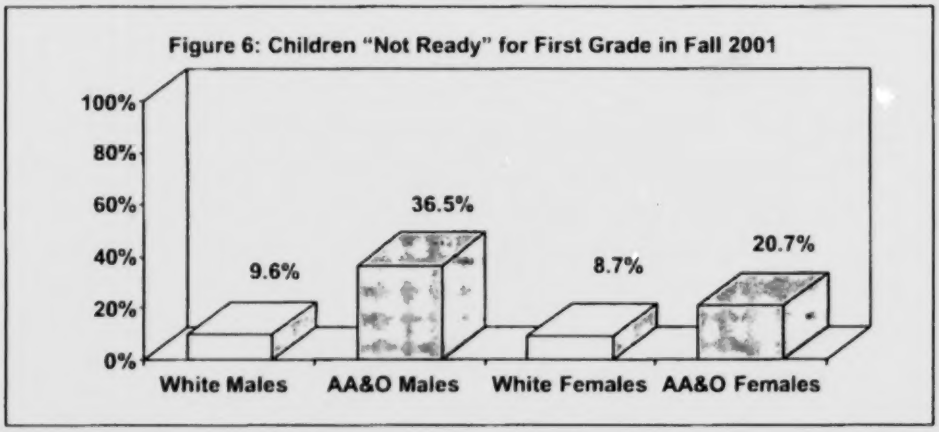
Ambulatory Care: When children lack adequate primary care, whether through lack of insurance, through limit access, or through failing to utilize available care, preventable and treatable conditions become serious and requi hospitalization. A useful indicator of inadequate primary care is the percentage of all hospitalizations that could typical have been avoided through ambulatory care, especially for pneumonia, asthma, diarrhea and vomiting, dehydration, a severe ear, nose, and throat infections. The share of hospitalizations for these types of conditions could normally be ke below 20%; for children in the county under the age of 18 during 2001, the share was 20.2% for Whites and 27.9% f African-Americans and Others.

READINESS AND EARLY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Too many children reach school without the readiness skills needed for success in learning, such as language, soc skills, visual and auditory discrimination, memory recall, and knowledge of colors, letters, numbers, names of objects, e Likewise, some schools are not ready to respond appropriately to the varying developmental levels of children in the ea grades. As a result, too many students do not experience the success needed to create the motivation and engagement th sustain learning.

1st Grade "Readiness" on 2001-02 Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB):

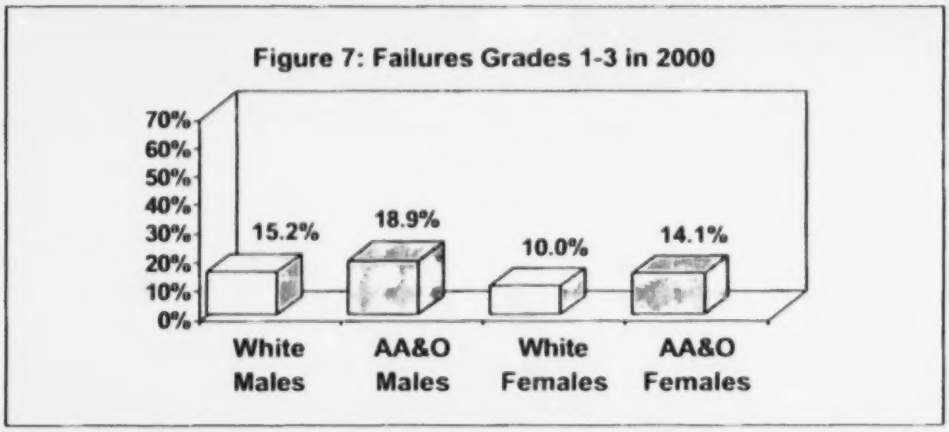
142 children not ready 11.6% children not ready



1st Grade Failures in 2002:

71 children failing 5.7% children failing

Failures Grades 1-3 in 2002 (approximate cumulative percentage of grades one, two and three):	
150 children failing	11.9% children failing



Over-age for Grade 3 in 2001	
238 children over-age	19.4% children over-age

Special Education: Large numbers of children are placed in special education classes. In elementary school, 324 six and seven year olds and 339 eight and nine year-olds were enrolled in special education classes during 2001-02, approximately 12.9% and 13.3% of their age groups respectively: 13.1% of White 8 – 9 year olds were in special education and 14.7% of African American and Others.

Readiness Summary: A serious problem exists in terms of student readiness and school success in the early grades. With 11.6% assessed not ready for the 1st grade, 19.4% over age in grade 3, and 13.3% of eight and nine year-olds placed in special education, unacceptably large numbers of students still begin school without good prospects of success in future school achievement and graduation; however, great improvement has occurred since the mid 1990s.

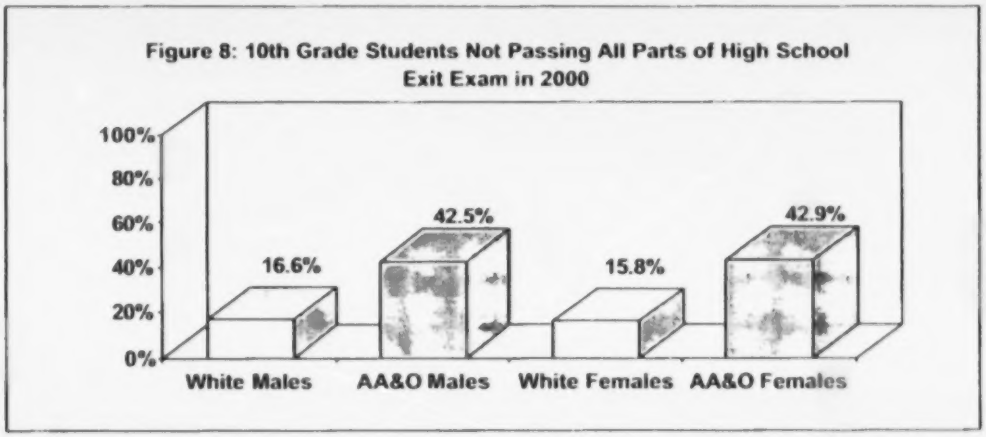
School Achievement

By the end of elementary school, significant numbers of students perform below minimum standards. The following standardized test measures, comparing student performance to state minimum standards, should be used in combination with routine classroom assessments more reflective of real-world performance skills.

Special Education: Special education placements reflect both the significant number of children with serious handicapping conditions and a large number of students with mild learning and behavioral problems that have not been accommodated successfully by the regular educational program. The result is a large system of self-contained, resource, and itinerant services to meet the needs of 334 speech and language impaired, 1,152 learning disabled, 131 emotionally disabled, 298 mentally impaired, and 218 physically handicapped, deaf, blind, and other handicapped students. Special education classes served approximately 13.5% of all students in grades 1 - 12 during 2001-2002.

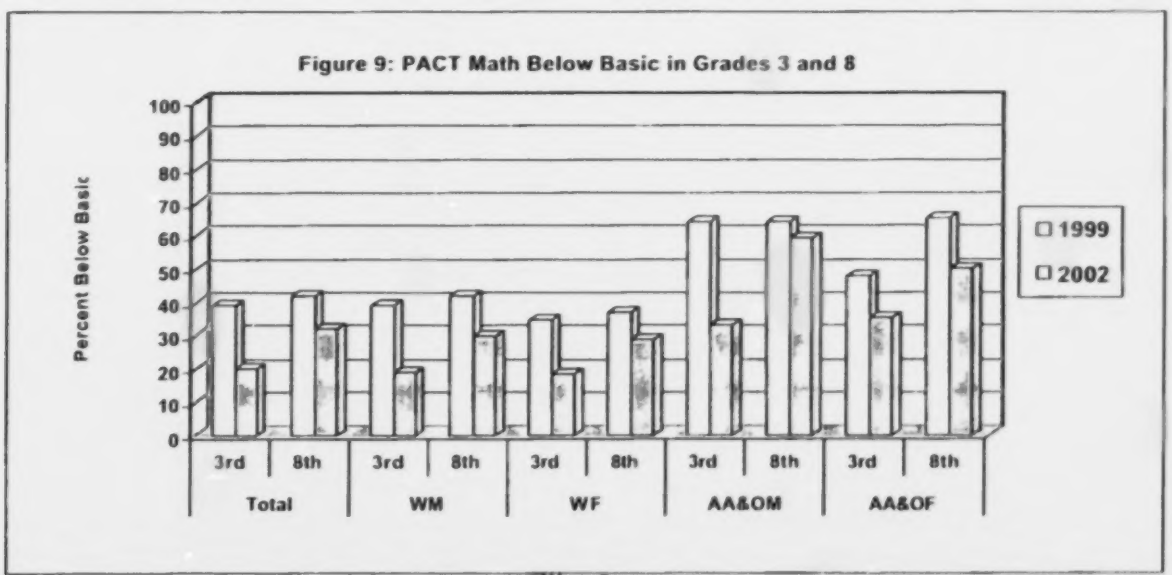
Exit Exam - not passing all parts of Exit Exam on first attempt in the 10th grade in 2002

158 students did not pass all parts | 18.2% of students did not pass all parts



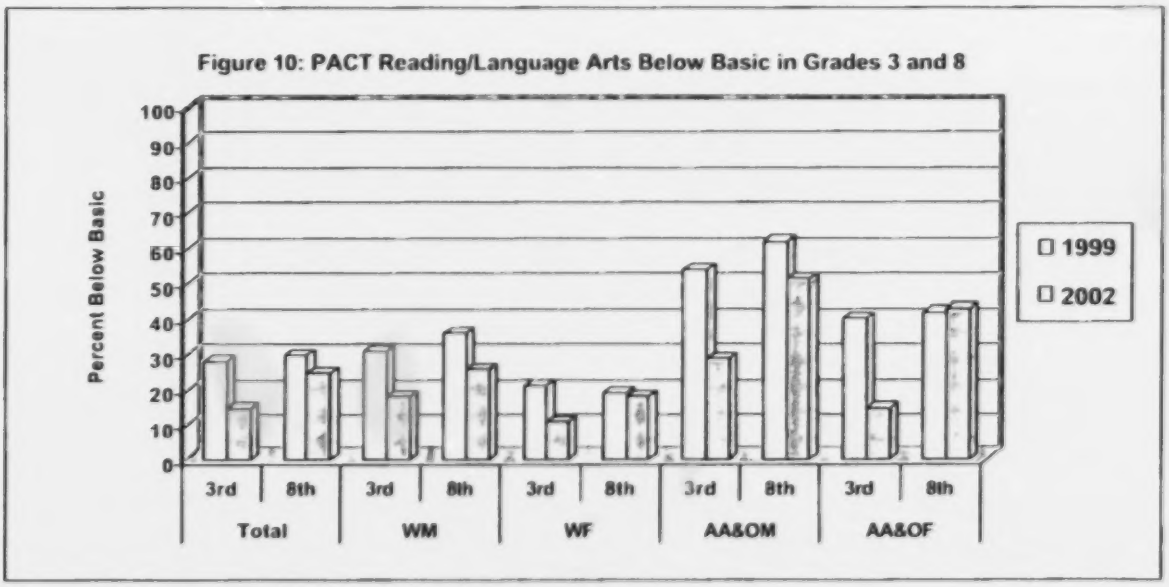
Achievement Trends: How has performance on standardized achievement tests changed over the past 20 years? During the 1980s, student performance on the BSAP tests improved dramatically. Between 1981 and 1990, the percentage of 8th grade students in Pickens County who did not meet standards declined from 46.1% to 23% in math and from 32.6% to 18% in reading. During the 1990's the BSAP trend changed, with 24.6% not meeting 8th grade math standards in 1998 and 24.9% in reading. On standardized tests, the first year when South Carolina students take the exam is comparable to the challenge encountered by the national norm group which took the test only once. Looking at first year data, the percentage of 4th grade students at or below the 25th percentile of national norms was 23.9% in 1983 on the CTBS, 27.7% in 1990 on the Stanford, and 23.1% in 1995 on the Metropolitan; for 9th graders, the percentage in the bottom quarter was 25.0% in 1990 and 19.7% in 1995. Although not comparable, the percent below basic on the 4th grade PACT in 1999, the first year of administration, was 34.3%, but in 2002 20.8% of 4th graders were below basic in reading and math; the percentage of 8th graders below basic in reading and math averaged 36.3% in 1999 and 28.5% in 2002.

PACT: The Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) was first administered in 1999 for grades 3 - 8 in math and reading/language arts. Math assesses skills in numbers, numerical and algebraic concepts, patterns and functions, geometry, measurement, probability and statistics. The percentage of students scoring below basic in math has decreased by 29.1% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 1,119 students below basic in grades 3-8 but there would have been an additional 459 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
		Math (%)				
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	20.2	19.0	18.1	33.3	35.3
	4	20.6	20.1	15.8	50.8	40.7
	5	27.4	28.1	24.4	33.8	37.0
	6	26.9	25.6	23.7	45.3	42.5
	7	34.5	32.4	32.8	52.7	48.4
	8	32.2	29.6	28.9	59.1	50.0
Basic	3	41.2	40.7	41.2	45.0	41.2
	4	37.8	36.2	39.2	34.4	42.6
	5	41.9	41.8	41.1	49.2	42.5
	6	41.6	41.3	42.8	39.1	37.5
	7	34.2	35.0	35.4	27.0	25.0
	8	44.8	45.4	48.1	24.2	37.1
Proficient	3	23.5	24.9	23.9	13.3	19.1
	4	21.9	24.4	22.0	9.8	7.4
	5	19.9	17.0	24.4	13.8	15.1
	6	20.9	22.3	21.5	12.5	13.8
	7	15.7	15.6	17.2	9.5	9.4
	8	15.3	17.1	15.0	10.6	7.1
Advanced	3	15.1	15.5	16.8	8.3	4.4
	4	19.8	19.3	22.9	4.9	9.3
	5	10.8	13.1	10.1	3.1	5.5
	6	10.6	10.7	12.0	3.1	6.3
	7	15.6	17.0	14.6	10.8	17.2
	8	7.7	7.9	8.0	6.1	5.7

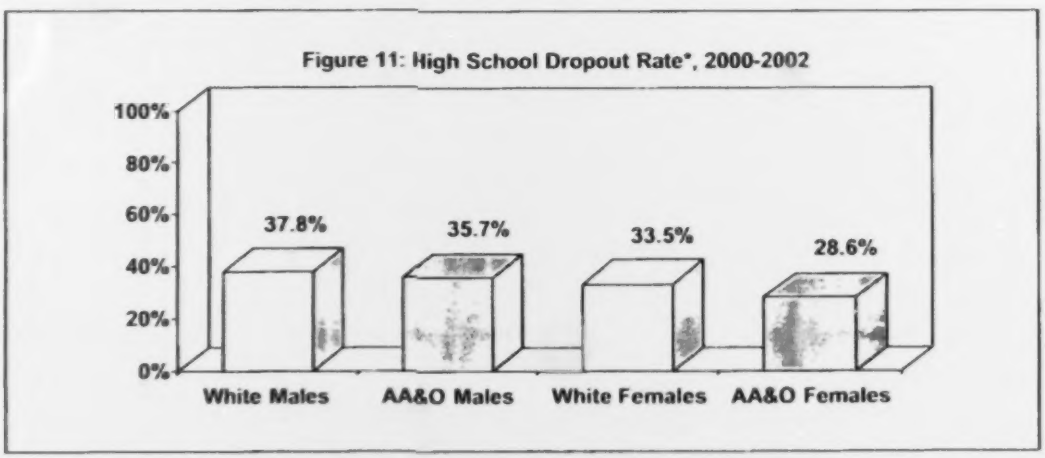
Reading/Language Arts assesses reading, listening, speaking, writing, research, and communication with technology. The first PACT assessment found a high percentage of elementary and middle grades students performing below standards and only a modest number above basic. The percentage of students scoring below basic in reading/language arts has decreased by 33.4% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 806 students below basic in grades 3 - 8 but there would have been an additional 405 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
		Reading/Language Arts (%)				
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	14.8	17.8	10.6	28.8	14.7
	4	21.0	24.9	12.9	50.8	31.5
	5	21.5	27.6	14.0	29.2	20.5
	6	24.7	28.0	17.4	56.3	26.3
	7	22.8	24.8	16.8	48.6	31.3
	8	24.9	25.9	17.8	51.5	42.9
Basic	3	38.8	38.7	35.9	44.1	57.4
	4	40.0	42.5	37.6	37.7	40.7
	5	49.1	47.6	48.4	56.9	58.9
	6	35.2	38.7	30.5	28.1	48.8
	7	42.1	44.7	39.8	35.1	48.4
	8	41.2	45.2	38.9	30.3	37.1
Proficient	3	40.7	39.9	45.1	23.7	26.5
	4	35.5	30.4	44.3	11.5	25.9
	5	27.1	23.3	33.7	13.8	20.5
	6	31.3	27.9	38.9	14.1	17.5
	7	30.3	27.7	36.8	12.2	15.6
	8	28.0	25.3	34.7	12.1	14.3
Advanced	3	5.6	3.5	8.4	3.4	1.5
	4	3.5	2.3	5.2	0.0	1.9
	5	2.3	1.4	3.9	0.0	0.0
	6	8.8	5.4	13.3	1.6	7.5
	7	4.7	2.9	6.6	4.1	4.7
	8	6.0	3.6	8.6	6.1	5.7

Dropout Rate - 8th grade students no longer enrolled in grade 12
(average of students for the three years ending 2000-2002)

436 students drop out annually **35.3% students drop out?**



Dropouts: Distressing numbers of students drop out and fail to graduate. An average of 24.3% of 8th graders failed to graduate** from county schools five years later during the period 1980-84, 28.3% during 1985-89, and 31.0% during 1990-94, 37.7% during 1995-97 and 39.5% during 1998-2000***.

During 2001-02, 98.6% of all who did graduate received the State High School Diploma, while the remaining 1.4% received a State Certificate for meeting the required Carnegie units but not passing the Exit Exam.

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*12th grade enrollment compared to 8th grade enrollment four years earlier

** This is calculated by using 8th grade enrollment to graduation data.

*** 2001 data will be available soon and will be posted on the website.

Fortunately, many dropouts enroll in adult education programs and either earn a high school diploma or obtain a GED. During 2001-02, 51 Adult Education high school diplomas were awarded to school completers and in 2001 246 GEDs were awarded in the county. Over time, adult education high school diplomas and GEDs increase the effective school completion rate substantially. In the 2000 Census, 18.5% of county resident 25 - 34 year-olds said they had not completed either high school or a GED.

Achievement Summary: The numbers of students testing below basic on the PACT and dropping out range from 14.8% to 42.5%. Thus, far too many students fail to acquire the knowledge, skills, learning habits, and motivation necessary to compete in the economy or contribute to society in the 21st Century.

ADOLESCENT RISK BEHAVIORS

Academic achievement is greatly influenced by the prevailing youth culture which often promotes popularity with peers and partying rather than studying and doing well in school. The prevalence of adolescent risk-taking and under-achievement is illustrated by the poor grades of substance-abusing teens.

Substance Abuser Rates at Levels of Academic Performance

	Usual School Grades in Past Year					Total
	A Range	B Range	C Range	D Range	F Range	
Smoked Cigarettes (in past 30 days)	7.7%	19.4%	32.3%	43.2%	54.3%	22.7%
Drank 5 or More Drinks on One Occasion (in past 30 days)	10.8%	15.8%	21.7%	27.2%	39.9%	17.6%
Used Any Illicit Drug (in past 30 days)	9.4%	15.0%	24.0%	31.7%	44.4%	18.0%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

As influence from parents and other adults declines during adolescence, significant numbers of students engage in violence, crime, school offenses, depressive emotions and attempted suicide:

Risk Behaviors Participated in During Past 12 Months	White Male		White Female		African American Male		African American Female		Total		Total (Grade 7-12)
	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	
Carried a handgun or knife for self-defense?	25.4%	27.0%	5.6%	7.4%	10.4%	23.8%	4.7%	10.4%	14.6%	17.1%	15.7%
Carried a handgun or knife as a weapon?	8.8%	8.4%	1.4%	1.8%	5.4%	15.9%	1.3%	5.8%	4.8%	5.5%	5.1%
Been in a fight with someone?	38.9%	29.2%	14.1%	15.5%	32.7%	32.5%	25.8%	23.0%	26.6%	22.7%	24.8%
Hit your boyfriend or girlfriend?	2.2%	1.0%	5.7%	7.6%	5.7%	6.9%	21.3%	15.1%	5.0%	4.9%	4.9%
Been hit by your boyfriend or girlfriend?	6.7%	5.0%	6.5%	7.3%	7.2%	10.9%	9.1%	8.2%	6.8%	6.4%	6.6%
Rec'd detention or in-school suspension?	40.3%	42.9%	22.0%	27.7%	33.8%	46.9%	35.3%	36.1%	31.3%	35.7%	33.3%
Been suspended from school?	10.9%	10.8%	4.3%	5.4%	17.5%	15.3%	9.2%	13.5%	8.1%	8.5%	8.3%
Stolen anything worth > $5?	11.9%	13.4%	5.7%	9.9%	10.5%	20.9%	11.8%	16.5%	9.0%	12.2%	10.4%
Had an accident while driving?	NA	13.8%	NA	11.7%	NA	8.9%	NA	11.5%	NA	12.6%	NA
Been arrested and booked?	3.7%	4.6%	1.9%	2.2%	5.7%	7.1%	1.2%	3.7%	2.8%	3.5%	3.2%
Felt hopeless for two weeks or more?	16.8%	15.3%	21.6%	31.4%	11.1%	11.7%	24.6%	24.0%	19.2%	23.1%	21.0%
Seriously considered attempting suicide?	8.4%	6.8%	8.9%	13.6%	7.3%	3.2%	11.3%	10.5%	8.7%	10.0%	9.3%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

Adolescence is often a time of taking risks and asserting independence from adults. When asked whether they would tell an adult about a problem, the following percentages of county students said they would be "not likely" or "very unlikely" to tell if they:

-heard a student threaten to harm someone: 26.9% middle school, 39.2% high school;
-saw a student with a handgun at school: 15.9% middle school, 8.5% high school;
-saw a student with a knife at school: 18.0% middle school, 24.9% high school;
-saw a student with drugs at school: 24.7% middle school, 53.2% high school;

Alcohol Use:* In the county during 2001-02, 16.5% of 7th and 8th graders and 32.6% of high schoolers said they had used alcohol in the past month. Of White males in grades 7 - 12, 26.3% had used it in the past month, compared with 19.6% of African-American males; likewise, 24.5% of White females said they had used alcohol, compared with 27.2% of African-American females. Many youth first used alcohol at an early age: 11.6% had used alcohol by age 11 or younger, 28.3% by age 13, and 59.7% by age 15.

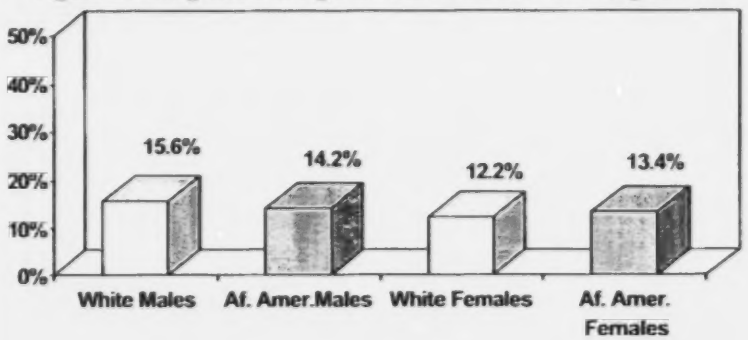
During the previous year, 19.0% of 7th and 8th graders and 29.9% of high schoolers said they had ridden with a drinking driver. Of seniors who drive, 15.9% said they had driven after drinking. Widespread use is encouraged by the ready availability and perceived low risk of alcohol use. Among students who expressed an opinion, 39.6% of eighth graders and 79.1% of seniors felt that beer was easy to get. Also, 68.0% of eighth graders and 74.7% of seniors felt there was not a great risk in drinking two drinks a day, and 41.9% of eighth graders and 56.5% of high schoolers felt there was not a great risk in drinking 5 drinks every weekend.

Heavy Drinking:* In 2001-02, 8.0% of 7th and 8th graders and 17.6% of high school students in the county repor drinking 5 or more drinks in a day during the past month. When asked how many drinks, if any, they usually consur 12.6% of all county students in grades 7 - 12 in 2001-02 responded 3 or more drinks at a time and 6.9% reported usually 5 more drinks. Among high school students, 18.7% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 10.7% 5 or mc Among seniors, 24.6% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 15.3% 5 or more; however 21.8% of seni said that they drank 5 or more drinks in a day once or more during the past month.

Drugs:* In 2001-02, 9.9% of 7th and 8th graders and 18.1% of high schoolers in the county reported using ille drugs during the previous month. Among students in grades 7 - 12, use was reported by 15.6% of White males, 12.2% Wl females, 14.2% of African-American males, and 13.4% of African-American females. Some young people initiated drug at an early age: 4.8% had experienced their first use by age 11 or sooner; 15.4% had used a drug by age 13, and 34.1% by 15.

In the past year, 9.3% of all high school students in the county who drive and 15.3% of seniors who drive said that they had driven after using drugs. Such use is encouraged by the ready availability of drugs: 18.8% of 8th graders who had an opinion said it is easy to get marijuana and 9.0% said it is easy to get cocaine or crack; 58.4% of seniors said it is easy to get marijuana and 21.1% said it was easy to get cocaine or crack.

Figure 12: Drug Use among Students Grades 7-12 during 2001-02*



* Data is from the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking.

Sexual Activity and Pregnancy: Many teenagers now engage in sexual activity. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) administered to a representative sample of high school students throughout South Carolina in 2001 showed that sexual activity begins at an early age: 7% of female and 21% of male students have engaged in intercourse before age 13; by age 15, 38% the females and 49% of males have engaged in sexual intercourse. Statewide, 48% of females and 50% of males in the 11th and 12th grades reported engaging in intercourse during the past three months. Furthermore, 27% of female and 33% of male 12th graders have had intercourse with four or more partners during their lifetimes.

Premature sexual activity often results in pregnancy. In the county, 85 girls between the ages of 14 and 17 became pregnant in 1999, 81 in 2000 and 67 in 2001. This represented 1.8% of all girls ages 14 – 17 in 2001; several times this percentage become pregnant at least once by age 18. The 2001 pregnancy rate for ages 14 - 17 was 1.9% for Whites and 1.4% for African-Americans and Others. Of all pregnancies of 14-17 year olds, 76.1% resulted in live births, with almost all other pregnancies ending in abortions.

Teen pregnancy rates increased substantially across the state during the 1980s; as a result, greater emphasis v devoted to preventing teen pregnancy. Since 1989, the teen pregnancy rate in Pickens County has decreased by 46.6 Overall, it has decreased by 44.1% for Whites, and decreased by 58.8% for African Americans and Others.

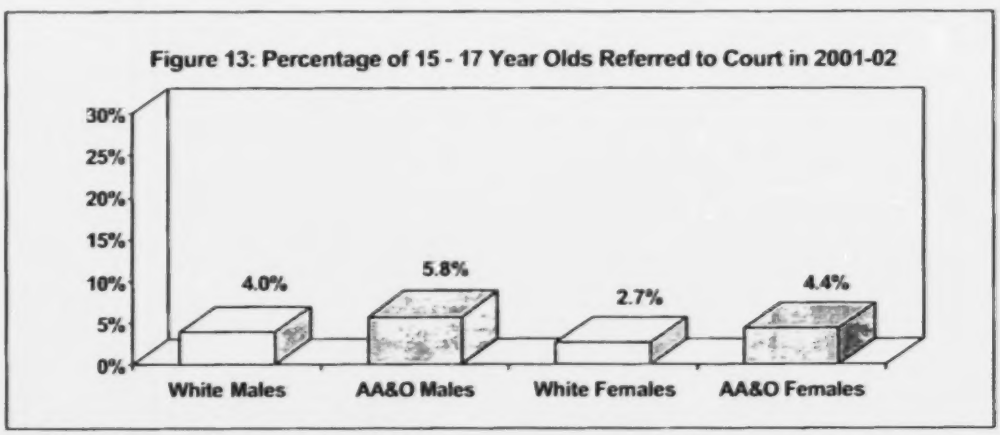
Juvenile Delinquency: In 2001-02, 475 individual juvenile offenders in the county were referred to the Solicitor for delinquency; of these, 22.3% were age 12 or younger, 30.5% were 13 or 14, and 47.2% were 15 or older.

Of the referrals to the family court, 4.7% of all referrals were for violent and serious crimes which include drug trafficking, acts against persons for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and serious property offenses for arson and burglary. Also, 128 juvenile cases constituting 20.0% of all referrals were for status offenses. Status offenses include truancy, running away, incorrigibility, and other offenses that would not be crimes for adults.

Delinquents are likely to live in families with low income: 34.3% lived in families with income under $10,000, 33.7% with $10,000-$19,999 and 32.0% with $20,000 or more. Furthermore, only 17.6% of delinquents lived with both natural parents, while 52.3% lived in a single parent household, 26.9% lived with other relatives, and 3.1% in other situations including parent plus step-parent. Delinquency or criminal activity occurs among many related family members: 38.8% had at least one family member who was delinquent or had some criminal record.

Youth referred to the family courts are likely to have been there before. In 2001-02, 39.4% had at least one prior referral and 11.8% had been referred to court 3 times or more. Many were referred at an early age. For delinquents 15 - 17 years old, 2.2% had been referred by the age of 10, 7.4% by the age of 12, and 21.5% by the age of 14.

During 2001-02, 224 youth ages 15 to 17 were referred to the family courts. In the county, 3.6% of all youth 15 to 17 were referred to court in one year and roughly double that percentage are referred at least once by age 18. Furthermore, the National Youth Survey indicates that typically across the United States the proportion of youth engaging in crime is two or three times the number ever apprehended. In 2001-02, there were 47 juveniles committed from the county to DJJ custody and placed in residential programs.



Not in School or Employed: During 2000, 563 teenagers ages 16-19 were idle, meaning they neither worked any hours nor were enrolled in school, even part-time. Idle teens comprised 6.5% of their age group: 6.2% for White and 9.5% African-American & Other teens. A much larger number, perhaps twice as many, were not engaged in either school full time or work full time. The data reflect a serious failure in both school completion and the critical transition from school to work, significantly affecting their development as future workers. For an in-depth description of the problems of young adults seeking to enter the labor force, visit our website at www.scyoungadults.org for our state and county reports on 18-29 year olds.

Deaths: During 1997-2001, 26 youth ages 15 to 19 died. Historically, automobile accidents have been the major cause, resulting in 18 deaths between 1996 and 2000; homicides killed 1 youth 15 to 19 years old during the five-year period, and 1 youth committed suicide. Alcohol use is often a significant factor in deaths among teenagers.

Summary

Facing the Scope of Problems: The data on families, economic status, health, readiness, school achievement, and adolescent risk behaviors provide a troublesome picture of the condition of children in Pickens County. The 21.4% of children in single-parent families, 12.6% in poverty, 39.5% not graduating from school, 32.6% of high school students using alcohol and 18.1% using drugs each month, and other data profiled in this report suggest that too many children are at risk of not growing up to become self-supporting adults, good family members, and responsible community citizens.

Emphasizing the Positive: South Carolina Kids Count reports have been developed to describe the problems of children in each of the counties. Fortunately, the majority of children and youth are doing well, and some very well. One simple description is the percentage of children who do not fall into the problem categories reported. For the county, 86.9% of children are born to non-teen mothers ages 20 or older, 74.6% are born to married parents, and 78.6% lived in two-parent families; 87.4% were not poor and 65.0% lived in families with incomes above twice the poverty level for a family of three, $30,040 in 2002; 93.0% of babies were born with normal birthweights; 88.4% were assessed as ready for the first grade, 67.8% scored basic or better on PACT for 8th grade math and 75.1% for 8th grade reading, 81.8% passed all parts of the Exit Exam in the 10th grade, and 60.5% graduated with their class. In a typical month, 67.4% of high school students do not drink alcohol, 81.9% do not use drugs, and 77.2% do not smoke. Unfortunately, the absence of a problem is not always an indicator of success. Some data is available for exemplary performance: for example, 46.3% of 3rd graders and 34.0% of 8th graders scored proficient or advanced on PACT in reading and 38.6% of 3rd graders and 23.0% of 8th graders in math. Unfortunately, data on success is not generally available.

Despite the limitations of success data, we must emphasize the positive in providing good support and appropriate influences for children and youth. Recent philosophy and publications such as those of the Search Institute (700 South Third Street, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN, 55415-1138, tel. 1-800-888-7828, www.search-institute.org), emphasize the critical importance of "developmental assets" to promote and support positive development. One short book from the Search Institute, (What Kids Need to Succeed, by Peter J. Benson, Judy Gailbraith, and Pamela Espeland, 1995) presents an excellent array of suggestions for promoting developmental assets through families, community, faith congregations, and schools. If each family, school, religious congregation and community organization assertively worked to build such assets, the problems described in this report would be reduced dramatically. Such positive family-school-community efforts could improve South Carolina's national Kids Count ranking from the bottom 10 to the average or even into the top 10 by prevention of unnecessary problems affecting children and youth, as shown on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

All data presented in this report is the most recent available at the date it goes to the printer. This version of the Kids Count report will be revised as more recent and additional data become available. Please send us your corrections and suggestions for improvement. We welcome your ideas for ways to make the state and county reports more useful and accurate. Please utilize local data sources whenever possible to supplement the profile provided through our report.

Data related inquiries should be directed to:

Anne Wilson, Data Manager (awilson@drss.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-4810

Calls for **copies of reports** for other counties and inquiries regarding more recent reports should be made to:

Kim Hazel-Lohr, Project Manager (khazel@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-1295

For **policy questions and general comments**, please contact:

Dr. A. Baron Holmes, Project Director (bholmes@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
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Comparable reports for all 46 counties and for the state can also be found on the World Wide Web at

www.sckidscount.org

Our website also provides: links to other websites for indicators in our report; high to low rankings for individual indicators; information on how to improve SC's national rank; and a glossary of definitions.

The national Kids Count Report can be found on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website at

www.aecf.org

Pickens County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Indicators	Most Recent Year	Number		Most Recent Data	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	Percent		Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	R	
		1980*	1990*				1980	1990				1980 Rank	199
Health													
Low Birth Weight	2001	61	96	95	+55.7%	-1.0%	5.8	7.6	7.0	19.8%	-8.0%	2	
White babies	*2001*	*52*	*79*	*81*	*+55.8%*	*+2.5%*	*5.5*	*7.0*	*6.4*	*16.4%*	*-8.4%*	*18*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*9*	*17*	*14*	*+55.6%*	*-17.6%*	*8.5*	*13.0*	*14.4*	*70.0%*	*11.2%*	*5*	
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	2001	316	387	271	+14.2%	-30.0%	30.3	30.7	20.0	-34.0%	-34.8%	7	
White babies	*2001*	*264*	*320*	*231*	*-12.5%*	*-27.8%*	*28.1*	*28.3*	*18.3*	*-34.9%*	*-35.3%*	*30*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*52*	*67*	*40*	*-23.1%*	*-40.3%*	*49.1*	*51.1*	*41.2*	*-16.0%*	*-19.4%*	*12*	
Infant Mortality	2001	37	36	21	-43.2%	-41.7%	1.2	0.9	0.5	-56.8%	-45.0%	4	
White babies	*2001*	*32*	*31*	*20*	*-37.5%*	*-35.5%*	*1.1*	*0.9*	*0.5*	*-53.1%*	*-41.0%*	*24*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*5*	*5*	*1*	*-80.0%*	*-80.0%*	*1.8*	*1.2*	*0.3*	*-82.3%*	*-74.3%*	*7*	
Family													
Births to mothers under 18	2001	88	74	51	-42.0%	-31.1%	8.4	5.9	3.8	-54.9%	-35.2%	18	
White babies	*2001*	*72*	*61*	*50*	*-30.6%*	*-18.0%*	*7.7*	*5.4*	*4.0*	*-47.9%*	*-25.8%*	*41*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*16*	*13*	*1*	*-93.8%*	*-92.3%*	*15.1*	*9.9*	*1.0*	*-93.2%*	*-89.6%*	*37*	
Births to mothers under 20	2001	199	195	177	-11.1%	-9.2%	19.1	15.5	13.1	-31.3%	-15.2%	11	
White babies	*2001*	*165*	*171*	*164*	*-0.6%*	*+4.1%*	*17.6*	*15.1*	*13.0*	*-26.1%*	*-14.0%*	*30*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*34*	*24*	*13*	*-61.8%*	*+45.8%*	*32.1*	*18.3*	*13.4*	*-58.2%*	*-26.8%*	*44*	
Births to mothers with less than a high school education	2001	343	358	340	-0.9%	-5.0%	32.9	28.4	25.1	-23.6%	-11.5%	20	
White babies	*2001*	*306*	*324*	*318*	*+3.9%*	*-1.9%*	*32.6*	*28.6*	*25.3*	*-22.4%*	*-11.7%*	*31*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*37*	*34*	*22*	*-40.5%*	*-35.3%*	*34.9*	*26.0*	*22.7*	*-35.0%*	*-12.6%*	*2*	
Births to single mothers****	2001	99	255	344	+247.5%	+34.9%	9.5	20.2	25.4	167.9%	25.7%	1	
White babies	*2001*	*45*	*176*	*292*	*+548.9%*	*+65.9%*	*4.8*	*15.6*	*23.2*	*383.6%*	*49.1%*	*9*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*54*	*79*	*52*	*-3.7%*	*-34.2%*	*50.9*	*60.3*	*53.6*	*5.2%*	*-11.1%*	*37*	
Children in single parent families	2000	2,407	3,072	4,813	+100.0%	+56.7%	12.2	16.2	21.4	75.4%	32.1%	1	
White	*2000*	*1,845*	*2,378*	*3,812*	*+106.6%*	*+60.3%*	*9.8*	*13.6*	*18.9*	*92.4%*	*38.7%*	*20*	
African American and Other	*2000*	*553*	*668*	*1,001*	*+81.0%*	*+49.9%*	*32.9*	*45.4*	*43.8*	*33.3%*	*-3.4%*	*5*	
Education													
Not Ready for Grade 1	2001	294	228	142	-51.7%	-37.7%	28.2	19.7	11.6	-58.9%	-41.1%	3	
White males	*2001*	*145*	*123*	*54*	*-62.8%*	*-56.1%*	*29.2*	*23.0*	*9.6*	*-67.1%*	*-58.3%*	*19*	
White females	*2001*	*92*	*62*	*43*	*-53.3%*	*-30.6%*	*21.8*	*12.4*	*8.7*	*-60.1%*	*-29.8%*	*26*	
African American and Other males	*2001*	*31*	*22*	*27*	*-12.9%*	*+22.7%*	*47.0*	*40.0*	*36.5*	*-22.3%*	*-8.8%*	*6*	
African American and Other females	*2001*	*26*	*20*	*17*	*-34.6%*	*-15.0%*	*44.8*	*32.8*	*20.7*	*-53.8%*	*-36.9%*	*18*	
Repeating Grades 1-3	2000	238	193	172	-27.7%	-10.9%	22.5	17.0	13.0	-42.2%	-23.5%	33	
White males	*2000*	*141*	*90*	*92*	*-34.8%*	*+2.2%*	*28.3*	*17.5*	*15.2*	*-46.3%*	*-13.1%*	*38*	
White females	*2000*	*58*	*74*	*58*	*+0.0%*	*-21.6%*	*12.9*	*14.7*	*10.0*	*-22.5%*	*-32.0%*	*36*	
African American and Other males	*2000*	*19*	*13*	*12*	*-36.8%*	*-7.7%*	*31.3*	*22.9*	*18.9*	*-39.6%*	*-17.5%*	*31*	
African American and Other females	*2000*	*20*	*16*	*10*	*-50.0%*	*-37.5%*	*35.0*	*29.8*	*14.1*	*-59.7%*	*-52.7%*	*44*	
Grade 3 Math below standards*****	2002	326	117	240	-26.4%	+105.1%	30.1	10.3	20.2	-32.9%	96.1%	5	
White males	*2002*	*153*	*37*	*97*	*-36.6%*	*+162.2%*	*29.2*	*6.9*	*19.0*	*-34.9%*	*175.4%*	*20*	
White females	*2002*	*127*	*53*	*99*	*-22.0%*	*+86.8%*	*27.7*	*10.4*	*18.1*	*-34.7%*	*74.0%*	*24*	
African American and Other males	*2002*	*22*	*14*	*20*	*-9.1%*	*+42.9%*	*41.5*	*29.2*	*33.3*	*-19.8%*	*14.0%*	*2*	
African American and Other females	*2002*	*20*	*12*	*24*	*+20.0%*	*+100.0%*	*48.8*	*26.1*	*35.3*	*-27.7%*	*35.2%*	*18*	
Grade 3 Reading below standards*****	2002	220	63	176	-20.0%	+179.4%	20.3	5.6	14.8	-27.1%	164.3%	2	
White males	*2002*	*123*	*25*	*91*	*-26.0%*	*+264.0%*	*23.5*	*4.7*	*17.8*	*-24.3%*	*278.7%*	*12*	
White females	*2002*	*78*	*22*	*58*	*-25.6%*	*+163.6%*	*17.0*	*4.4*	*10.6*	*-37.6%*	*140.9%*	*21*	
African American and Other males	*2002*	*10*	*8*	*17*	*+70.0%*	*+112.5%*	*18.9*	*16.7*	*28.8*	*52.4%*	*72.5%*	*1*	
African American and Other females	*2002*	*7*	*7*	*10*	*+42.9%*	*+42.9%*	*17.1*	*15.2*	*14.7*	*-14.0%*	*-3.3%*	*1*	
Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT Grade 4	1998	243	313	240	-1.2%	-23.3%	23.9	27.7	21.1	-11.7%	-23.8%	10	
White males	*1998*	*126*	*145*	*98*	*-22.2%*	*-32.4%*	*28.5*	*28.0*	*19.9*	*-30.2%*	*-28.9%*	*34*	
White females	*1998*	*68*	*105*	*91*	*+33.8%*	*-13.3%*	*15.6*	*21.5*	*18.0*	*15.4%*	*-16.3%*	*22*	
African American and Other males	*1998*	*23*	*30*	*29*	*+26.1%*	*-3.3%*	*46.0*	*56.6*	*54.0*	*17.4%*	*-4.6%*	*13*	
African American and Other females	*1998*	*18*	*31*	*20*	*+11.1%*	*-35.5%*	*31.6*	*45.6*	*35.7*	*13.0%*	*-21.7%*	*10*	

*Year of data is approximate in many cases.
**1 is best, 46 is worst.
*** Data include paternity acknowledgements.
**** BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Pickens County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Education (continued)

Indicators		Number					Percent				
	Most Recent Year	1980*	1990*	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres
Grade 8 Math below state standards**	2002	491	249	377	-23.2%	+51.4%	46.1	23	32.2	-30.2%	40.0%
White males	*2002*	*235*	*102*	*158*	*-32.8%*	*+54.9%*	*47.1*	*20.4*	*29.6*	*-37.2%*	*45.1%*
White females	*2002*	*186*	*99*	*145*	*-22.0%*	*+46.5%*	*39.7*	*20.8*	*28.9*	*-27.2%*	*38.9%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*33*	*25*	*39*	*+18.2%*	*+56.0%*	*67.3*	*42.4*	*59.1*	*-12.2%*	*39.4%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*36*	*23*	*35*	*-2.8%*	*+52.2%*	*80.0*	*52.3*	*50.0*	*-37.5%*	*-4.4%*
Grade 8 Reading below state standards**	2002	349	195	291	-16.6%	+49.2%	32.6	18.0	24.9	-23.6%	38.3%
White males	*2002*	*179*	*109*	*138*	*-22.9%*	*+26.6%*	*35.8*	*21.8*	*25.9*	*-27.7%*	*18.8%*
White females	*2002*	*112*	*53*	*89*	*-20.5%*	*+67.9%*	*23.7*	*11.1*	*17.8*	*-24.9%*	*60.4%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*30*	*20*	*34*	*+13.3%*	*+70.0%*	*61.2*	*33.9*	*51.5*	*-15.8%*	*51.9%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*25*	*12*	*30*	*+20.0%*	*+150.0%*	*55.6*	*27.3*	*42.9*	*-22.8%*	*57.1%*
Grade 9 Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT	1998	NA	259	199	NA	-23.2%	NA	25	18.6	NA	-25.6%
White males	*1998*	*NA*	*137*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*28.1*	*18.9*	*NA*	*-32.7%*
White females	*1998*	*NA*	*77*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*17.3*	*15.0*	*NA*	*-13.3%*
African American and Other males	*1998*	*NA*	*23*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*47.9*	*38.2*	*NA*	*-20.3%*
African American and Other females	*1998*	*NA*	*21*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*37.5*	*28.1*	*NA*	*-25.1%*
Exit Exam (not passing all parts on 1st attempt)	2002	388	211	158	-59.3%	-25.1%	35.3	23.1	18.2	-48.4%	-21.2%
White males	*2002*	*165*	*99*	*63*	*-61.8%*	*-36.4%*	*33.1*	*24.6*	*16.6*	*-49.8%*	*-32.5%*
White females	*2002*	*154*	*64*	*66*	*-57.1%*	*+3.1%*	*31.3*	*15.5*	*15.8*	*-49.5%*	*1.9%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*32*	*23*	*17*	*-46.9%*	*-26.1%*	*68.1*	*48.9*	*42.5*	*-37.6%*	*-13.1%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*37*	*20*	*12*	*-67.6%*	*-40.0%*	*61.7*	*43.5*	*42.9*	*-30.5%*	*-1.4%*
Dropout Rate (8th graders no longer enrolled in 12th grade 4 years later)	2000-02	273	326	436	+59.7%	+33.7%	23.4	27.2	35.3	51.0%	29.7%
White males	*2000-02*	*136*	*165*	*215*	*+58.9%*	*+30.9%*	*25.5*	*29.8*	*37.8*	*48.2%*	*26.9%*
White females	*2000-02*	*123*	*149*	*181*	*+47.8%*	*+21.9%*	*23.8*	*27.9*	*33.5*	*40.5%*	*20.0%*
African American and Other males	*2000-02*	*4*	*6*	*22*	*+441.7%*	*+261.1%*	*6.7*	*9.8*	*35.7*	*431.3%*	*266.1%*
African American and Other females	*2000-02*	*11*	*7*	*18*	*+63.6%*	*+157.1%*	*18.5*	*13.7*	*28.6*	*54.5%*	*108.2%*
Young Adults Not Completing High School (18-24)	2000	2,616	2,320	2,707	+3.5%	+16.7%	16.3	12.5	18.5	13.3%	47.8%
White males	*NA*	*1,234*	*1,241*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*15.1*	*13.8*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
White females	*NA*	*1,150*	*871*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*17.1*	*11.3*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other males	*NA*	*143*	*157*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*23.0*	*16.1*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other females	*NA*	*89*	*51*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*18.4*	*5.6*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*

Economics

Poverty Rate	2000	2,161	2,298	3,075	+42.3%	+33.8%	10.5	11.3	12.6	20.0%	11.5%
White children	*2000*	*1,625*	*1,880*	*2,379*	*+46.4%*	*+26.5%*	*8.7*	*10.2*	*10.9*	*25.3%*	*6.9%*
African American and Other children	*2000*	*536*	*418*	*696*	*+29.9%*	*+66.5%*	*28.7*	*22.6*	*26.3*	*-8.3%*	*16.4%*
Income of Families w/children (1999 $)	2000	$ 44,450	$ 48,065	$ 50,447	+13.5%	+5.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
White families	*2000*	*$ 45,598*	*$ 48,582*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other families	*2000*	*$ 30,575*	*$ 40,239*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*

Adolescent Risk Factors

Teenage Pregnancy (ages 14-17)	2001	139	97	67	-51.8%	-30.9%	4.3	2.8	1.8	-58.4%	-35.7%
White	*2001*	*121*	*82*	*62*	*-48.8%*	*-24.4%*	*4.1*	*2.6*	*1.9*	*-53.9%*	*-26.9%*
African American and Other	*2001*	*18*	*15*	*5*	*-72.2%*	*-66.7%*	*6.7*	*4.4*	*1.4*	*-79.0%*	*-68.2%*
Delinquency	2002	108	245	224	+107.4%	-8.6%	2.1	5.1	3.6	70.1%	-29.9%
White males	*2002*	*73*	*170*	*117*	*+60.3%*	*-31.2%*	*2.9*	*7.2*	*4.0*	*38.2%*	*-44.3%*
White females	*2002*	*24*	*54*	*73*	*+204.2%*	*+35.2%*	*1.0*	*2.5*	*2.7*	*172.4%*	*9.0%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*6*	*15*	*19*	*+216.7%*	*+26.7%*	*2.9*	*9.4*	*5.8*	*98.5%*	*-38.7%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*5*	*6*	*15*	*+200.0%*	*+150.0%*	*2.5*	*3.6*	*4.4*	*76.5%*	*22.5%*

*Closest available data to this year was used in many cases.
**BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

Kids Count 2003

Richland County

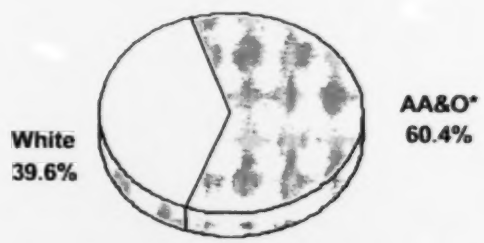
Demographics

In 2000 there were an estimated 77,609 children under age 18 in the county. Of these, 30,699 were White, 42,899 were African-American, and 4,011 were other races. There were 68,769 children under age 18 in 1990, 71,113 in 1980, 74,854 in 1970, and 71,958 in 1960.

Children represent a shrinking portion of the county's population. Those under 18 constituted 24.2% of the population in 2000, down from 36.0% in 1960, 32.0% in 1970, and 26.4% in 1980.

In 2000 the 24,424 pre-schoolers under age 6 were 7.6% of the overall population: 6.1% of Whites and 9.0% of African Americans.

Figure 1: Population Ages 0-17 in 2000



* In all charts African-American is combined with other races, and often abbreviated as AA&O. Other races comprise 5.2% of children in the county, with "two or more races" at 2.2% and Asian Alone at 1.4% as the largest Other groups.

Family

Families have always been the most important influence in a child's life. Children depend on their families for material needs, stimulation and guidance. Family life is different in numerous ways from previous generations, and many families now face exceptional challenges.

Families with children now make up a smaller share of all households. Only 31.5% of all households in 2000, as compared with 48.0% of households in 1960, had children below the age of 18.

Births to Teen Mothers: In 2001, 122 babies were born to mothers younger than age 18. They were 2.9% of all babies born in the county; 0.8% of all White and 4.6% of all African-American and Other babies were born to teen mothers under the age of 18. Of the babies born to these teens in 2001, 95.1% were born to single mothers, including babies whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers.

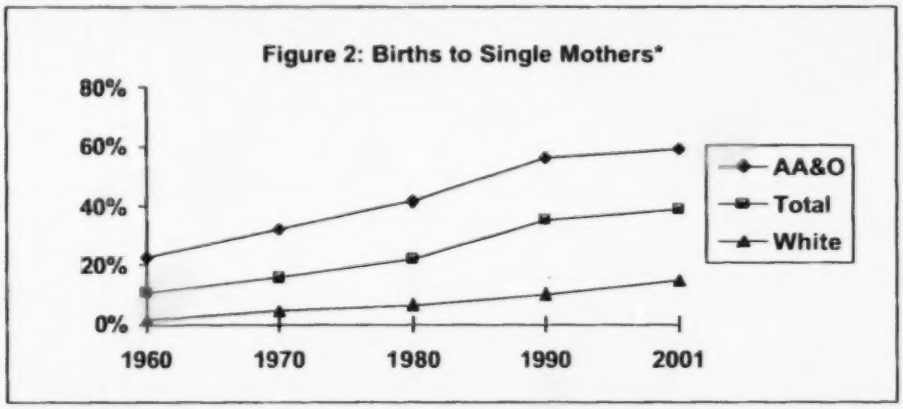
In 2001, 421 babies were born to mothers younger than age 20. These babies were 9.9% of all born in the county; 4.0% of all White and 15.0% of all African-American and Other babies were born to mothers under the age of 20. Of the babies born to these mothers in 2001, 91.7% were born to single mothers, including paternity acknowledeged babies.

Education of Mothers Giving Birth: Children's success is strongly influenced by the education of their parents. In 2001, 508 babies, 12.0% of all babies, were born to mothers of all ages who had not completed the 12th grade. In 2001,

8.0% of White and 15.5% of African-American and Other babies were born to mothers who had completed less than the 12th grade. This is a substantial improvement from 31.7% in 1970. In addition, during 2001, 25.5% had completed 12 grades (18.0% of Whites and 31.8% of African Americans and Others) and 62.5% had more than a high school degree (74.0% of Whites and 52.7% of African American and Others).

Births to Single Mothers: Births to single mothers have increased steadily over four decades. In 2001, 1,174 babies, 27.6% of all babies, were recorded as born to single mothers. A decade earlier in 1990, the percentage was 30.1% and in 1960 it was 10.4%. In 2001, 9.0% of White children and 43.4% of African-American and Other children were born to single mothers. These numbers, however, do not include paternity acknowlegement births.

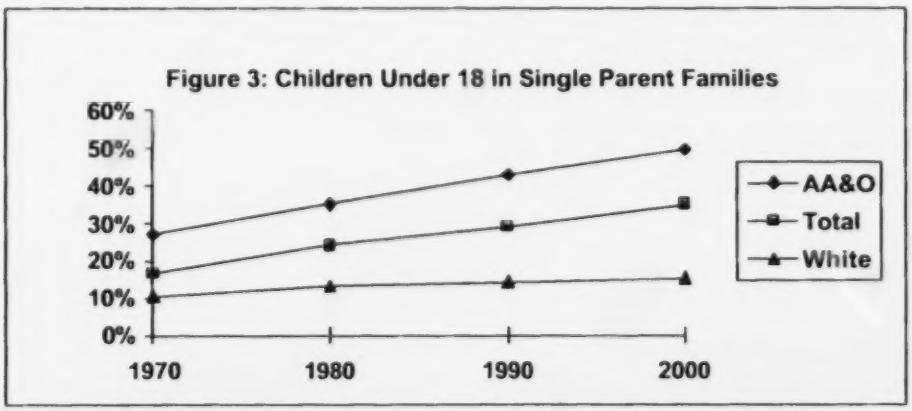
Thus, to these numbers should be added an additional group of 473 babies, 11.1% of all born in 2001, whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers. When the paternity-acknowledged babies are added, the total number born to single mothers in 2001 was 1,647, constituting 38.8% of all babies, 14.9% of White babies, and 59.0% of African-American and Others.



*Includes paternity acknowleged babies in 1980, 1990 and 2001. Prior to 1979, paternity acknowleged cases were not a statistical category, and thus were included in births to single mothers.

Divorce Rate: In 2001, 2,568 marriage licenses were issued, while 1,156 divorce decrees involving 887 children were filed. In 1970, only 726 children were in families involved in divorce.

Single-Parent Family: Increasing numbers of children live in single-parent families. In 2000, 23,238 children lived with only one parent. This was 34.9% of all children, up from 29.1% in 1990, 24.0% in 1980, and 16.7% in 1970. In 2000, 15.4% of White and 49.6% of African-American and Other children lived in single-parent families. Also in 2000, 6,422 or 31.9% of children under age 6 lived in single parent families: 10.8% of White and 49.1% of African American and Other pre-schoolers.



Parents Working and Child Care: Increasingly, parents must divide their time between children and employers. In order to meet family financial needs, most parents must work and thus have less time for family life. In 2000, 69.9% of mothers with children under 6 and 76.4% with children 6 - 17 were in the labor force. This has increased substantially from 1960 when 33.9% of mothers with children under 6 were in the labor force. Most fathers also work: 66.3% of children under 6 are in families where the single parent or both parents work. Caring for children is a problem for parents unable to obtain quality, affordable daycare while they are at work.

Overall, there are 15,842 spaces in state-regulated childcare facilities* in the county, 96.3% of these are in licensed programs and 3.7% are in registered programs. Of the spaces, 78.7% are in licensed childcare centers serving more than 12 children, 3.0% are in registered or licensed family childcare homes serving six or fewer children, 1.7% are in licensed group childcare homes serving 7-12 children, and 16.7% are in registered or licensed church programs.

The homes and centers are severely constrained by the limited ability of parents to pay. In the county, the average weekly charge is $ 90.00 for centers and $ 76.17 for homes. Consequently, center wages are low: 17.5% of centers with pre-school staff and 22.5% of centers with assistant pre-school staff report paying these staff under $6 per hour. Paying $6-$8 per hour are 61.3% of centers with pre-school staff and 60% of centers with assistants. Low wages attract workers with limited education. In 42.5% of centers, most pre-school staff and in 40% of centers most assistants have only a high school degree. In 43.8% of centers few to none of the pre-school staff have early childhood credentials. In childcare homes, 42.9% of lead providers have no more education than a high school degree or GED; 5.4% have less than a high school degree.

Family Violence: In 2000, 1,684 domestic assaults were recorded by law enforcement officials. These domestic assaults comprised 21.4% of all assaults, which include aggravated assaults, simple assaults, and intimidation. Overall, 56.7% of all domestic assaults involve spouse abuse which constitutes 12.1% of all assaults. Since most family violence is not reported, the true incidence of family disruption is much more widespread than even the large number of reported cases would indicate.

Separation from Parents: Some children do not live with their natural parents. In 2000, 8.7% of all children did not live with their natural parents. Approximately 3,804 or 4.9% of all children lived with relatives, 1,178 or 1.5% lived with non-relatives, 59 or 0.1% were householders or spouses, and 1,675 or 2.2% were in institutional facilities.

Abuse and Neglect: In 2000-01, there were 1,410 investigations into reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children. Through its investigations, the Department of Social Services (DSS) determined that 500 of the investigations were indicated for abuse or neglect: 17.8% for physical abuse, 5.6% for sexual abuse, 0.6% for mental injury, 21.6% for physical neglect, 3.3% for educational neglect, 2.5% for medical neglect, 47.1% for threat of harm for physical/sexual abuse, and 1.5% for other types of abuse.

In the indicated cases of abuse and neglect, DSS determined there were 823 children who were victims of abuse or neglect. Of these, 48.2% were male, 51.8% were female; 19.0% were White, 81.0% were African-American and Other. By age, 35.5% were ages 0 - 5, 39.8% were ages 6 - 12, and 24.7% were ages 13 - 17. In the indicated cases, 23.2% of the children lived in two-parent families, 51.5% in single parent families, 16.2% with unmarried couples, and 9.1% in other circumstances.

Out of Home Placements: As of June 2001, 550 children lived in foster care. The median age at first placement in the county is 5.7 years. The ages of children in foster care were 12.9% 0-2, 12.2% 3-5, 24.0% 6-10, 17.3% 11-13, and 33.6% 14 and above. The foster care population is 47.3% males and 52.7% females. Regarding their future, 31.3% were under a plan for placement in adoptive homes, 34.9% for return to a parent or guardian, 3.1% for placement with a relative, 15.1% for independent living, 15.3% for permanent foster care, and 0.4% for other circumstances.

Adult/Child Ratio: A measure of potential adult attention for children from family and community is the ratio of adults to children and youth. In 2000 there were 3.13 adults for every person below age 18. This was up substantially from 1960, when there were only 1.78 adults for every person under the age 18. This indicates that today there are more adults potentially available to provide attention and care for each child than in the past.

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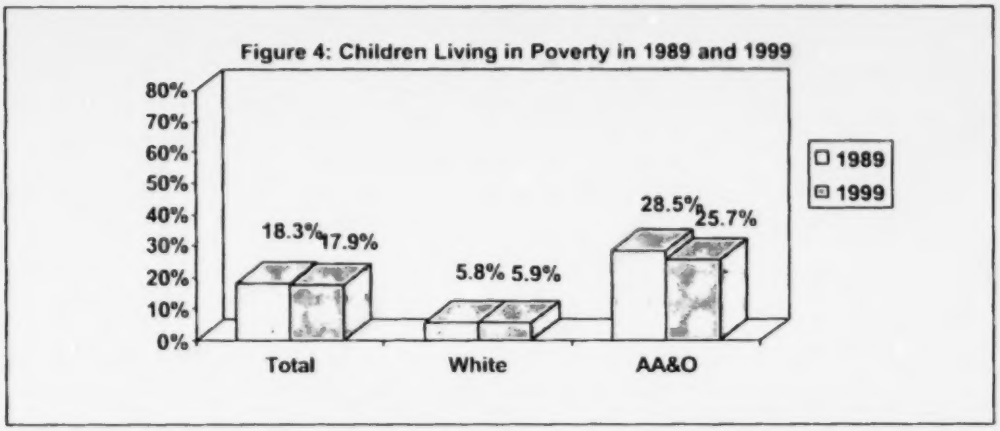
* This data is the best currently available; however, an effort is being made to check the coverage and improve the accuracy. As soon as more recent and complete data becomes available, it will be posted on the website.

ECONOMIC STATUS

Low income makes it difficult for many families to provide the material and environmental enrichment necessary for healthy child development.

Poverty: In 1999, 13,396 children and youth under the age of 18 lived in 6,157 families with incomes below poverty, comprising 17.9% of all children and youth: 5.9% of Whites and 25.7% of African-Americans and Others. A rough estimate of child poverty in 2001 calculated by the Census Bureau was 23.0%.



Poverty has always been a serious problem. While the rate among children under age 18 in 1989 was 18.3%, it was 20.1% in 1979 and 24.2% in 1969.

Children and the elderly are the age groups most seriously affected by poverty. In 1999, 19.8% of children 0 - 5 (7.0% White, 28.8% African-American and Other), and 16.5% of children 6 - 17 (4.9% White, 23.9% African-American and Other), lived in poverty; 12.0% of persons 65 years and older lived in poverty. Historically, the poverty rate among the elderly was much higher. During the last three decades, federal policy actions have substantially improved the economic status of older persons but have not done so for children.

Single-parent families are most likely to be poor. In 1999, 38.2% of children in single-parent families lived in poverty, but only 5.3% of children in married-couple families were poor. Children in single-parent families made up 59.5% of all the county's children living in poverty.

In 2002, the poverty level was $15,020 for a family of three and $18,100 for a family of four. The poverty threshold is often criticized as an arbitrary number. People can still be poor but may be just above the poverty level. Federal programs utilize varying thresholds. For example, in 1999 there were 29,341 children ages 0-17 who were less than 200 percent of poverty; thus an additional 15,945 children were above the poverty level but could still be considered poor or near-poor with incomes below $30,040 and $36,200 respectively for 3 and 4 person families.

Children Under 18 in Poverty in 1999

Percent of Poverty	Total		White		African American & Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 50%	6,285	8.4%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 100%	13,396	17.9%	1,758	5.9%	11,638	25.7%
Under 125%	17,160	22.9%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 150%	21,357	28.5%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 175%	25,225	33.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 185%	27,117	36.1%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 200%	29,341	39.1%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total Children	77,609		30,699		46,910	

Note: Missing data will be released by the Census Bureau later in 2003, and will be posted on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

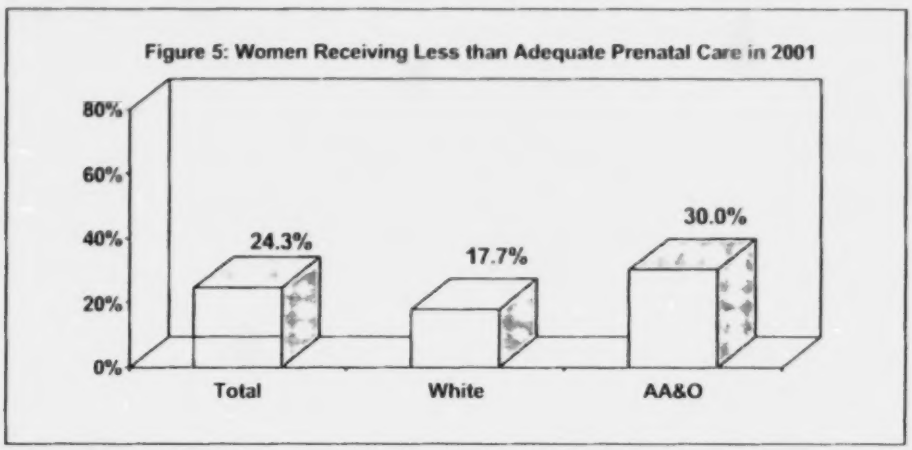
Income: The mean income of families with children in 1999 was $60,603. In 1989 it was $51,032, and 1979, it was $45,466, adjusted for inflation (i.e., in 1999 dollars). The mean income of single-parent families with children was $26,330 for single parents in 1999, as compared with $79,299 in married-couple families with children. From 1999 to 2000, Richland County real dollar per capita income (eliminating inflation) increased by 1.4%.

Child Support Payments: There were 2,204[7] families receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families in fiscal year 2002, but only 21.8 % had child support court orders. Their average monthly payment of child support was $ 253, including child support receipts and tax refund intercepts. In addition, during fiscal year 2002, an estimated 6,065 parents in non-TANF families were obligated to pay a monthly average of $ 237. Information is not available regarding the amount actually paid.

HEALTH

Good health during a child's formative years helps children to reach their maximum potential. Good health requires healthy lifestyles and effective primary care, starting during the prenatal period and continuing through adolescence into adulthood. Children's health reflects the well-being of the community, as well as how adequately they are protected.

Prenatal Care: Early and continuous prenatal care can make a significant difference in assuring births of healthy babies. Delayed or insufficient prenatal care is associated with low birthweight and other health risks for infants. In 2001, 828, or 19.5% of pregnant women received no prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy. In 2001, 1,034, or 24.3% of pregnant women received less than adequate prenatal care: 344 or 17.7% of Whites and 690 or 30.0% of African-Americans and Others. In that same year, 30 women received no prenatal care at all.



Low Birthweight: Low birthweight of less than 5.5 pounds and very low birthweight of less than 3.3 pounds are associated with health risks and growth and development problems. In 2001, 414 or 9.7% of all babies in the county were born with low birthweight: 12.5% of African-American and Other babies and 6.5% of White babies. During 1999-2001, approximately 287 or 2.2% of all babies were born with very low birthweight and had the most serious complications: 1.1% of White babies and 3.0% of African-American and Other babies. The cost of hospitalization for each newborn low birthweight baby in the county in 1999 - 2001 was $18,723 and $116,608 for each very low birthweight baby, compared with $2,391 for a baby of normal birthweight. The result was excess cost in the county of $13,018,922 for all low birthweight babies, of which $9,061,196 was for very low birthweight babies.

Infant Mortality: During the decade since 1989-91, the overall infant mortality rate decreased by 12.7% from 10.4 to 9.1 per 1000 live births. For Whites, the rate decreased 33.5% from 7.4 to 4.9 per 1000 live births, while for African-Americans and Others the rate decreased 4.5% from 13.0 to 12.4 per 1000 live births. Over the three-year period 1999-2001, 28 White and 91 African-American and Other infants died before age one. By comparison, 47 White and 100 African-American and Other infants died during 1989-91.

[7] Number is an unduplicated count for the entire fiscal year.

Child Injuries and Deaths: Childhood deaths and injuries reflect whether communities are safe for children. In 2001, children in the Richland County went to the emergency room 7,155 times because of injuries. Boys are injured more often than girls. Children visit the emergency room at comparable rates for each age from 0 to 17.

In South Carolina, the major causes of death among young children are unintentional injuries, cancer, homicide, and congenital anomalies. Over the three year period 1999-2001, 14 White and 41 African-American and Other children ages 1-14 died in the county. During 1989-91, 23 White and 26 African-American and Other children died.

Immunization: Immunization rates are an important indication of whether young children are receiving adequate preventive health care. During FY 1989-90, 56.5% of children less than two years old seen in public health clinics were not fully immunized against such preventable diseases as Polio, Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Haemophilus Influenza B and Whooping Cough. After a concerted statewide campaign to increase immunizations, the percentage of children seen in public health clinics who were not fully immunized in January 2001 had declined in the county to 8.7%. The DHEC statewide birth registry survey of all two year old children found that 88.1% were fully immunized in 2001. This success demonstrates the potential to improve the status of children when the leadership of the state and its communities act decisively together.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Children and youth are infected with sexually transmitted diseases through sexual abuse or irresponsible sexual activity. National prevalence rates indicate: a 1 in 8 chance that sexually active 15 year-old girls will develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), the most rapidly increasing cause of infertility; 10% of sexually active adolescent girls and boys are infected with chlamydia, the most common cause of PID; and as many as 15% of teen girls are infected with human papilloma virus, often with strains linked to cervical cancer. Furthermore, research evidence indicates that susceptibility to HIV/AIDS increases by 3 to 8 times through prior infection with various STDs.

According to national studies, approximately 1 in 4 sexually experienced youth aged 13-19 acquires a STD ever year; since two-thirds of all high school students have had sexual intercourse and half engage in intercourse over a three month period, this would suggest that 10-15% of teens are infected with STDs annually. For 2000, this would indicate that an estimated 3,616 to 5,423 youth ages 13-19 in the county were infected with a STD. Many infections are either not identified for treatment or not reported. In the county, there were 33 reported cases of children under age 15 and 306 youth ages 15 - 19 infected with gonorrhea; 64 youth under 15 and 605 ages 15 - 19 were reported infected with chlamydia. Youth with undiagnosed and untreated STDs often spread their infections.

Healthy Lifestyles: Although no county data is available, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2001 found that many high school students are not following good health habits. The YRBS revealed that 26% felt that they were overweight; 42% were trying to lose weight: 27% of boys and 57% of girls. Although during a week 79% of high school students ate fruit, 59% ate salad, and over 83% ate vegetables, only 17% ate the recommended five or more servings of fruit and vegetables per day. During a week, 49% did stretching or muscle strengthening exercises, and 59% exercised three or more times for 20 minutes in sports that made them sweat or breathe hard. However, 11% of students engaged in no vigorous or moderate activity at all during a week: 8% of boys and 13% of girls.

Tobacco Use:* Cigarette smoking starts at a young age and often becomes habitual. In the county during 2002 among all students 15 and older, 13.0% first smoked by age 11, 31.1% by age 13, and 46.7% by age 15. In a typical month, 11.1% of 7th and 8th graders and 20.7% of high school students smoked cigarettes. White youths were much more likely than African-Americans to smoke: 25.0% of White male and 20.5% of White female 7th to 12th graders used cigarettes, as compared with 14.7% of African-American males and 12.3% of African American females. A smaller but significant group of high school students (2.0%) used smokeless tobacco monthly; it was used primarily by White males (7.3% compared with 0.4% of all other race and sex groups).

* County participation in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking was not complete but county data is presented to provide the best available picture of teen risk-taking attitudes and behavior in Richland County. One of 2 districts participated (District 2).

Disabilities: No data are collected on the true prevalence of disabilities within the county. According to national reported estimates, over 10% of children and youth have developmental disabilities at any point in time, and more than 17 are affected at some time before age 18 by deafness, blindness, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, speech defects, development delays, learning disabilities, and emotional or behavioral problems. For 2000 this suggests that at least 7,761 children ar youth under age 18 in the county are currently affected by disabilities.

Approximately 5% of children and youth nationally have serious disabilities which have lifelong implications fo work, social life and community living. Typically among children and youth, there are 1 - 2% who are mentally retarded, - 3% with serious emotional disturbances, over 1% with orthopedic or multiple disabilities, including cerebral palsy an many hereditary conditions, and under 1% with visual or hearing impairments.

Other chronic health problems also affect the lives of many children. Over 3% of children have one or more these limitations. Such serious chronic conditions affect 1 - 2% who have respiratory problems (asthma and chron bronchitis), 0.5 - 1.0% with neurological problems (epilepsy and seizures), and less than 1% with circulatory problen (congenital heart defects and acquired diseases).

Other disabilities are identified primarily in school performance. These would include 2,359 students in grades 12 with learning disabilities and 1,356 students in grades 1-12 with speech/language deficits.

Disabilities are caused by genetics, disease, poor prenatal conditions, injuries, and environmental factors. For example, lead exposure, primarily from paint dust, was detected in over 1% of all children screened, including in Richland County.

Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: While over 20% of 9-17 year olds meet diagnostic criteria for some form of mental disorder, the number with serious emotional disturbance and impaired functioning in family, school, or community activities is: 9-13% for substantial functional impairment and 5-9% for extreme functional impairment. The rates among poor children are at the higher end of these ranges. Based on a federal formula for estimating prevalence, in the county there are 12% or 4,815 seriously emotionally disturbed 9-17 year olds with substantial functional impairment and 8% or 3,210 with extreme functional impairment during the course of a year. Conduct disorders, attention deficit, depression, and anxiety disorders are the most prevalent, each affecting 3% or more of school-aged children. These disorders may occur simultaneously in a child. The prevalence rates are highest among males, adolescents, and disadvantaged persons in communities under stress and lacking social cohesion; depression, however, is more prevalent among females. On the YRBS, 20% of boys and 33% of girls in high school reported that during the past year they felt so sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that they stopped doing some usual activities. Another indicator of emotional problems is the 8% of high school students in South Carolina who reported that they had "attempted suicide" in the past year: 5% of boys and 10% of girls. Suicide attempts resulted in 4% of high school students reporting that they required treatment by a doctor or nurse for injury, poisoning, or overdose.

Inadequate Healthcare: No county level data is routinely collected regarding the number of children and youth with inadequate healthcare. According to estimates for 2000-02 by the Bureau of the Census through the annual Current Population Survey, the statewide average rate of uninsured children and youth under age 18 in families with incomes under 200% of poverty in South Carolina was 16.6%, and 9.9% above 200% of poverty. If these rates are applied to the county, there are 4,877 children in the county below 200% of poverty with no health insurance, and 4,790 children above 200% of poverty with no health insurance, for a total of 9,667 uninsured children in Richland County. The number lacking basic accessible primary care is at least double the number lacking insurance. Those lacking primary care are often dependent on health services at school. The ratio of students to nurses recommended nationally is 750:1. In the county, this would suggest the need for 58 nurses, compared with 63 currently working in the schools.

Medicaid: For several years, the State of South Carolina has emphasized enrolling eligible children into Medicaid. In late 1997, South Carolina implemented its version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, Partners for Healthy Children (PHC), and aggressively pursued outreach enrollment for PHC and Medicaid. As a result, enrollment of children ages 0 through 18 in Richland County has increased by 60.0% from June 1997 to June 2001; thus Medicaid and PHC were serving 38.2% of all children in that age range. The total Medicaid expenditures in South Carolina for services provided to children ages 0 through 18 for state fiscal year 2002 were $991 million, at an average statewide expenditure of $2,343 per child enrolled, approximate Medicaid expenditure for children in the county would be $69.4 million.

In June 2001, the total number of Richland County children, birth through 18, enrolled in Medicaid was 29,629. The total can be broken down into the following age and race groupings:

	White	African American	Hispanic	Other	Total
Children under 1	333	1,748	59	140	2,280
Children 1 - 5	1,219	7,128	91	511	8,949
Children 6 - 14	1,432	11,829	101	653	14,015
Children 15 - 18	496	3,761	23	105	4,385
Total	3,480	24,466	274	1,409	29,629

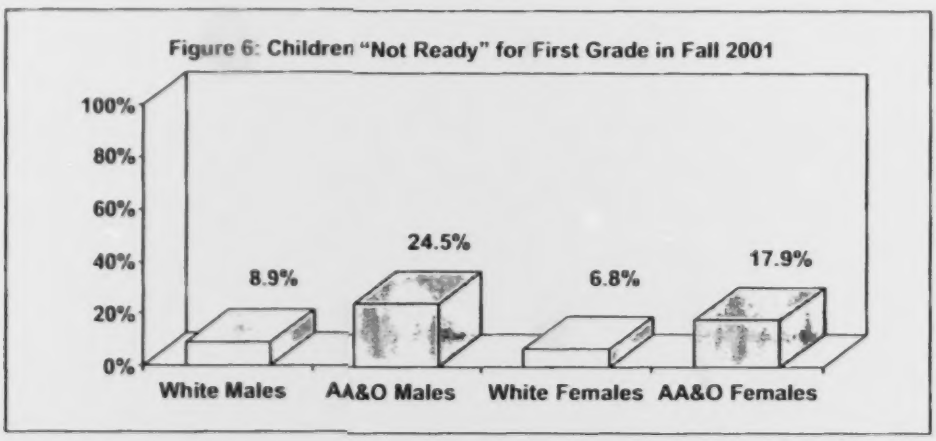
Ambulatory Care: When children lack adequate primary care, whether through lack of insurance, through limite access, or through failing to utilize available care, preventable and treatable conditions become serious and requi hospitalization. A useful indicator of inadequate primary care is the percentage of all hospitalizations that could typicall have been avoided through ambulatory care, especially for pneumonia, asthma, diarrhea and vomiting, dehydration, ar severe ear, nose, and throat infections. The share of hospitalizations for these types of conditions could normally be ke below 20%; for children in the county under the age of 18 during 2001, the share was 23.1% for Whites and 27.3% f African-Americans and Others.

Readiness and Early School Performance

Too many children reach school without the readiness skills needed for success in learning, such as language, soci skills, visual and auditory discrimination, memory recall, and knowledge of colors, letters, numbers, names of objects, et Likewise, some schools are not ready to respond appropriately to the varying developmental levels of children in the ear grades. As a result, too many students do not experience the success needed to create the motivation and engagement th sustain learning.

1st Grade "Readiness" on 2001-02 Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB):

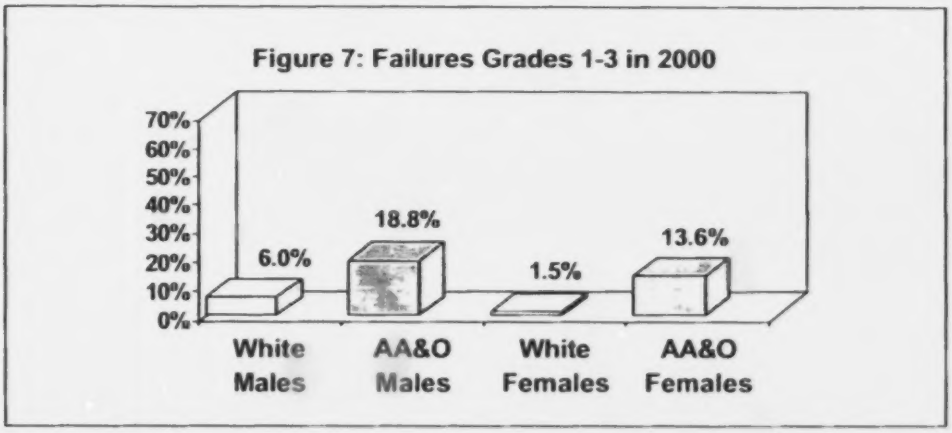
552 children not ready 17.8% children not ready



1st Grade Failures in 2002:

186 children failing 5.7% children failing

Failures Grades 1-3 in 2002 (approximate cumulative percentage of grades one, two and three):	
364 children failing	10.8% children failing



Over-age for Grade 3 in 2001	
441 children over-age	14.6% children over-age

Special Education: Large numbers of children are placed in special education classes. In elementary school, 919 six and seven year olds and 965 eight and nine year-olds were enrolled in special education classes during 2001-02, approximately 14.9% and 13.7% of their age groups respectively: 13.6% of White 8 – 9 year olds were in special education and 13.8% of African American and Others.

Readiness Summary: A serious problem exists in terms of student readiness and school success in the early grades. With 17.8% assessed not ready for the 1st grade, 14.6% over age in grade 3, and 13.7% of eight and nine year-olds placed in special education, unacceptably large numbers of students still begin school without good prospects of success in future school achievement and graduation; however, great improvement has occurred since the mid 1990s.

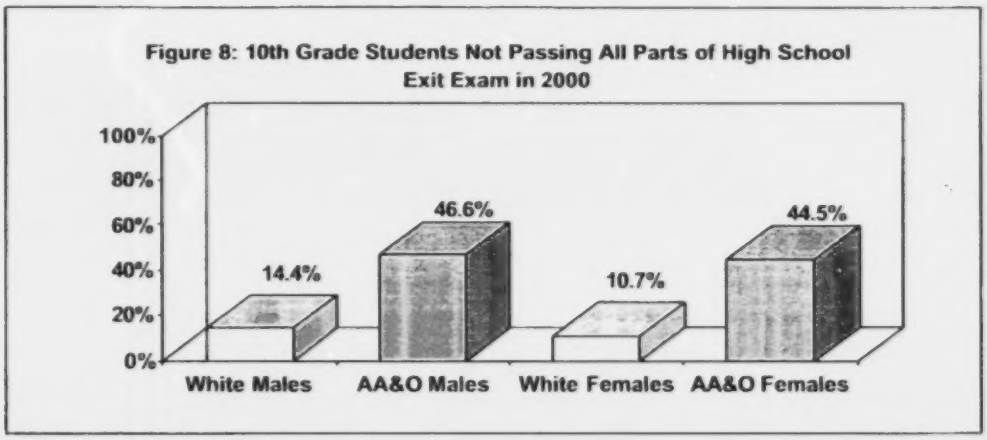
SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

By the end of elementary school, significant numbers of students perform below minimum standards. The following standardized test measures, comparing student performance to state minimum standards, should be used in combination with routine classroom assessments more reflective of real-world performance skills.

Special Education: Special education placements reflect both the significant number of children with serious handicapping conditions and a large number of students with mild learning and behavioral problems that have not been accommodated successfully by the regular educational program. The result is a large system of self-contained, resource, and itinerant services to meet the needs of 1,356 speech and language impaired, 2,359 learning disabled, 521 emotionally disabled, 979 mentally impaired, and 393 physically handicapped, deaf, blind, and other handicapped students. Special education classes served approximately 12.9% of all students in grades 1 - 12 during 2001-2002.

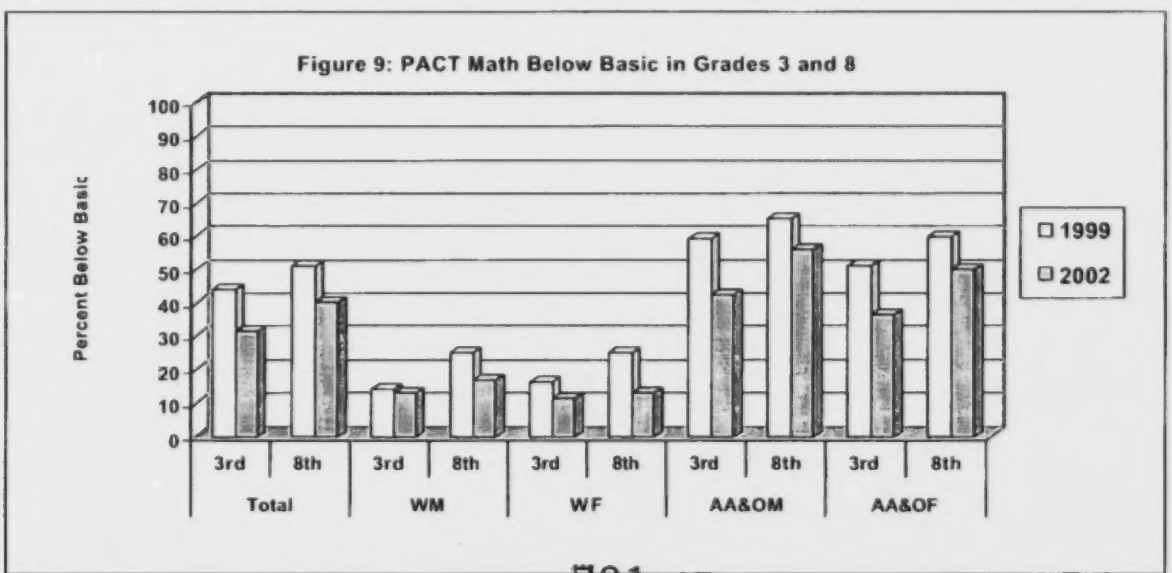
Exit Exam - not passing all parts of Exit Exam on first attempt in the 10th grade in 2002

973 students did not pass all parts — 34.7% of students did not pass all parts



Achievement Trends: How has performance on standardized achievement tests changed over the past 20 years? During the 1980s, student performance on the BSAP tests improved dramatically. Between 1981 and 1990, the percentage of 8th grade students in Richland County who did not meet standards declined from 56.6% to 36.5% in math and from 49.1% to 25.2% in reading. During the 1990's the BSAP trend changed, with 42.1% not meeting 8th grade math standards in 1998 and 31.7% in reading. On standardized tests, the first year when South Carolina students take the exam is comparable to the challenge encountered by the national norm group which took the test only once. Looking at first year data, the percentage of 4th grade students at or below the 25th percentile of national norms was 30.3% in 1983 on the CTBS, 32.5% in 1990 on the Stanford, and 29.6% in 1995 on the Metropolitan; for 9th graders, the percentage in the bottom quarter was 35.5% in 1990 and 34.1% in 1995. Although not comparable, the percent below basic on the 4th grade PACT in 1999, the first year of administration, was 40.3%, but in 2002 25.7% of 4th graders were below basic in reading and math; the percentage of 8th graders below basic in reading and math averaged 44.8% in 1999 and 37.0% in 2002.

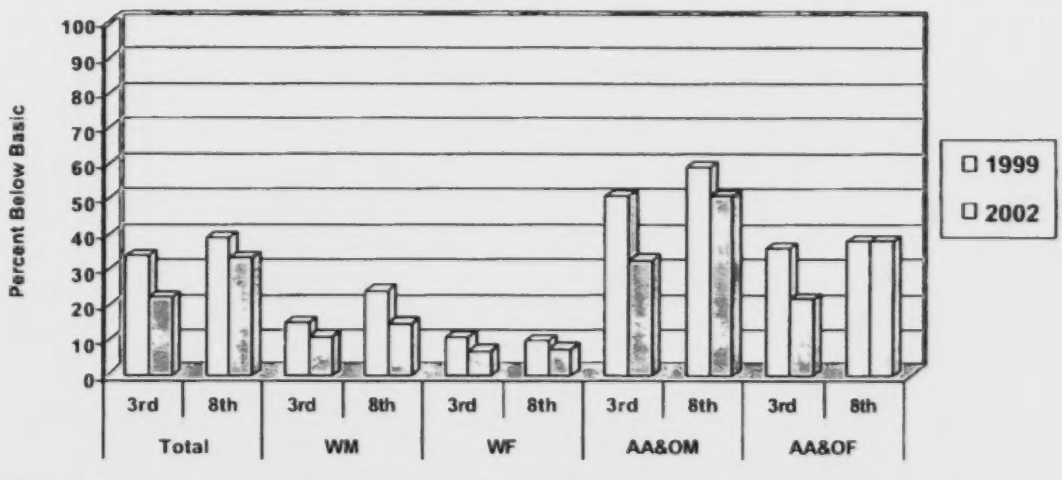
PACT: The Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) was first administered in 1999 for grades 3 - 8 in math and reading/language arts. Math assesses skills in numbers, numerical and algebraic concepts, patterns and functions, geometry, measurement, probability and statistics. The percentage of students scoring below basic in math has decreased by 19.3% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 4,880 students below basic in grades 3-8 but there would have been an additional 1,163 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
		Math (%)				
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	31.8	13.1	11.4	42.6	36.5
	4	29.2	9.1	9.0	40.4	34.9
	5	34.7	9.8	9.5	45.8	43.0
	6	35.1	10.9	11.7	49.1	41.3
	7	42.4	15.1	12.5	58.1	50.1
	8	40.5	17.0	12.8	55.9	50.0
Basic	3	39.4	30.1	38.6	40.0	42.9
	4	34.3	25.9	23.5	36.9	39.9
	5	37.2	28.7	31.8	40.0	39.7
	6	35.5	29.5	27.6	36.3	40.0
	7	29.7	30.8	31.1	27.9	30.6
	8	38.3	36.4	45.5	34.0	39.8
Proficient	3	17.1	28.8	26.8	11.8	13.9
	4	19.0	26.1	30.3	14.5	15.7
	5	15.2	23.8	25.2	10.1	13.0
	6	17.2	29.9	28.7	10.2	14.0
	7	14.1	22.9	21.6	8.5	13.0
	8	12.6	23.7	23.5	7.0	7.4
Advanced	3	11.7	28.0	23.2	5.6	6.7
	4	17.6	39.0	37.2	8.3	9.6
	5	13.0	37.6	33.4	4.2	4.2
	6	12.3	29.7	32.1	4.4	4.7
	7	13.8	31.2	34.9	5.5	6.4
	8	8.6	22.9	18.1	3.0	2.8

Reading/Language Arts assesses reading, listening, speaking, writing, research, and communication with technology. The first PACT assessment found a high percentage of elementary and middle grades students performing below standards and only a modest number above basic. The percentage of students scoring below basic in reading/language arts has decreased by 29.9% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 3,495 students below basic in grades 3 - 8 but there would have been an additional 1,489 at 1999 performance rates.

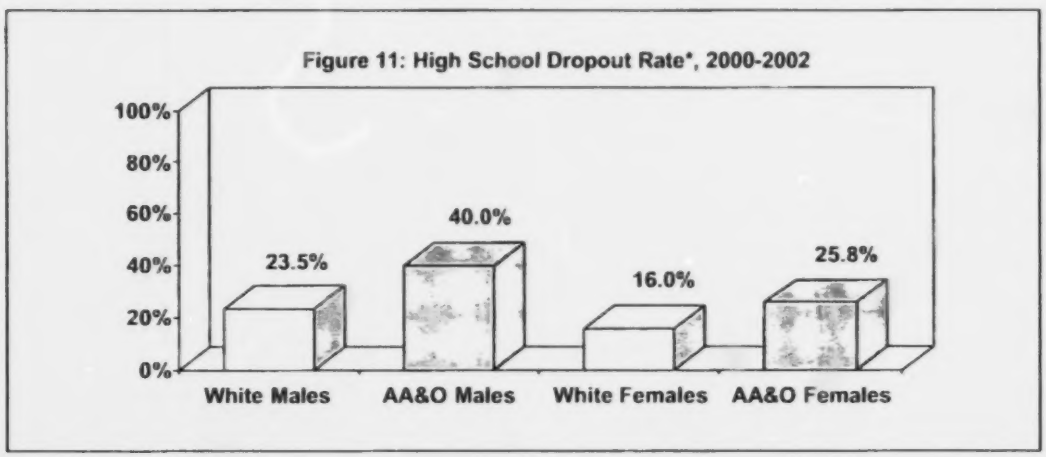
Figure 10: PACT Reading/Language Arts Below Basic in Grades 3 and 8



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
	Reading/Language Arts (%)					
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	22.0	11.1	7.1	32.7	21.6
	4	22.3	9.5	6.0	36.6	20.3
	5	25.9	9.4	5.9	37.9	28.6
	6	31.2	12.7	8.8	48.9	31.3
	7	30.5	12.5	3.6	48.8	30.4
	8	33.5	14.7	7.6	51.0	38.1
Basic	3	36.4	22.3	22.7	40.8	42.8
	4	43.3	34.0	26.3	47.7	50.2
	5	47.5	45.9	30.2	50.0	52.5
	6	33.5	28.0	21.3	32.9	40.9
	7	41.5	40.0	29.0	39.1	49.6
	8	37.0	34.1	30.8	36.1	42.0
Proficient	3	36.5	56.4	55.5	24.6	32.9
	4	31.0	52.4	55.2	14.7	27.9
	5	24.2	39.8	55.1	11.9	17.9
	6	24.8	43.3	37.5	14.6	21.8
	7	23.0	39.2	49.5	10.8	17.9
	8	23.0	37.4	42.9	11.3	17.8
Advanced	3	5.1	10.2	14.7	1.8	2.7
	4	3.4	4.1	12.4	1.0	1.6
	5	2.4	4.9	8.8	0.3	1.0
	6	10.6	16.0	32.4	3.6	6.1
	7	5.0	8.3	18.0	1.3	2.1
	8	6.5	13.9	18.7	1.6	2.1

Dropout Rate - 8th grade students no longer enrolled in grade 12
(average of students for the three years ending 2000-2002)

1,007 students drop out annually **29.1% students drop out?**



Dropouts: Distressing numbers of students drop out and fail to graduate. An average of 24.3% of 8th graders failed to graduate** from county schools five years later during the period 1980-84, 26.4% during 1985-89, and 29.5% during 1990-94, 29.6% during 1995-97 and 33.7% during 1998-2000***.

During 2001-02, 96.2% of all who did graduate received the State High School Diploma, while the remaining 3.8% received a State Certificate for meeting the required Carnegie units but not passing the Exit Exam.

*12th grade enrollment compared to 8th grade enrollment four years earlier
** This is calculated by using 8th grade enrollment to graduation data.
*** 2001 data will be available soon and will be posted on the website.

Fortunately, many dropouts enroll in adult education programs and either earn a high school diploma or obtain a GED. During 2001-02, 67 Adult Education high school diplomas were awarded to school completers and in 2001 443 GEDs were awarded in the county. Over time, adult education high school diplomas and GEDs increase the effective school completion rate substantially. In the 2000 Census, 9.1% of county resident 25 - 34 year-olds said they had not completed either high school or a GED.

Achievement Summary: The numbers of students testing below basic on the PACT and dropping out range from 22.0% to 42.4%. Thus, far too many students fail to acquire the knowledge, skills, learning habits, and motivation necessary to compete in the economy or contribute to society in the 21st Century.

ADOLESCENT RISK BEHAVIORS

Academic achievement is greatly influenced by the prevailing youth culture which often promotes popularity with peers and partying rather than studying and doing well in school. The prevalence of adolescent risk-taking and under-achievement is illustrated by the poor grades of substance-abusing teens.

Substance Abuser Rates at Levels of Academic Performance

	Usual School Grades in Past Year					Total
	A Range	B Range	C Range	D Range	F Range	
Smoked Cigarettes (in past 30 days)	13.1%	18.8%	25.9%	35.2%	56.0%	20.7%
Drank 5 or More Drinks on One Occasion (in past 30 days)	12.1%	14.2%	20.4%	19.8%	46.3%	16.1%
Used Any Illicit Drug (in past 30 days)	11.9%	17.7%	26.5%	36.8%	62.2%	20.2%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

As influence from parents and other adults declines during adolescence, significant numbers of students engage in violence, crime, school offenses, depressive emotions and attempted suicide:

Risk Behaviors Participated in During Past 12 Months	White Male		White Female		African American Male		African American Female		Total		Total (Grade 7-12)
	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	
Carried a handgun or knife for self-defense?	17.1%	19.7%	2.5%	4.7%	12.9%	18.8%	5.5%	6.5%	9.4%	12.3%	11.3%
Carried a handgun or knife as a weapon?	4.8%	6.2%	0.5%	0.9%	7.3%	12.7%	1.7%	3.7%	3.6%	5.9%	5.1%
Been in a fight with someone?	39.7%	30.1%	15.5%	11.3%	46.8%	35.2%	31.4%	23.0%	33.4%	25.1%	28.1%
Hit your boyfriend or girlfriend?	1.6%	1.7%	5.1%	5.9%	3.9%	3.9%	16.8%	24.3%	7.0%	9.4%	8.5%
Been hit by your boyfriend or girlfriend?	7.6%	3.7%	4.3%	4.9%	11.3%	7.6%	9.3%	10.2%	8.2%	6.8%	7.3%
Rec'd detention or in-school suspension?	39.9%	39.4%	19.7%	22.8%	46.6%	45.4%	34.7%	35.8%	35.3%	36.0%	35.8%
Been suspended from school?	7.1%	11.4%	2.3%	4.5%	17.0%	21.6%	8.8%	12.9%	8.9%	12.8%	11.4%
Stolen anything worth > $5?	14.6%	19.6%	6.8%	10.0%	14.8%	18.7%	9.1%	12.4%	11.3%	15.1%	13.7%
Had an accident while driving?	NA	12.3%	NA	14.8%	NA	7.5%	NA	9.4%	NA	10.9%	NA
Been arrested and booked?	3.4%	4.1%	0.7%	1.9%	4.6%	8.2%	1.4%	4.5%	2.5%	4.8%	3.9%
Felt hopeless for two weeks or more?	14.8%	16.3%	19.7%	26.6%	15.2%	13.7%	21.3%	26.5%	17.8%	20.9%	19.8%
Seriously considered attempting suicide?	7.8%	10.0%	9.2%	13.8%	6.4%	6.3%	8.7%	9.1%	8.0%	9.7%	9.1%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

Adolescence is often a time of taking risks and asserting independence from adults. When asked whether they would tell an adult about a problem, the following percentages of county students said they would be "not likely" or "very unlikely" to tell if they:

-heard a student threaten to harm someone: 35.5% middle school, 48.6% high school;
-saw a student with a handgun at school: 20.3% middle school, 19.9% high school;
-saw a student with a knife at school: 23.7% middle school, 29.8% high school;
-saw a student with drugs at school: 34.0% middle school, 69.1% high school;

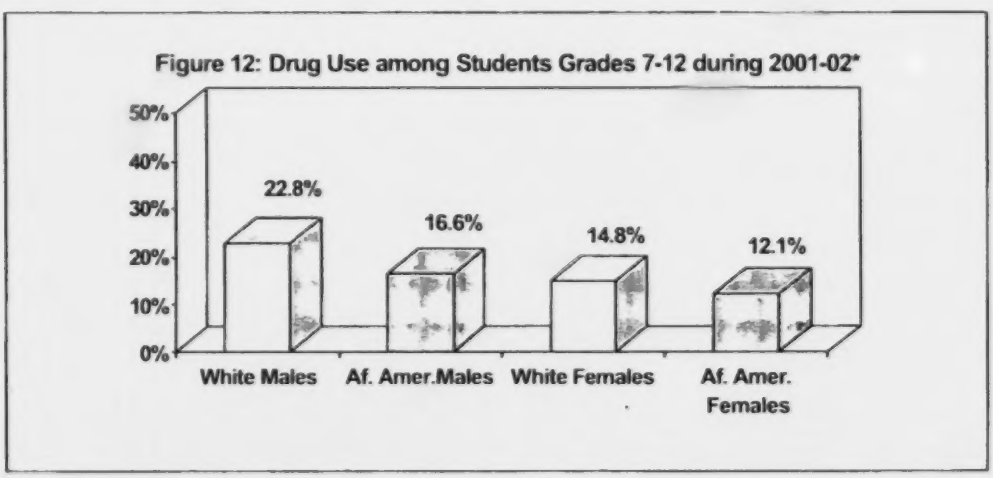
Alcohol Use:* In the county during 2001-02, 19.9% of 7th and 8th graders and 37.1% of high schoolers said they had used alcohol in the past month. Of White males in grades 7 - 12, 35.2% had used it in the past month, compared with 24.1% of African-American males; likewise, 37.4% of White females said they had used alcohol, compared with 31.7% of African-American females. Many youth first used alcohol at an early age: 15.4% had used alcohol by age 11 or younger, 33.4% by age 13, and 60.7% by age 15.

During the previous year, 18.9% of 7th and 8th graders and 27.9% of high schoolers said they had ridden with a drinking driver. Of seniors who drive, 19.6% said they had driven after drinking. Widespread use is encouraged by the ready availability and perceived low risk of alcohol use. Among students who expressed an opinion, 49.3% of eighth graders and 78.8% of seniors felt that beer was easy to get. Also, 76.2% of eighth graders and 70.7% of seniors felt there was not a great risk in drinking two drinks a day, and 51.2% of eighth graders and 52.9% of high schoolers felt there was not a great risk in drinking 5 drinks every weekend.

Heavy Drinking:* In 2001-02, 5.5% of 7th and 8th graders and 16.0% of high school students in the county repor drinking 5 or more drinks in a day during the past month. When asked how many drinks, if any, they usually consur 13.1% of all county students in grades 7 - 12 in 2001-02 responded 3 or more drinks at a time and 5.9% reported usually 5 more drinks. Among high school students, 16.6% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 7.6% 5 or mc Among seniors, 23.6% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 11.4% 5 or more; however 22.0% of seni said that they drank 5 or more drinks in a day once or more during the past month.

Drugs:* In 2001-02, 8.5% of 7th and 8th graders and 20.2% of high schoolers in the county reported using ille drugs during the previous month. Among students in grades 7 - 12, use was reported by 22.8% of White males, 14.8% Wl females, 16.6% of African-American males, and 12.1% of African-American females. Some young people initiated drug at an early age: 4.6% had experienced their first use by age 11 or sooner; 13.8% had used a drug by age 13, and 33.9% by 15.

In the past year, 10.6% of all high school students in the county who drive and 18.5% of seniors who drive said that they had driven after using drugs. Such use is encouraged by the ready availability of drugs: 23.7% of 8th graders who had an opinion said it is easy to get marijuana and 9.4% said it is easy to get cocaine or crack; 71.1% of seniors said it is easy to get marijuana and 30.3% said it was easy to get cocaine or crack.



* County participation in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking was not complete but county data is presented to provide the best available picture of teen risk-taking attitudes and behavior in Richland County. One of 2 districts participated (District 2).

Sexual Activity and Pregnancy: Many teenagers now engage in sexual activity. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) administered to a representative sample of high school students throughout South Carolina in 2001 showed that sexual activity begins at an early age: 7% of female and 21% of male students have engaged in intercourse before age 13; by age 15, 38% the females and 49% of males have engaged in sexual intercourse. Statewide, 48% of females and 50% of males in the 11th and 12th grades reported engaging in intercourse during the past three months. Furthermore, 27% of female and 33% of male 12th graders have had intercourse with four or more partners during their lifetimes.

Premature sexual activity often results in pregnancy. In the county, 306 girls between the ages of 14 and 17 became pregnant in 1999, 268 in 2000 and 214 in 2001. This represented 2.1% of all girls ages 14 – 17 in 2001; several times this percentage become pregnant at least once by age 18. The 2001 pregnancy rate for ages 14 - 17 was 1.1% for Whites and 2.9% for African-Americans and Others. Of all pregnancies of 14-17 year olds, 55.6% resulted in live births, with almost all other pregnancies ending in abortions.

Teen pregnancy rates increased substantially across the state during the 1980s; as a result, greater emphasis v devoted to preventing teen pregnancy. Since 1989, the teen pregnancy rate in Richland County has decreased by 67.6 Overall, it has decreased by 66.7% for Whites, and decreased by 67.4% for African Americans and Others.

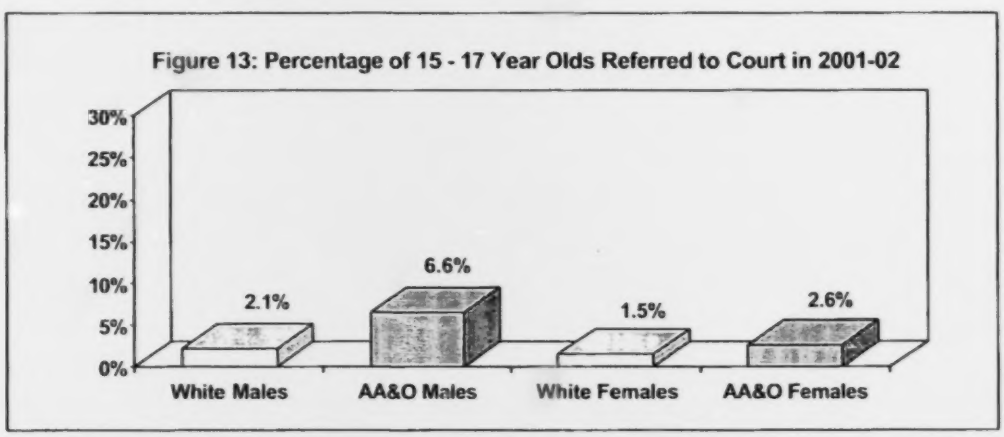
Juvenile Delinquency: In 2001-02, 917 individual juvenile offenders in the county were referred to the Solicitor for delinquency; of these, 11.0% were age 12 or younger, 26.0% were 13 or 14, and 63.0% were 15 or older.

Of the referrals to the family court, 11.5% of all referrals were for violent and serious crimes which include drug trafficking, acts against persons for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and serious property offenses for arson and burglary. Also, 76 juvenile cases constituting 5.8% of all referrals were for status offenses. Status offenses include truancy, running away, incorrigibility, and other offenses that would not be crimes for adults.

Delinquents are likely to live in families with low income: 27.2% lived in families with income under $10,000, 40.8% with $10,000-$19,999 and 32.0% with $20,000 or more. Furthermore, only 18.7% of delinquents lived with both natural parents, while 56.7% lived in a single parent household, 20.3% lived with other relatives, and 4.3% in other situations including parent plus step-parent. Delinquency or criminal activity occurs among many related family members: 26.7% had at least one family member who was delinquent or had some criminal record.

Youth referred to the family courts are likely to have been there before. In 2001-02, 52.5% had at least one prior referral and 18.5% had been referred to court 3 times or more. Many were referred at an early age. For delinquents 15 - 17 years old, 2.7% had been referred by the age of 10, 7.8% by the age of 12, and 23.3% by the age of 14.

During 2001-02, 570 youth ages 15 to 17 were referred to the family courts. In the county, 3.4% of all youth 15 to 17 were referred to court in one year and roughly double that percentage are referred at least once by age 18. Furthermore, the National Youth Survey indicates that typically across the United States the proportion of youth engaging in crime is two or three times the number ever apprehended. In 2001-02, there were 320 juveniles committed from the county to DJJ custody and placed in residential programs.



Not in School or Employed: During 2000, 1,903 teenagers ages 16-19 were idle, meaning they neither worked any hours nor were enrolled in school, even part-time. Idle teens comprised 8.2% of their age group: 5.4% for White and 10.4% African-American & Other teens. A much larger number, perhaps twice as many, were not engaged in either school full time or work full time. The data reflect a serious failure in both school completion and the critical transition from school to work, significantly affecting their development as future workers. For an in-depth description of the problems of young adults seeking to enter the labor force, visit our website at www.scyoungadults.org for our state and county reports on 18-29 year olds.

Deaths: During 1997-2001, 72 youth ages 15 to 19 died. Historically, automobile accidents have been the major cause, resulting in 13 deaths between 1996 and 2000; homicides killed 14 youth 15 to 19 years old during the five-year period, and 3 youth committed suicide. Alcohol use is often a significant factor in deaths among teenagers.

Summary

Facing the Scope of Problems: The data on families, economic status, health, readiness, school achievement, and adolescent risk behaviors provide a troublesome picture of the condition of children in Richland County. The 34.9% of children in single-parent families, 17.9% in poverty, 33.7% not graduating from school, 37.1% of high school students using alcohol and 20.2% using drugs each month, and other data profiled in this report suggest that too many children are at risk of not growing up to become self-supporting adults, good family members, and responsible community citizens.

Emphasizing the Positive: South Carolina Kids Count reports have been developed to describe the problems of children in each of the counties. Fortunately, the majority of children and youth are doing well, and some very well. One simple description is the percentage of children who do not fall into the problem categories reported. For the county, 90.1% of children are born to non-teen mothers ages 20 or older, 61.2% are born to married parents, and 65.1% lived in two-parent families; 82.1% were not poor and 60.9% lived in families with incomes above twice the poverty level for a family of three, $30,040 in 2002; 90.3% of babies were born with normal birthweights; 82.2% were assessed as ready for the first grade, 59.5% scored basic or better on PACT for 8th grade math and 66.5% for 8th grade reading, 65.3% passed all parts of the Exit Exam in the 10th grade, and 66.3% graduated with their class. In a typical month, 62.9% of high school students do not drink alcohol, 79.8% do not use drugs, and 79.3% do not smoke. Unfortunately, the absence of a problem is not always an indicator of success. Some data is available for exemplary performance: for example, 41.6% of 3rd graders and 29.5% of 8th graders scored proficient or advanced on PACT in reading and 28.8% of 3rd graders and 21.2% of 8th graders in math. Unfortunately, data on success is not generally available.

Despite the limitations of success data, we must emphasize the positive in providing good support and appropriate influences for children and youth. Recent philosophy and publications such as those of the Search Institute (700 South Third Street, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN, 55415-1138, tel. 1-800-888-7828, www.search-institute.org), emphasize the critical importance of "developmental assets" to promote and support positive development. One short book from the Search Institute, (What Kids Need to Succeed, by Peter J. Benson, Judy Gailbraith, and Pamela Espeland, 1995) presents an excellent array of suggestions for promoting developmental assets through families, community, faith congregations, and schools. If each family, school, religious congregation and community organization assertively worked to build such assets, the problems described in this report would be reduced dramatically. Such positive family-school-community efforts could improve South Carolina's national Kids Count ranking from the bottom 10 to the average or even into the top 10 by prevention of unnecessary problems affecting children and youth, as shown on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

All data presented in this report is the most recent available at the date it goes to the printer. This version of the Kids Count report will be revised as more recent and additional data become available. Please send us your corrections and suggestions for improvement. We welcome your ideas for ways to make the state and county reports more useful and accurate. Please utilize local data sources whenever possible to supplement the profile provided through our report.

Data related inquiries should be directed to:

Anne Wilson, Data Manager (awilson@drss.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-4810

Calls for **copies of reports** for other counties and inquiries regarding more recent reports should be made to:

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For **policy questions and general comments**, please contact:

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1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
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Comparable reports for all 46 counties and for the state can also be found on the World Wide Web at

www.sckidscount.org

Our website also provides: links to other websites for indicators in our report; high to low rankings for individual indicators; information on how to improve SC's national rank; and a glossary of definitions.

The national Kids Count Report can be found on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website at

www.aecf.org

Richland County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Indicators	Most Recent Year	Number					Percent					R	
		1980*	1990*	Most Recent Data	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980 Rank	199
Health													
Low Birth Weight	2001	395	492	414	+4.8%	-15.9%	9.8	10.3	9.7	-1.0%	-5.7%	36	
White babies	2001	100	145	127	+27.0%	-12.4%	5.1	6.7	6.5	27.5%	-2.4%	11	
African American and Other babies	2001	295	347	287	-2.7%	-17.3%	14.2	13.3	12.5	-11.8%	-6.2%	40	
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	2001	1,283	2,102	1,034	+19.4%	-50.8%	31.8	43.9	24.3	-23.6%	-44.7%	10	
White babies	2001	400	599	344	-14.0%	-42.6%	20.5	27.5	17.7	-13.7%	-35.7%	9	
African American and Other babies	2001	883	1,503	690	-21.9%	-54.1%	42.4	57.7	30.0	-29.2%	-48.0%	6	
Infant Mortality	2001	186	147	119	-36.0%	-19.0%	1.5	1.0	0.9	-40.6%	-12.7%	17	
White babies	2001	53	47	28	-47.2%	-40.4%	0.9	0.7	0.5	-46.9%	-33.5%	9	
African American and Other babies	2001	133	100	91	-31.6%	-9.0%	2.1	1.3	1.2	-40.6%	-4.5%	16	
Family													
Births to mothers under 18	2001	265	264	122	-54.0%	-53.8%	6.6	5.5	2.9	-55.9%	-47.5%	5	
White babies	2001	52	41	16	-69.2%	-61.0%	2.7	1.9	0.8	-70.0%	-57.5%	5	
African American and Other babies	2001	213	223	106	-50.2%	-52.5%	10.2	8.6	4.6	-54.9%	-46.1%	8	
Births to mothers under 20	2001	625	701	421	-32.6%	-39.9%	15.5	14.7	9.9	-36.1%	-32.5%	2	
White babies	2001	171	132	77	-55.0%	+41.7%	8.8	6.1	4.0	-54.4%	-34.0%	1	
African American and Other babies	2001	454	569	344	-24.2%	+39.5%	21.8	21.8	15.0	-31.3%	-31.5%	7	
Births to mothers with less than a high school education	2001	777	795	508	-34.6%	-36.1%	19.3	16.6	12.0	-37.7%	-27.8%	1	
White babies	2001	239	190	155	-35.1%	-18.4%	12.3	8.7	8.0	-34.8%	-8.3%	1	
African American and Other babies	2001	538	605	353	-34.4%	-41.7%	25.8	23.2	15.4	-40.5%	-33.9%	45	
Births to single mothers****	2001	995	1,685	1,647	+65.5%	-2.3%	24.7	35.2	38.8	57.2%	10.1%	22	
White babies	2001	128	223	290	+126.6%	+30.0%	6.6	10.2	14.9	126.8%	45.5%	24	
African American and Other babies	2001	867	1,462	1,357	+56.5%	-7.2%	41.6	56.1	59.0	41.9%	5.2%	8	
Children in single parent families	2000	15,127	17,102	23,238	+53.6%	+35.9%	24.0	29.1	34.9	45.6%	20.0%	41	
White	2000	4,462	4,096	4,381	-1.8%	+7.0%	13.1	14.4	15.4	17.4%	6.8%	45	
African American and Other	2000	10,518	12,766	18,857	+79.3%	+47.7%	35.1	42.9	49.6	41.3%	15.6%	45	
Education													
Not Ready for Grade 1	2001	1,171	1,026	552	-52.9%	-46.2%	38.6	28.8	17.8	-53.9%	-38.2%	26	
White males	2001	138	106	35	-74.6%	-67.0%	22.8	15.4	8.9	-61.0%	-42.2%	7	
White females	2001	97	76	29	-70.1%	-61.8%	18.9	12.9	6.8	-64.0%	-47.3%	17	
African American and Other males	2001	542	489	290	-46.5%	-40.7%	54.3	41.5	24.5	-54.9%	-41.0%	25	
African American and Other females	2001	393	355	196	-50.1%	-44.8%	42.8	32.1	17.9	-58.2%	-44.2%	15	
Repeating Grades 1-3	2000	376	540	431	+14.6%	-20.2%	12.6	15.9	12.5	-0.8%	-21.4%	9	
White males	2000	73	54	30	-58.9%	-44.4%	12.6	8.4	6.0	-52.4%	-28.6%	7	
White females	2000	26	46	7	-73.1%	-84.8%	5.0	7.9	1.5	-70.0%	-81.0%	7	
African American and Other males	2000	176	287	230	+30.7%	-19.9%	18.5	25.3	18.8	1.6%	-25.7%	8	
African American and Other females	2000	98	153	163	+66.3%	+6.5%	10.7	14.5	13.6	27.1%	-6.2%	7	
Grade 3 Math below standards*****	2002	1,267	707	1,009	-20.4%	+42.7%	43.4	22.6	31.8	-26.7%	40.7%	26	
White males	2002	139	53	62	-55.4%	+17.0%	24.7	9.7	13.1	-47.0%	35.1%	8	
White females	2002	139	65	48	-65.5%	-26.2%	25.2	11.7	11.4	-54.8%	-2.6%	15	
African American and Other males	2002	509	298	471	-7.5%	+58.1%	59.4	30.1	42.6	-28.3%	41.5%	23	
African American and Other females	2002	475	288	428	-9.9%	+48.6%	50.8	28.1	36.5	-28.1%	29.9%	23	
Grade 3 Reading below standards*****	2002	1,100	448	695	-36.8%	+55.1%	37.7	14.4	22.0	-41.6%	52.8%	24	
White males	2002	130	40	52	-60.0%	+30.0%	23.0	7.4	11.1	-51.7%	50.0%	9	
White females	2002	102	30	30	-70.6%	+0.0%	18.6	5.4	7.1	-61.8%	31.5%	24	
African American and Other males	2002	484	230	360	-25.6%	+56.5%	56.4	23.4	32.7	-42.0%	39.7%	21	
African American and Other females	2002	382	146	253	-33.8%	+73.3%	40.9	14.3	21.6	-47.2%	51.0%	24	
Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT Grade 4	1998	902	959	765	-15.2%	-20.2%	30.3	32.5	24.2	-20.1%	-25.5%	20	
White males	1998	107	104	47	-56.1%	-54.8%	19.2	19.0	9.3	-51.6%	-51.1%	10	
White females	1998	67	58	34	-49.3%	-41.4%	12.0	10.4	6.5	-45.8%	-37.5%	15	
African American and Other males	1998	408	415	357	-12.5%	-14.0%	44.1	47.1	37.3	-15.4%	-20.8%	11	
African American and Other females	1998	311	377	321	+3.2%	-14.9%	34.2	39.5	29.1	-14.9%	-26.3%	18	

*Year of data is approximate in many cases.
**1 is best, 46 is worst.
*** Data include paternity acknowledgements.
**** BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Richland County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Education (continued)

Indicators	Most Recent Year	Number					Percent				
		1980*	1990*	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres
Grade 8 Math below state standards**	2002	1,590	1,048	1,278	-19.6%	+21.9%	56.6	36.5	40.5	-28.4%	11.0%
White males	2002	184	91	87	-52.7%	-4.4%	31.0	17.4	17.0	-45.2%	-2.3%
White females	2002	180	82	66	-63.3%	-19.5%	31.9	15.6	12.8	-59.9%	-17.9%
African American and Other males	2002	592	454	575	-2.9%	+26.7%	75.1	50.7	55.9	-25.6%	10.3%
African American and Other females	2002	624	416	550	-11.9%	+32.2%	73.9	45.5	50.0	-32.3%	9.9%
Grade 8 Reading below state standards**	2002	1,385	721	1,056	-23.8%	+46.5%	49.1	25.2	33.5	-31.8%	32.9%
White males	2002	188	86	75	-60.1%	-12.8%	31.6	16.5	14.7	-53.5%	-10.9%
White females	2002	125	48	39	-68.8%	-18.8%	22.0	9.1	7.6	-65.5%	-16.5%
African American and Other males	2002	549	316	522	-4.9%	+65.2%	69.2	35.5	51.0	-26.3%	43.7%
African American and Other females	2002	515	268	420	-18.4%	+56.7%	61.2	29.2	38.1	-37.7%	30.5%
Grade 9 Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT	1998	NA	1,111	1,157	NA	+4.1%	NA	35.5	32.2	NA	-9.3%
White males	1998	NA	112	NA	NA	NA	NA	19.7	9.6	NA	-51.3%
White females	1998	NA	69	NA	NA	NA	NA	12.5	9.8	NA	-21.6%
African American and Other males	1998	NA	556	NA	NA	NA	NA	54	45.5	NA	-15.7%
African American and Other females	1998	NA	369	NA	NA	NA	NA	38.2	37.9	NA	-0.8%
Exit Exam (not passing all parts on 1st attempt)	2002	1,379	743	973	-29.4%	+31.0%	45.9	29.8	34.7	-24.4%	16.4%
White males	2002	167	77	68	-59.3%	-11.7%	25.9	15.8	14.4	-44.4%	-8.9%
White females	2002	125	49	49	-60.8%	+0.0%	20.2	9.7	10.7	-47.0%	10.3%
African American and Other males	2002	515	311	409	-20.6%	+31.5%	65.4	45.5	46.6	-28.7%	2.4%
African American and Other females	2002	560	303	433	-22.7%	+42.9%	59.8	37.6	44.5	-25.6%	18.4%
Dropout Rate (8th graders no longer enrolled in 12th grade 4 years later)	2000-02	694	883	1,007	+45.1%	+14.1%	21.5	25.9	29.1	35.4%	12.3%
White males	2000-02	175	164	126	-27.8%	-23.2%	24.5	25.5	23.5	-4.1%	-8.1%
White females	2000-02	120	102	83	-30.8%	-18.2%	18.7	17.1	16.0	-14.2%	-6.1%
African American and Other males	2000-02	240	392	500	+108.3%	+27.6%	24.9	35.3	40.0	60.5%	13.1%
African American and Other females	2000-02	160	226	298	+87.0%	+32.3%	17.5	21.3	25.8	47.8%	21.5%
Young Adults Not Completing High School (18-24)	2000	10,869	6,336	4,490	-58.7%	-29.1%	19.9	15.0	9.1	-54.1%	-39.1%
White males	NA	3,306	1,370	NA	NA	NA	19.9	11.3	NA	NA	NA
White females	NA	1,625	959	NA	NA	NA	10.4	8.1	NA	NA	NA
African American and Other males	NA	4,041	2,394	NA	NA	NA	36.1	28.8	NA	NA	NA
African American and Other females	NA	1,897	1,613	NA	NA	NA	17.1	16.4	NA	NA	NA

Economics

Poverty Rate	2000	13,698	12,278	13,396	-2.2%	+9.1%	20.1	18.3	17.9	-10.9%	-2.2%
White children	2000	2,834	1,746	1,758	-38.0%	+0.7%	8.4	5.8	5.9	-29.8%	1.7%
African American and Other children	2000	10,669	10,532	11,638	+9.1%	+10.5%	31.5	28.5	25.7	-18.5%	-9.9%
Income of Families w/children (1999 $)	2000	$ 45,466	$ 51,032	$ 60,603	+33.3%	+18.8%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
White families	2000	$ 54,783	$ 65,927	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
African American and Other families	2000	$ 33,314	$ 35,856	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Adolescent Risk Factors

Teenage Pregnancy (ages 14-17)	2001	496	462	214	-56.9%	-53.7%	4.6	5.0	2.1	-54.1%	-58.0%
White	2001	156	97	49	-68.6%	-49.5%	2.7	2.2	1.1	-58.5%	-50.0%
African American and Other	2001	340	364	165	-51.5%	-54.7%	6.9	7.6	2.9	-57.8%	-61.8%
Delinquency	2002	342	581	570	+66.7%	-1.9%	2.0	4.3	3.4	70.0%	-20.9%
White males	2002	92	96	81	-12.0%	-15.6%	1.9	2.7	2.1	12.5%	-20.8%
White females	2002	26	49	52	+100.0%	+6.1%	0.6	1.8	1.5	144.8%	-18.4%
African American and Other males	2002	175	344	319	+82.3%	-7.3%	4.3	9.3	6.6	53.0%	-29.3%
African American and Other females	2002	49	92	118	+140.8%	+28.3%	1.3	2.7	2.6	98.2%	-4.6%

*Closest available data to this year was used in many cases.
**BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Kids Count 2003

Saluda County

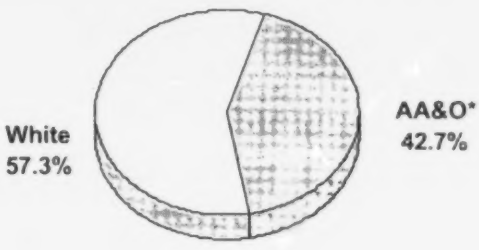
DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2000 there were an estimated 4,780 children under age 18 in the county. Of these, 2,738 were White, 1,778 were African-American, and 264 were other races. There were 4,325 children under age 18 in 1990, 4,957 in 1980, 5,497 in 1970, and 6,026 in 1960.

Children represent a shrinking portion of the county's population. Those under 18 constituted 24.9% of the population in 2000, down from 41.4% in 1960, 37.8% in 1970, and 30.7% in 1980.

In 2000 the 1,484 pre-schoolers under age 6 were 7.7% of the overall population: 6.7% of Whites and 9.1% of African Americans.

Figure 1: Population Ages 0-17 in 2000



* In all charts African-American is combined with other races, and often abbreviated as AA&O. Other races comprise 5.5% of children in the county, with "some other race alone" at 3.8% and 'two or more races" at 1.4% as the largest Other groups.

FAMILY

Families have always been the most important influence in a child's life. Children depend on their families for material needs, stimulation and guidance. Family life is different in numerous ways from previous generations, and many families now face exceptional challenges.

Families with children now make up a smaller share of all households. Only 31.8% of all households in 2000, as compared with 46.0% of households in 1960, had children below the age of 18.

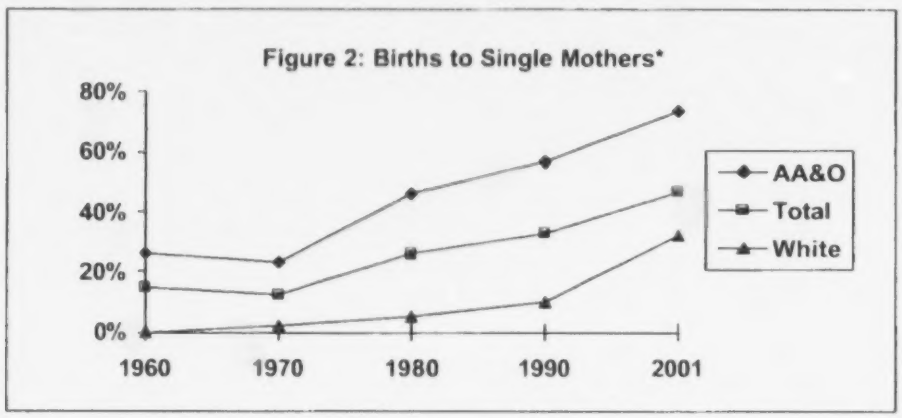
Births to Teen Mothers: In 2001, 6 babies were born to mothers younger than age 18. They were 2.2% of all babies born in the county; 2.3% of all White and 2.1% of all African-American and Other babies were born to teen mothers under the age of 18. Of the babies born to these teens in 2001, 66.7% were born to single mothers, including babies whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers.

In 2001, 32 babies were born to mothers younger than age 20. These babies were 12.0% of all born in the county; 9.8% of all White and 16.0% of all African-American and Other babies were born to mothers under the age of 20. Of the babies born to these mothers in 2001, 75.0% were born to single mothers, including paternity acknowledeged babies.

Education of Mothers Giving Birth: Children's success is strongly influenced by the education of their parents. In 2001, 71 babies, 27.6% of all babies, were born to mothers of all ages who had not completed the 12th grade. In 2001, 30.7% of White and 22.3% of African-American and Other babies were born to mothers who had completed less than the 12th grade. This is a substantial improvement from 44.9% in 1970. In addition, during 2001, 40.9% had completed 12 grades (32.5% of Whites and 55.3% of African Americans and Others) and 31.5% had more than a high school degree (36.8% of Whites and 22.3% of African American and Others).

Births to Single Mothers: Births to single mothers have increased steadily over four decades. In 2001, 94 babies, 35.2% of all babies, were recorded as born to single mothers. A decade earlier in 1990, the percentage was 31.3% and in 1960 it was 14.8%. In 2001, 24.3% of White children and 55.3% of African-American and Other children were born to single mothers. These numbers, however, do not include paternity acknowlegement births.

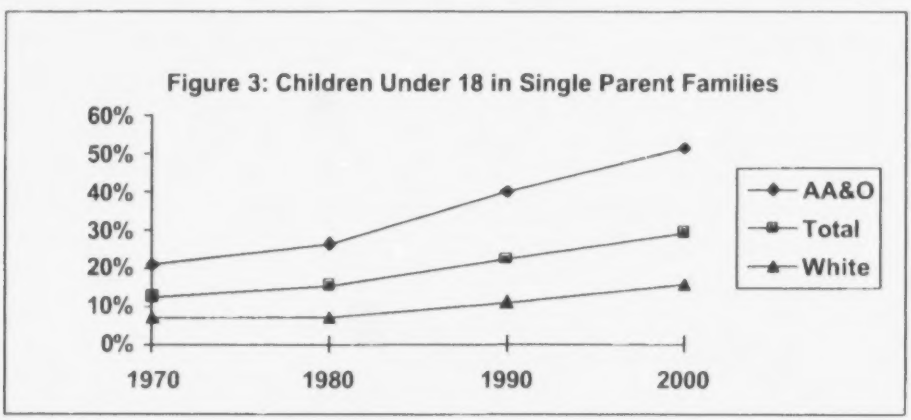
Thus, to these numbers should be added an additional group of 31 babies, 11.6% of all born in 2001, whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers. When the paternity-acknowledged babies are added, the total number born to single mothers in 2001 was 125, constituting 46.8% of all babies, 32.4% of White babies, and 73.4% of African-American and Others.



*Includes paternity acknowleged babies in 1980, 1990 and 2001. Prior to 1979, paternity acknowleged cases were not a statistical category, and thus were included in births to single mothers.

Divorce Rate: In 2001, 96 marriage licenses were issued, while 44 divorce decrees involving 43 children were filed. In 1970, only 27 children were in families involved in divorce.

Single-Parent Family: Increasing numbers of children live in single-parent families. In 2000, 1,178 children lived with only one parent. This was 29.3% of all children, up from 22.3% in 1990, 15.3% in 1980, and 12.4% in 1970. In 2000, 15.6% of White and 51.4% of African-American and Other children lived in single-parent families. Also in 2000, 372 or 25.7% of children under age 6 lived in single parent families: 11.8% of White and 50.1% of African American and Other pre-schoolers.



Parents Working and Child Care: Increasingly, parents must divide their time between children and employers. In order to meet family financial needs, most parents must work and thus have less time for family life. In 2000, 66.1% of mothers with children under 6 and 75.1% with children 6 - 17 were in the labor force. This has increased substantially from 1960 when 50.0% of mothers with children under 6 were in the labor force. Most fathers also work: 61.8% of children under 6 are in families where the single parent or both parents work. Caring for children is a problem for parents unable to obtain quality, affordable daycare while they are at work.

Overall, there are 544 spaces in state-regulated childcare facilities* in the county, 96.7% of these are in licensed programs and 3.3% are in registered programs. Of the spaces, 92.3% are in licensed childcare centers serving more than 12 children, 3.3% are in registered or licensed family childcare homes serving six or fewer children, 4.4% are in licensed group childcare homes serving 7-12 children, and 0.0% are in registered or licensed church programs.

The homes and centers are severely constrained by the limited ability of parents to pay. In the county, the average weekly charge is $ 64.00 for centers and $ 66.67 for homes. Consequently, center wages are low: 33.3% of centers with pre-school staff and 0% of centers with assistant pre-school staff report paying these staff under $6 per hour. Paying $6-$8 per hour are 66.7% of centers with pre-school staff and 100% of centers with assistants. Low wages attract workers with limited education. In 100% of centers, most pre-school staff and in 100% of centers most assistants have only a high school degree. In 66.7% of centers few to none of the pre-school staff have early childhood credentials. In childcare homes, 50% of lead providers have no more education than a high school degree or GED; 0% have less than a high school degree.

Family Violence: In 2000, 128 domestic assaults were recorded by law enforcement officials. These domestic assaults comprised 32.5% of all assaults, which include aggravated assaults, simple assaults, and intimidation. Overall, 61.7% of all domestic assaults involve spouse abuse which constitutes 20.1% of all assaults. Since most family violence is not reported, the true incidence of family disruption is much more widespread than even the large number of reported cases would indicate.

Separation from Parents: Some children do not live with their natural parents. In 2000, 9.6% of all children did not live with their natural parents. Approximately 344 or 7.2% of all children lived with relatives, 104 or 2.2% lived with non-relatives, 12 or 0.3% were householders or spouses, and 1 or 0.0% were in institutional facilities.

Abuse and Neglect: In 2000-01, there were 64 investigations into reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children. Through its investigations, the Department of Social Services (DSS) determined that 27 of the investigations were indicated for abuse or neglect: 25.0% for physical abuse, 4.2% for sexual abuse, 0.0% for mental injury, 37.5% for physical neglect, 0.0% for educational neglect, 4.2% for medical neglect, 29.2% for threat of harm for physical/sexual abuse, and 0.0% for other types of abuse.

In the indicated cases of abuse and neglect, DSS determined there were 46 children who were victims of abuse or neglect. Of these, 43.5% were male, 56.5% were female; 56.5% were White, 43.5% were African-American and Other. By age, 37.0% were ages 0 - 5, 56.5% were ages 6 - 12, and 6.5% were ages 13 - 17. In the indicated cases, 50.0% of the children lived in two-parent families, 37.0% in single parent families, 10.9% with unmarried couples, and 2.2% in other circumstances.

Out of Home Placements: As of June 2001, 19 children lived in foster care. The median age at first placement in the county is 6.9 years. The ages of children in foster care were 5.3% 0-2, 0.0% 3-5, 10.5% 6-10, 26.3% 11-13, and 57.9% 14 and above. The foster care population is 47.4% males and 52.6% females. Regarding their future, 26.3% were under a plan for placement in adoptive homes, 15.8% for return to a parent or guardian, 5.3% for placement with a relative, 36.8% for independent living, 15.8% for permanent foster care, and 0.0% for other circumstances.

Adult/Child Ratio: A measure of potential adult attention for children from family and community is the ratio of adults to children and youth. In 2000 there were 3.01 adults for every person below age 18. This was up substantially from 1960, when there were only 1.42 adults for every person under the age 18. This indicates that today there are more adults potentially available to provide attention and care for each child than in the past.

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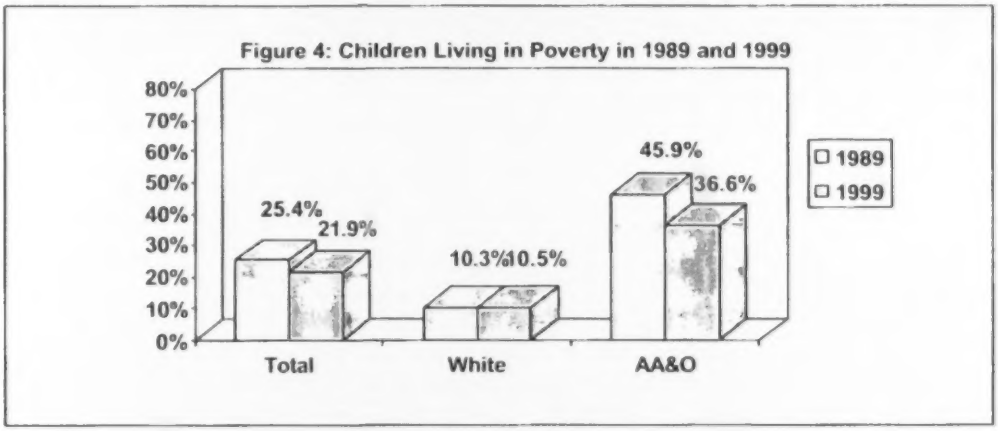
* This data is the best currently available; however, an effort is being made to check the coverage and improve the accuracy. As soon as more recent and complete data becomes available, it will be posted on the website.

ECONOMIC STATUS

Low income makes it difficult for many families to provide the material and environmental enrichment necessary for healthy child development.

Poverty: In 1999, 1,038 children and youth under the age of 18 lived in 480 families with incomes below poverty, comprising 21.9% of all children and youth: 10.5% of Whites and 36.6% of African-Americans and Others. A rough estimate of child poverty in 2001 calculated by the Census Bureau was 23.0%.



Poverty has always been a serious problem. While the rate among children under age 18 in 1989 was 25.4%, it was 27.3% in 1979 and 26.8% in 1969.

Children and the elderly are the age groups most seriously affected by poverty. In 1999, 25.5% of children 0 - 5 (15.2% White, 38.8% African-American and Other), and 19.9% of children 6 - 17 (7.8% White, 35.7% African-American and Other), lived in poverty; 16.3% of persons 65 years and older lived in poverty. Historically, the poverty rate among the elderly was much higher. During the last three decades, federal policy actions have substantially improved the economic status of older persons but have not done so for children.

Single-parent families are most likely to be poor. In 1999, 39.4% of children in single-parent families lived in poverty, but only 11.6% of children in married-couple families were poor. Children in single-parent families made up 73.8% of all the county's children living in poverty.

In 2002, the poverty level was $15,020 for a family of three and $18,100 for a family of four. The poverty threshold is often criticized as an arbitrary number. People can still be poor but may be just above the poverty level. Federal programs utilize varying thresholds. For example, in 1999 there were 2,149 children ages 0-17 who were less than 200 percent of poverty; thus an additional 1,111 children were above the poverty level but could still be considered poor or near-poor with incomes below $30,040 and $36,200 respectively for 3 and 4 person families.

Children Under 18 in Poverty in 1999

Percent of Poverty	Total		White		African American & Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 50%	469	9.9%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 100%	1,038	21.9%	282	10.5%	756	36.6%
Under 125%	1,285	27.1%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 150%	1,641	34.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 175%	1,871	39.4%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 185%	1,977	41.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 200%	2,149	45.3%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total Children	4,780		2,738		2,042	

Note: Missing data will be released by the Census Bureau later in 2003, and will be posted on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

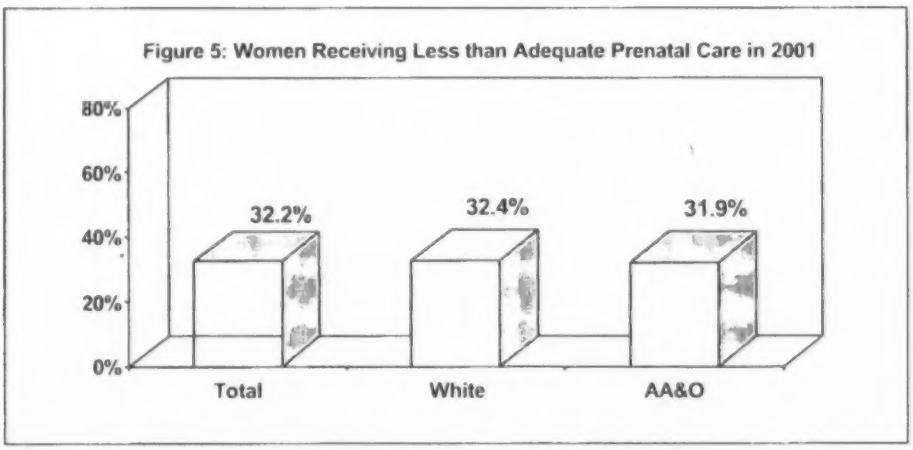
Income: The mean income of families with children in 1999 was $46,017. In 1989 it was $40,367, and 1979, it was $36,452, adjusted for inflation (i.e., in 1999 dollars). The mean income of single-parent families with children was $21,734 for single parents in 1999, as compared with $56,066 in married-couple families with children. From 1999 to 2000, Saluda County real dollar per capita income (eliminating inflation) increased by 0.8%.

Child Support Payments: There were 116[7] families receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families in fiscal year 2002, but only 37.9 % had child support court orders. Their average monthly payment of child support was $ 322, including child support receipts and tax refund intercepts. In addition, during fiscal year 2002, an estimated 300 parents in non-TANF families were obligated to pay a monthly average of $ 211. Information is not available regarding the amount actually paid.

HEALTH

Good health during a child's formative years helps children to reach their maximum potential. Good health requires healthy lifestyles and effective primary care, starting during the prenatal period and continuing through adolescence into adulthood. Children's health reflects the well-being of the community, as well as how adequately they are protected.

Prenatal Care: Early and continuous prenatal care can make a significant difference in assuring births of healthy babies. Delayed or insufficient prenatal care is associated with low birthweight and other health risks for infants. In 2001, 59, or 22.1% of pregnant women received no prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy. In 2001, 86, or 32.2% of pregnant women received less than adequate prenatal care: 56 or 32.4% of Whites and 30 or 31.9% of African-Americans and Others. In that same year, 3 women received no prenatal care at all.



Low Birthweight: Low birthweight of less than 5.5 pounds and very low birthweight of less than 3.3 pounds are associated with health risks and growth and development problems. In 2001, 23 or 8.6% of all babies in the county were born with low birthweight: 18.1% of African-American and Other babies and 3.5% of White babies. During 1999-2001, approximately 17 or 2.2% of all babies were born with very low birthweight and had the most serious complications: 0.8% of White babies and 4.8% of African-American and Other babies. The cost of hospitalization for each newborn low birthweight baby in the county in 1999 - 2001 was $13,503 and $88,947 for each very low birthweight baby, compared with $1,866 for a baby of normal birthweight. The result was excess cost in the county of $377,607 for all low birthweight babies, of which $261,244 was for very low birthweight babies.

Infant Mortality: During the decade since 1989-91, the overall infant mortality rate decreased by 39.9% from 14.9 to 9.0 per 1000 live births. For Whites, the rate decreased 100.0% from 10.2 to 0.0 per 1000 live births, while for African-Americans and Others the rate increased 26.7% from 20.5 to 25.9 per 1000 live births. Over the three-year period 1999-2001, 0 White and 7 African-American and Other infants died before age one. By comparison, 4 White and 7 African-American and Other infants died during 1989-91.

[7] Number is an unduplicated count for the entire fiscal year.

Child Injuries and Deaths: Childhood deaths and injuries reflect whether communities are safe for children. In 2001, children in the Saluda County went to the emergency room 198 times because of injuries. Boys are injured more often than girls. Children visit the emergency room at comparable rates for each age from 0 to 17.

In South Carolina, the major causes of death among young children are unintentional injuries, cancer, homicide, and congenital anomalies. Over the three year period 1999-2001, 1 White and 1 African-American and Other children ages 1-14 died in the county. During 1989-91, White and African-American and Other children died.

Immunization: Immunization rates are an important indication of whether young children are receiving adequate preventive health care. During FY 1989-90, 49.9% of children less than two years old seen in public health clinics were not fully immunized against such preventable diseases as Polio, Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Haemophilus Influenza B and Whooping Cough. After a concerted statewide campaign to increase immunizations, the percentage of children seen in public health clinics who were not fully immunized in January 2001 had declined in the county to 8.1%. The DHEC statewide birth registry survey of all two year old children found that 88.1% were fully immunized in 2001. This success demonstrates the potential to improve the status of children when the leadership of the state and its communities act decisively together.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Children and youth are infected with sexually transmitted diseases through sexual abuse or irresponsible sexual activity. National prevalence rates indicate: a 1 in 8 chance that sexually active 15 year-old girls will develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), the most rapidly increasing cause of infertility; 10% of sexually active adolescent girls and boys are infected with chlamydia, the most common cause of PID; and as many as 15% of teen girls are infected with human papilloma virus, often with strains linked to cervical cancer. Furthermore, research evidence indicates that susceptibility to HIV/AIDS increases by 3 to 8 times through prior infection with various STDs.

According to national studies, approximately 1 in 4 sexually experienced youth aged 13-19 acquires a STD eve year; since two-thirds of all high school students have had sexual intercourse and half engage in intercourse over a thr month period, this would suggest that 10-15% of teens are infected with STDs annually. For 2000, this would indicate th an estimated 198 to 296 youth ages 13-19 in the county were infected with a STD. Many infections are either not identifi for treatment or not reported. In the county, there were 1 reported cases of children under age 15 and 14 youth ages 1 19 infected with gonorrhea; 2 youth under 15 and 14 ages 15 - 19 were reported infected with chlamydia. Youth wi undiagnosed and untreated STDs often spread their infections.

Healthy Lifestyles: Although no county data is available, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2001 found that ma high school students are not following good health habits. The YRBS revealed that 26% felt that they were overweight; 42 were trying to lose weight: 27% of boys and 57% of girls. Although during a week 79% of high school students ate fru 59% ate salad, and over 83% ate vegetables, only 17% ate the recommended five or more servings of fruit and vegetabl per day. During a week, 49% did stretching or muscle strengthening exercises, and 59% exercised three or more times f 20 minutes in sports that made them sweat or breathe hard. However, 11% of students engaged in no vigorous or modera activity at all during a week: 8% of boys and 13% of girls.

Tobacco Use:* Cigarette smoking starts at a young age and often becomes habitual. In the state during 2002 among all students 15 and older, 16.7% first smoked by age 11, 36.3% by age 13, and 51.4% by age 15. In a typical month, 17.1% of 7th and 8th graders and 25.3% of high school students smoked cigarettes. White youths were much more likely than African-Americans to smoke: 26.4% of White male and 27.2% of White female 7th to 12th graders used cigarettes, as compared with 18.9% of African-American males and 12.2% of African American females. A smaller but significant group of high school students (5.4%) used smokeless tobacco monthly; it was used primarily by White males (15.9% compared with 1.1% of all other race and sex groups).

* Schools in the county elected not to participate in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking. Therefore, data for all of South Carolina is presented here.

Disabilities: No data are collected on the true prevalence of disabilities within the county. According to national reported estimates, over 10% of children and youth have developmental disabilities at any point in time, and more than 17 are affected at some time before age 18 by deafness, blindness, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, speech defects, development delays, learning disabilities, and emotional or behavioral problems. For 2000 this suggests that at least 478 children ar youth under age 18 in the county are currently affected by disabilities.

Approximately 5% of children and youth nationally have serious disabilities which have lifelong implications f work, social life and community living. Typically among children and youth, there are 1 - 2% who are mentally retarded, - 3% with serious emotional disturbances, over 1% with orthopedic or multiple disabilities, including cerebral palsy an many hereditary conditions, and under 1% with visual or hearing impairments.

Other chronic health problems also affect the lives of many children. Over 3% of children have one or more these limitations. Such serious chronic conditions affect 1 - 2% who have respiratory problems (asthma and chron bronchitis), 0.5 - 1.0% with neurological problems (epilepsy and seizures), and less than 1% with circulatory problen (congenital heart defects and acquired diseases).

Other disabilities are identified primarily in school performance. These would include 138 students in grades 1- with learning disabilities and 113 students in grades 1-12 with speech/language deficits.

Disabilities are caused by genetics, disease, poor prenatal conditions, injuries, and environmental factors. For example, lead exposure, primarily from paint dust, was detected in over 1% of all children screened, including 2 in Saluda County.

Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: While over 20% of 9-17 year olds meet diagnostic criteria for some form of mental disorder, the number with serious emotional disturbance and impaired functioning in family, school, or community activities is: 9-13% for substantial functional impairment and 5-9% for extreme functional impairment. The rates among poor children are at the higher end of these ranges. Based on a federal formula for estimating prevalence, in the county there are 12% or 295 seriously emotionally disturbed 9-17 year olds with substantial functional impairment and 8% or 196 with extreme functional impairment during the course of a year. Conduct disorders, attention defic it, depression, and anxiety disorders are the most prevalent, each affecting 3% or more of school-aged children. These disorders may occur simultaneously in a child. The prevalence rates are highest among males, adolescents, and disadvantaged persons in communities under stress and lacking social cohesion; depression, however, is more prevalent among females. On the YRBS, 20% of boys and 33% of girls in high school reported that during the past year they felt so sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that they stopped doing some usual activities. Another indicator of emotional problems is the 8% of high school students in South Carolina who reported that they had "attempted suicide" in the past year: 5% of boys and 10% of girls. Suicide attempts resulted in 4% of high school students reporting that they required treatment by a doctor or nurse for injury, poisoning, or overdose.

Inadequate Healthcare: No county level data is routinely collected regarding the number of children and youth with inadequate healthcare. According to estimates for 2000-02 by the Bureau of the Census through the annual Current Population Survey, the statewide average rate of uninsured children and youth under age 18 in families with incomes under 200% of poverty in South Carolina was 16.6%, and 9.9% above 200% of poverty. If these rates are applied to the county, there are 357 children in the county below 200% of poverty with no health insurance, and 261 children above 200% of poverty with no health insurance, for a total of 618 uninsured children in Saluda County. The number lacking basic accessible primary care is at least double the number lacking insurance. Those lacking primary care are often dependent on health services at school. The ratio of students to nurses recommended nationally is 750:1. In the county, this would suggest the need for 3 nurses, compared with 2 currently working in the schools.

Medicaid: For several years, the State of South Carolina has emphasized enrolling eligible children into Medicaid. In late 1997, South Carolina implemented its version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, Partners for Healthy Children (PHC), and aggressively pursued outreach enrollment for PHC and Medicaid. As a result, enrollment of children ages 0 through 18 in Saluda County has increased by 74.2% from June 1997 to June 2001; thus Medicaid and PHC were serving 44.4% of all children in that age range. The total Medicaid expenditures in South Carolina for services provided to children ages 0 through 18 for state fiscal year 2002 were $991 million, at an average statewide expenditure of $2,343 per child enrolled, approximate Medicaid expenditure for children in the county would be $5.0 million.

In June 2001, the total number of Saluda County children, birth through 18, enrolled in Medicaid was 2,120. The total can be broken down into the following age and race groupings:

	White	African American	Hispanic	Other	Total
Children under 1	43	91	32	36	202
Children 1 - 5	195	322	88	30	635
Children 6 - 14	289	615	30	25	959
Children 15 - 18	94	219	7	4	324
Total	621	1,247	157	95	2,120

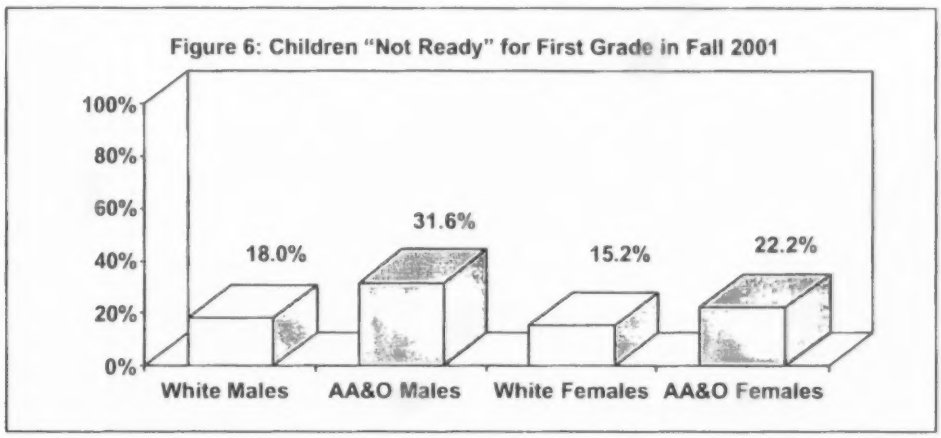
Ambulatory Care: When children lack adequate primary care, whether through lack of insurance, through limite access, or through failing to utilize available care, preventable and treatable conditions become serious and requi hospitalization. A useful indicator of inadequate primary care is the percentage of all hospitalizations that could typicall have been avoided through ambulatory care, especially for pneumonia, asthma, diarrhea and vomiting, dehydration, ar severe ear, nose, and throat infections. The share of hospitalizations for these types of conditions could normally be ke below 20%; for children in the county under the age of 18 during 2001, the share was 32.1% for Whites and 23.5% f African-Americans and Others.

READINESS AND EARLY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Too many children reach school without the readiness skills needed for success in learning, such as language, soci skills, visual and auditory discrimination, memory recall, and knowledge of colors, letters, numbers, names of objects, et Likewise, some schools are not ready to respond appropriately to the varying developmental levels of children in the ear grades. As a result, too many students do not experience the success needed to create the motivation and engagement th sustain learning.

1st Grade "Readiness" on 2001-02 Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB):

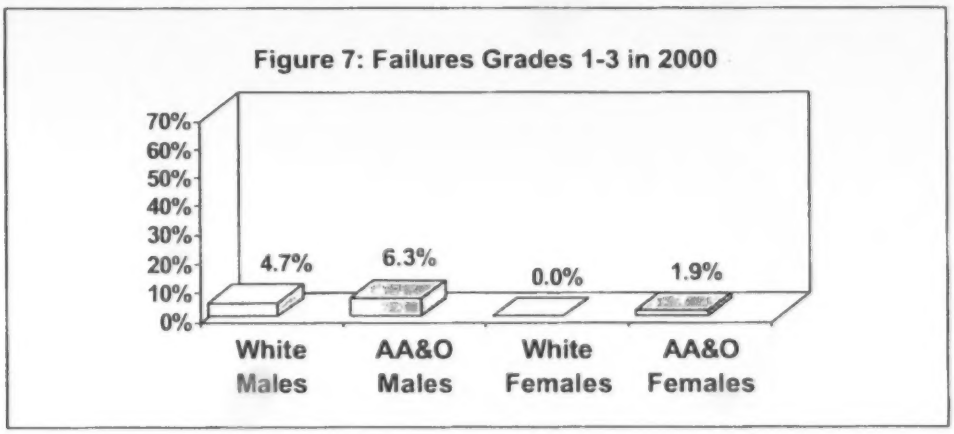
36 children not ready 21.4% children not ready



1st Grade Failures in 2002:

8 children failing 4.4% children failing

Failures Grades 1-3 in 2002 (approximate cumulative percentage of grades one, two and three):	
12 children failing	6.7% children failing



Over-age for Grade 3 in 2001	
25 children over-age	13.6% children over-age

Special Education: Large numbers of children are placed in special education classes. In elementary school, 94 six and seven year olds and 49 eight and nine year-olds were enrolled in special education classes during 2001-02, approximately 27.2% and 14.1% of their age groups respectively: 10.9% of White 8 – 9 year olds were in special education and 17.3% of African American and Others.

Readiness Summary: A serious problem exists in terms of student readiness and school success in the early grades. With 21.4% assessed not ready for the 1st grade, 13.6% over age in grade 3, and 14.1% of eight and nine year-olds placed in special education, unacceptably large numbers of students still begin school without good prospects of success in future school achievement and graduation; however, great improvement has occurred since the mid 1990s.

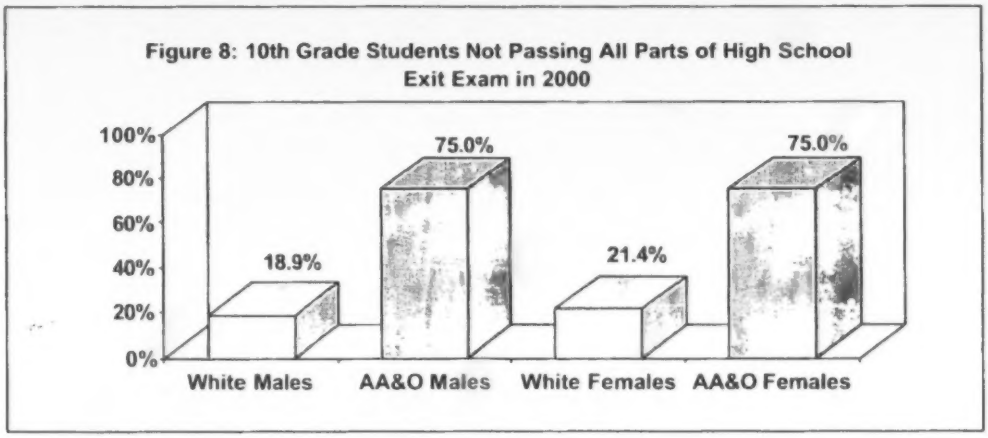
SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

By the end of elementary school, significant numbers of students perform below minimum standards. The following standardized test measures, comparing student performance to state minimum standards, should be used in combination with routine classroom assessments more reflective of real-world performance skills.

Special Education: Special education placements reflect both the significant number of children with serious handicapping conditions and a large number of students with mild learning and behavioral problems that have not been accommodated successfully by the regular educational program. The result is a large system of self-contained, resource and itinerant services to meet the needs of 113 speech and language impaired, 138 learning disabled, 19 emotionally disabled, 75 mentally impaired, and 12 physically handicapped, deaf, blind, and other handicapped students. Special education classes served approximately 17.1% of all students in grades 1 - 12 during 2001-2002.

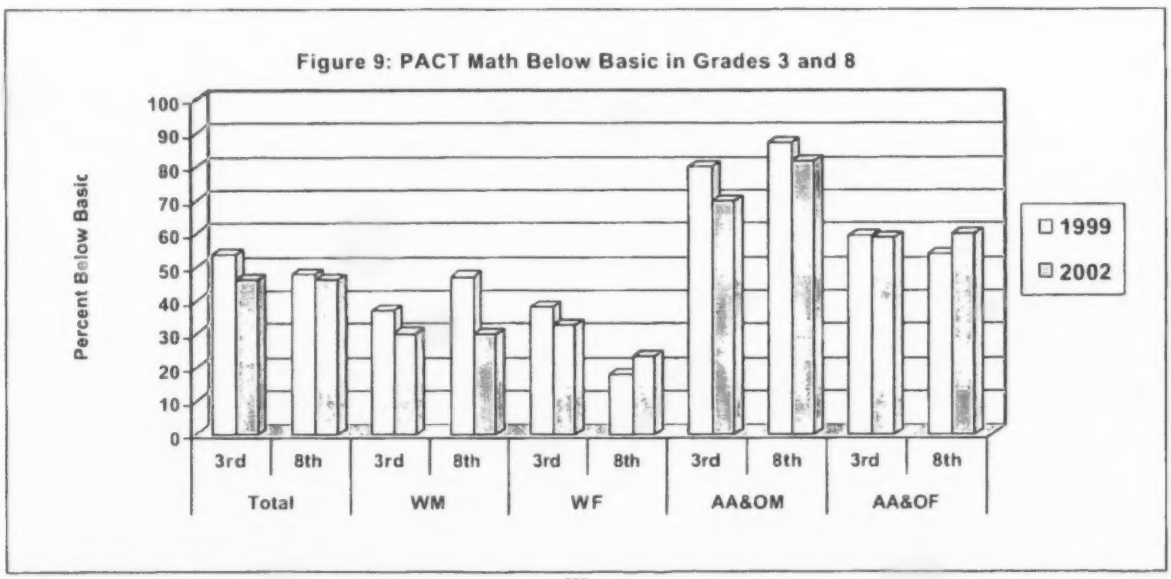
Exit Exam - not passing all parts of Exit Exam on first attempt in the 10th grade in 2002

55 students did not pass all parts	42.0% of students did not pass all parts



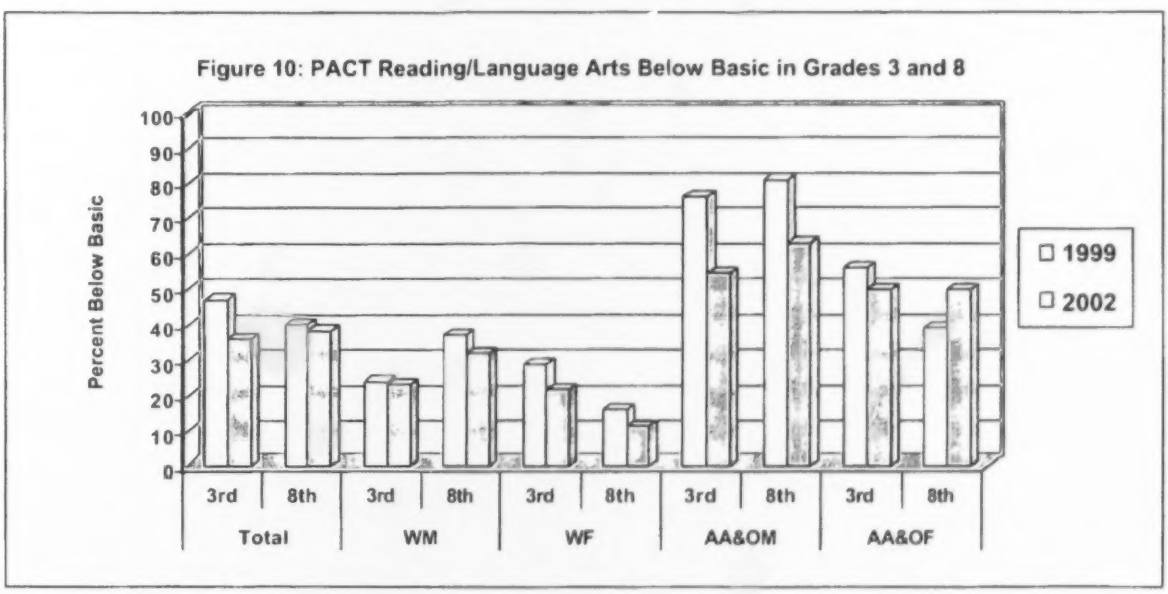
Achievement Trends: How has performance on standardized achievement tests changed over the past 20 years? During the 1980s, student performance on the BSAP tests improved dramatically. Between 1981 and 1990, the percentage of 8th grade students in Saluda County who did not meet standards declined from 55.6% to 29.2% in math and from 45.6% to 23.8% in reading. During the 1990's the BSAP trend changed, with 44.2% not meeting 8th grade math standards in 1998 and 42.8% in reading. On standardized tests, the first year when South Carolina students take the exam is comparable to the challenge encountered by the national norm group which took the test only once. Looking at first year data, the percentage of 4th grade students at or below the 25th percentile of national norms was 30% in 1983 on the CTBS, 33.5% in 1990 on the Stanford, and 34.6% in 1995 on the Metropolitan; for 9th graders, the percentage in the bottom quarter was 36.8% in 1990 and 46.7% in 1995. Although not comparable, the percent below basic on the 4th grade PACT in 1999, the first year of administration, was 44.2%, but in 2002 43.3% of 4th graders were below basic in reading and math; the percentage of 8th graders below basic in reading and math averaged 44.2% in 1999 and 42.1% in 2002.

PACT: The Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) was first administered in 1999 for grades 3 - 8 in math and reading/language arts. Math assesses skills in numbers, numerical and algebraic concepts, patterns and functions, geometry, measurement, probability and statistics. The percentage of students scoring below basic in math has decreased by 18.8% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 252 students below basic in grades 3-8 but there would have been an additional 58 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
	Math (%)					
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	46.3	30.2	32.4	69.7	58.8
	4	47.8	22.0	36.4	67.5	68.0
	5	41.1	22.6	25.7	52.3	54.2
	6	43.2	37.8	25.6	58.5	50.0
	7	35.6	34.4	18.2	41.9	57.1
	8	45.9	30.0	23.1	81.5	60.0
Basic	3	36.1	44.2	37.8	18.2	41.2
	4	33.2	50.0	27.3	30.0	24.0
	5	45.6	41.9	62.9	38.6	41.7
	6	42.6	35.1	48.7	39.0	47.4
	7	35.6	28.1	40.9	48.4	21.4
	8	42.9	48.0	65.4	18.5	36.7
Proficient	3	12.2	20.9	16.2	9.1	0.0
	4	14.7	20.0	29.5	2.5	6.0
	5	10.8	25.8	11.4	9.1	2.1
	6	8.4	18.9	10.3	2.4	2.6
	7	20.0	25.0	22.7	9.7	21.4
	8	7.5	12.0	11.5	0.0	3.3
Advanced	3	5.4	4.7	13.5	3.0	0.0
	4	4.3	8.0	6.8	0.0	2.0
	5	2.5	9.7	0.0	0.0	2.1
	6	5.8	8.1	15.4	0.0	0.0
	7	8.9	12.5	18.2	0.0	0.0
	8	3.8	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

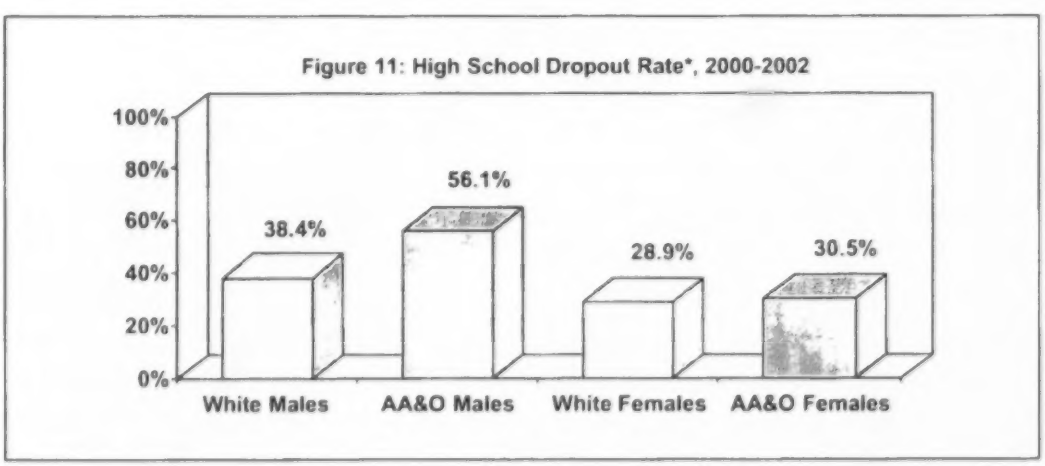
Reading/Language Arts assesses reading, listening, speaking, writing, research, and communication with technology. The first PACT assessment found a high percentage of elementary and middle grades students performing below standards and only a modest number above basic. The percentage of students scoring below basic in reading/language arts has decreased by 17.3% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 203 students below basic in grades 3 - 8 but there would have been an additional 43 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
	Reading/Language Arts (%)					
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	36.1	23.3	21.6	54.5	50.0
	4	38.7	24.5	18.2	66.7	49.0
	5	43.2	26.7	25.7	62.8	48.9
	6	37.2	29.7	23.1	63.4	30.8
	7	23.7	21.9	4.5	38.7	39.3
	8	38.3	32.0	11.5	63.0	50.0
Basic	3	34.0	37.2	27.0	27.3	44.1
	4	39.8	49.0	36.4	28.2	42.9
	5	45.8	50.0	51.4	34.9	48.9
	6	35.3	40.5	23.1	22.0	56.4
	7	42.2	31.3	38.6	51.6	50.0
	8	42.1	42.0	50.0	33.3	43.3
Proficient	3	28.6	39.5	48.6	15.2	5.9
	4	21.0	26.5	43.2	5.1	8.2
	5	11.0	23.3	22.9	2.3	2.1
	6	23.7	27.0	41.0	14.6	12.8
	7	31.9	46.9	50.0	9.7	10.7
	8	13.5	14.0	30.8	3.7	6.7
Advanced	3	1.4	0.0	2.7	3.0	0.0
	4	0.6	0.0	2.3	0.0	0.0
	5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	6	3.8	2.7	12.8	0.0	0.0
	7	2.2	0.0	6.8	0.0	0.0
	8	6.0	12.0	7.7	0.0	0.0

Dropout Rate - 8th grade students no longer enrolled in grade 12
(average of students for the three years ending 2000-2002)

65 students drop out annually **38.5% students drop out?**



Dropouts: Distressing numbers of students drop out and fail to graduate. An average of 51.5% of 8th graders failed to graduate** from county schools five years later during the period 1980-84, 31.6% during 1985-89, and 30.1% during 1990-94, 28.7% during 1995-97 and 33.3% during 1998-2000***.

During 2001-02, 90.8% of all who did graduate received the State High School Diploma, while the remaining 9.2% received a State Certificate for meeting the required Carnegie units but not passing the Exit Exam.

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* 12th grade enrollment compared to 8th grade enrollment four years earlier

** This is calculated by using 8th grade enrollment to graduation data.

*** 2001 data will be available soon and will be posted on the website.

Fortunately, many dropouts enroll in adult education programs and either earn a high school diploma or obtain a GED. During 2001-02, 0 Adult Education high school diplomas were awarded to school completers and in 2001 29 GEDs were awarded in the county. Over time, adult education high school diplomas and GEDs increase the effective school completion rate substantially. In the 2000 Census, 25.9% of county resident 25 - 34 year-olds said they had not completed either high school or a GED.

Achievement Summary: The numbers of students testing below basic on the PACT and dropping out range from 23.7% to 50.0%. Thus, far too many students fail to acquire the knowledge, skills, learning habits, and motivation necessary to compete in the economy or contribute to society in the 21st Century.

ADOLESCENT RISK BEHAVIORS

Academic achievement is greatly influenced by the prevailing youth culture which often promotes popularity with peers and partying rather than studying and doing well in school. The prevalence of adolescent risk-taking and under-achievement is illustrated by the poor grades of substance-abusing teens.

Substance Abuser Rates at Levels of Academic Performance

	Usual School Grades in Past Year					Total
	A Range	B Range	C Range	D Range	F Range	
Smoked Cigarettes (in past 30 days)	13.3%	22.4%	31.7%	42.8%	63.6%	25.3%
Drank 5 or More Drinks on One Occasion (in past 30 days)	12.4%	17.3%	22.6%	26.8%	43.5%	18.9%
Used Any Illicit Drug (in past 30 days)	11.5%	17.1%	25.1%	34.1%	53.0%	20.0%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

As influence from parents and other adults declines during adolescence, significant numbers of students engage in violence, crime, school offenses, depressive emotions and attempted suicide:

Risk Behaviors Participated in During Past 12 Months	White Male		White Female		African American Male		African American Female		Total		Total (Grade 7-12)
	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	
Carried a handgun or knife for self-defense?	22.5%	26.1%	5.3%	6.3%	14.6%	20.2%	5.0%	7.6%	12.2%	14.9%	13.7%
Carried a handgun or knife as a weapon?	6.8%	9.4%	1.3%	1.6%	9.0%	13.9%	3.0%	5.0%	4.8%	6.9%	5.9%
Been in a fight with someone?	40.1%	31.3%	18.5%	16.2%	41.4%	31.9%	29.4%	22.4%	31.7%	24.9%	28.0%
Hit your boyfriend or girlfriend?	2.0%	1.6%	6.9%	10.0%	5.7%	4.9%	17.7%	24.2%	7.4%	9.7%	8.7%
Been hit by your boyfriend or girlfriend?	7.1%	6.1%	6.1%	8.5%	11.5%	9.7%	9.5%	10.6%	8.1%	8.5%	8.3%
Rec'd detention or in-school suspension?	38.1%	37.3%	22.4%	25.0%	41.6%	37.6%	34.3%	30.7%	33.3%	32.1%	32.7%
Been suspended from school?	12.9%	13.9%	5.2%	7.2%	24.0%	22.6%	14.8%	15.4%	13.1%	13.8%	13.5%
Stolen anything worth > $5?	12.9%	17.6%	6.9%	10.7%	14.2%	15.6%	8.5%	8.4%	10.4%	13.1%	11.9%
Had an accident while driving?	NA	14.3%	NA	12.6%	NA	7.7%	NA	6.3%	NA	11.0%	NA
Been arrested and booked?	3.9%	6.1%	1.5%	2.7%	5.7%	8.1%	2.2%	2.9%	3.2%	4.7%	4.0%
Felt hopeless for two weeks or more?	14.8%	15.9%	21.8%	29.0%	14.0%	13.3%	22.0%	24.8%	18.2%	21.4%	19.9%
Seriously considered attempting suicide?	6.9%	8.4%	9.6%	14.3%	5.5%	5.4%	6.8%	8.7%	7.4%	9.7%	8.7%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

Adolescence is often a time of taking risks and asserting independence from adults. When asked whether they would tell an adult about a problem, the following percentages of state students said they would be "not likely" or "very unlikely" to tell if they:

-heard a student threaten to harm someone: 33.2% middle school, 47.0% high school;
-saw a student with a handgun at school: 22.7% middle school, 20.5% high school;
-saw a student with a knife at school: 24.7% middle school, 31.6% high school;
-saw a student with drugs at school: 33.7% middle school, 61.9% high school;

Alcohol Use:* In the state during 2001-02, 21.0% of 7th and 8th graders and 37.1% of high schoolers said they had used alcohol in the past month. Of White males in grades 7 - 12, 33.8% had used it in the past month, compared with 26.0% of African-American males; likewise, 34.5% of White females said they had used alcohol, compared with 26.4% of African-American females. Many youth first used alcohol at an early age: 14.2% had used alcohol by age 11 or younger, 33.0% by age 13, and 61.1% by age 15.

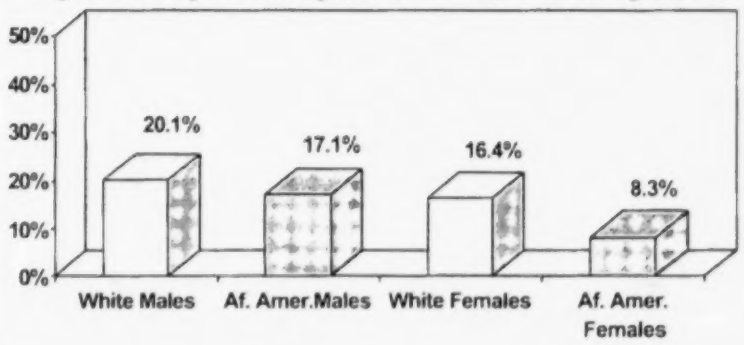
During the previous year, 21.0% of 7th and 8th graders and 30.4% of high schoolers said they had ridden with a drinking driver. Of seniors who drive, 19.4% said they had driven after drinking. Widespread use is encouraged by the ready availability and perceived low risk of alcohol use. Among students who expressed an opinion, 43.6% of eighth graders and 75.4% of seniors felt that beer was easy to get. Also, 71.6% of eighth graders and 70.7% of seniors felt there was not a great risk in drinking two drinks a day, and 47.3% of eighth graders and 53.1% of high schoolers felt there was not a great risk in drinking 5 drinks every weekend.

Heavy Drinking:* In 2001-02, 7.7% of 7th and 8th graders and 18.9% of high school students in the state repor drinking 5 or more drinks in a day during the past month. When asked how many drinks, if any, they usually consur 13.7% of all state students in grades 7 - 12 in 2001-02 responded 3 or more drinks at a time and 7.1% reported usually 5 more drinks. Among high school students, 18.6% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 10.0% 5 or mo Among seniors, 24.7% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 13.7% 5 or more; however 22.9% of seni said that they drank 5 or more drinks in a day once or more during the past month.

Drugs:* In 2001-02, 9.5% of 7th and 8th graders and 20.1% of high schoolers in the state reported using ille drugs during the previous month. Among students in grades 7 - 12, use was reported by 20.1% of White males, 16.4% Wh females, 17.1% of African-American males, and 8.3% of African-American females. Some young people initiated drug u at an early age: 5.3% had experienced their first use by age 11 or sooner; 16.3% had used a drug by age 13, and 34.7% by a 15.

In the past year, 10.3% of all high school students in the state who drive and 15.4% of seniors who drive said that they had driven after using drugs. Such use is encouraged by the ready availability of drugs: 22.3% of 8th graders who had an opinion said it is easy to get marijuana and 8.4% said it is easy to get cocaine or crack; 65.0% of seniors said it is easy to get marijuana and 29.5% said it was easy to get cocaine or crack.

Figure 12: Drug Use among Students Grades 7-12 during 2001-02*



* Schools in the county elected not to participate in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking. Therefore, data for all of South Carolina is presented here. The latest Saluda County data, for 1992-93, is available on the Kids Count website at www.sckidscount.org.

Sexual Activity and Pregnancy: Many teenagers now engage in sexual activity. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) administered to a representative sample of high school students throughout South Carolina in 2001 showed that sexual activity begins at an early age: 7% of female and 21% of male students have engaged in intercourse before age 13; by age 15, 38% the females and 49% of males have engaged in sexual intercourse. Statewide, 48% of females and 50% of males in the 11th and 12th grades reported engaging in intercourse during the past three months. Furthermore, 27% of female and 33% of male 12th graders have had intercourse with four or more partners during their lifetimes.

Premature sexual activity often results in pregnancy. In the county, 21 girls between the ages of 14 and 17 became pregnant in 1999, 28 in 2000 and 7 in 2001. This represented 1.3% of all girls ages 14 – 17 in 2001; several times this percentage become pregnant at least once by age 18. The 2001 pregnancy rate for ages 14 - 17 was 1.3% for Whites and 1.4% for African-Americans and Others. Of all pregnancies of 14-17 year olds, 71.4% resulted in live births, with almost all other pregnancies ending in abortions.

Teen pregnancy rates increased substantially across the state during the 1980s; as a result, greater emphasis v devoted to preventing teen pregnancy. Since 1989, the teen pregnancy rate in Saluda County has decreased by 71.6 Overall, it has decreased by 69.0% for Whites, and decreased by 72.5% for African Americans and Others.

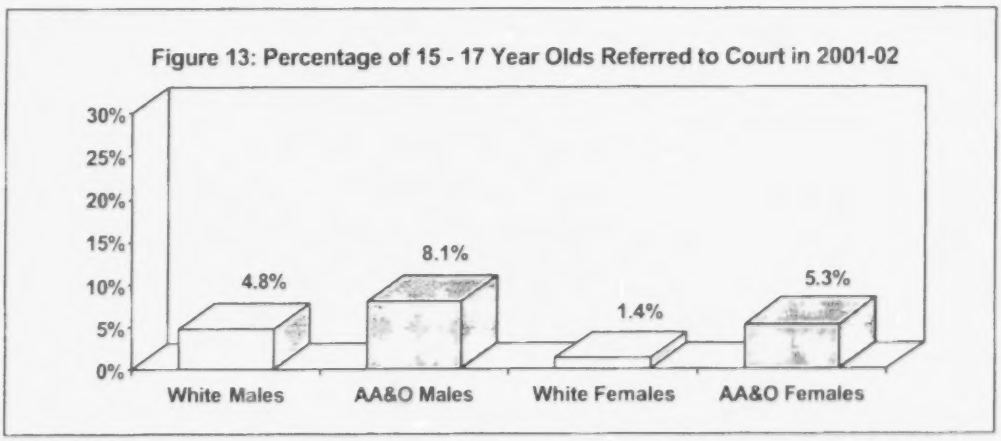
Juvenile Delinquency: In 2001-02, 73 individual juvenile offenders in the county were referred to the Solicitor for delinquency; of these, 17.8% were age 12 or younger, 26.0% were 13 or 14, and 56.2% were 15 or older.

Of the referrals to the family court, 10.0% of all referrals were for violent and serious crimes which include drug trafficking, acts against persons for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and serious property offenses for arson and burglary. Also, 22 juvenile cases constituting 22.0% of all referrals were for status offenses. Status offenses include truancy, running away, incorrigibility, and other offenses that would not be crimes for adults.

Delinquents are likely to live in families with low income: 16.7% lived in families with income under $10,000, 38.9% with $10,000-$19,999 and 44.4% with $20,000 or more. Furthermore, only 26.7% of delinquents lived with both natural parents, while 40.0% lived in a single parent household, 26.7% lived with other relatives, and 6.7% in other situations including parent plus step-parent. Delinquency or criminal activity occurs among many related family members: 62.2% had at least one family member who was delinquent or had some criminal record.

Youth referred to the family courts are likely to have been there before. In 2001-02, 52.1% had at least one prior referral and 21.9% had been referred to court 3 times or more. Many were referred at an early age. For delinquents 15 - 17 years old, 1.5% had been referred by the age of 10, 13.2% by the age of 12, and 25.0% by the age of 14.

During 2001-02, 41 youth ages 15 to 17 were referred to the family courts. In the county, 4.8% of all youth 15 to 17 were referred to court in one year and roughly double that percentage are referred at least once by age 18. Furthermore, the National Youth Survey indicates that typically across the United States the proportion of youth engaging in crime is two or three times the number ever apprehended. In 2001-02, there were 9 juveniles committed from the county to DJJ custody and placed in residential programs.



Not in School or Employed: During 2000, 165 teenagers ages 16-19 were idle, meaning they neither worked any hours nor were enrolled in school, even part-time. Idle teens comprised 14.9% of their age group: 12.7% for White and 16.8% African-American & Other teens. A much larger number, perhaps twice as many, were not engaged in either school full time or work full time. The data reflect a serious failure in both school completion and the critical transition from school to work, significantly affecting their development as future workers. For an in-depth description of the problems of young adults seeking to enter the labor force, visit our website at www.scyoungadults.org for our state and county reports on 18-29 year olds.

Deaths: During 1997-2001, 6 youth ages 15 to 19 died. Historically, automobile accidents have been the major cause, resulting in 4 deaths between 1996 and 2000; homicides killed 1 youth 15 to 19 years old during the five-year period, and 0 youth committed suicide. Alcohol use is often a significant factor in deaths among teenagers.

Summary

Facing the Scope of Problems: The data on families, economic status, health, readiness, school achievement, and adolescent risk behaviors provide a troublesome picture of the condition of children in Saluda County. The 29.3% of children in single-parent families, 21.9% in poverty, 33.3% not graduating from school, 37.1% of high school students using alcohol and 20.1% using drugs each month, and other data profiled in this report suggest that too many children are at risk of not growing up to become self-supporting adults, good family members, and responsible community citizens.

Emphasizing the Positive: South Carolina Kids Count reports have been developed to describe the problems of children in each of the counties. Fortunately, the majority of children and youth are doing well, and some very well. One simple description is the percentage of children who do not fall into the problem categories reported. For the county, 88.0% of children are born to non-teen mothers ages 20 or older, 53.2% are born to married parents, and 70.7% lived in two-parent families; 78.1% were not poor and 54.7% lived in families with incomes above twice the poverty level for a family of three, $30,040 in 2002; 91.4% of babies were born with normal birthweights; 78.6% were assessed as ready for the first grade, 54.1% scored basic or better on PACT for 8th grade math and 61.7% for 8th grade reading, 58.0% passed all parts of the Exit Exam in the 10th grade, and 66.7% graduated with their class. In a typical month, 62.9% of high school students do not drink alcohol, 79.9% do not use drugs, and 74.7% do not smoke. Unfortunately, the absence of a problem is not always an indicator of success. Some data is available for exemplary performance: for example, 30.0% of 3rd graders and 19.5% of 8th graders scored proficient or advanced on PACT in reading and 17.6% of 3rd graders and 11.3% of 8th graders in math. Unfortunately, data on success is not generally available.

Despite the limitations of success data, we must emphasize the positive in providing good support and appropriate influences for children and youth. Recent philosophy and publications such as those of the Search Institute (700 South Third Street, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN, 55415-1138, tel. 1-800-888-7828, www.search-institute.org), emphasize the critical importance of "developmental assets" to promote and support positive development. One short book from the Search Institute, (What Kids Need to Succeed, by Peter J. Benson, Judy Gailbraith, and Pamela Espeland, 1995) presents an excellent array of suggestions for promoting developmental assets through families, community, faith congregations, and schools. If each family, school, religious congregation and community organization assertively worked to build such assets, the problems described in this report would be reduced dramatically. Such positive family-school-community efforts could improve South Carolina's national Kids Count ranking from the bottom 10 to the average or even into the top 10 by prevention of unnecessary problems affecting children and youth, as shown on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

All data presented in this report is the most recent available at the date it goes to the printer. This version of the Kids Count report will be revised as more recent and additional data become available. Please send us your corrections and suggestions for improvement. We welcome your ideas for ways to make the state and county reports more useful and accurate. Please utilize local data sources whenever possible to supplement the profile provided through our report.

Data related inquiries should be directed to:

Anne Wilson, Data Manager (awilson@drss.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-4810

Calls for **copies of reports** for other counties and inquiries regarding more recent reports should be made to:

Kim Hazel-Lohr, Project Manager (khazel@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-1295

For **policy questions and general comments**, please contact:

Dr. A. Baron Holmes, Project Director (bholmes@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-2291

Comparable reports for all 46 counties and for the state can also be found on the World Wide Web at

www.sckidscount.org

Our website also provides: links to other websites for indicators in our report; high to low rankings for individual indicators; information on how to improve SC's national rank; and a glossary of definitions.

The national Kids Count Report can be found on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website at

www.aecf.org

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Saluda County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Indicators	Most Recent Year	Number					Percent					1998 Rank	199
		1980*	1990*	Most Recent Data	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres		
Health													
Low Birth Weight	2001	16	17	23	+43.8%	+35.3%	6.5	7.3	8.6	32.8%	17.9%	4	
White babies	2001	4	2	6	+50.0%	+200.0%	3.4	1.7	3.5	2.9%	110.0%	3	
African American and Other babies	2001	12	15	17	+41.7%	+13.3%	9.4	13.3	18.1	92.9%	36.2%	8	
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	2001	126	118	86	+31.7%	-27.1%	51.0	50.6	32.2	-36.9%	-36.4%	39	
White babies	2001	32	33	56	+75.0%	+69.7%	26.9	27.5	32.4	20.4%	17.8%	24	
African American and Other babies	2001	94	85	30	-68.1%	-64.7%	73.4	75.2	31.9	-56.5%	-57.6%	45	
Infant Mortality	2001	11	11	7	-36.4%	-36.4%	1.4	1.5	0.9	-37.5%	-39.9%	12	
White babies	2001	4	4	-	-100.0%	-100.0%	1.1	1.0	0.0	-100.0%	-100.0%	19	
African American and Other babies	2001	7	7	7	+0.0%	+0.0%	1.8	2.0	2.6	45.6%	26.7%	8	
Family													
Births to mothers under 18	2001	19	15	6	-68.4%	-60.0%	7.7	6.4	2.2	-71.4%	-65.8%	13	
White babies	2001	3	1	4	+33.3%	+300.0%	2.5	0.8	2.3	-8.8%	176.0%	3	
African American and Other babies	2001	16	14	2	-87.5%	-85.7%	12.5	12.4	2.1	-83.0%	-82.8%	22	
Births to mothers under 20	2001	48	47	32	-33.3%	-31.9%	19.4	20.2	12.0	-38.3%	-40.5%	12	
White babies	2001	15	17	17	+13.3%	+0.0%	12.6	14.2	9.8	-22.3%	-30.8%	7	
African American and Other babies	2001	33	30	15	-54.5%	+50.0%	25.8	26.5	16.0	-38.1%	-39.9%	23	
Births to mothers with less than a high school education	2001	75	51	71	-5.3%	+39.2%	30.4	21.9	26.6	-12.4%	21.5%	13	
White babies	2001	25	17	50	+100.0%	+194.1%	21.0	14.2	28.9	37.6%	104.0%	5	
African American and Other babies	2001	50	34	21	-58.0%	-38.2%	39.1	30.1	22.3	-42.8%	-25.8%	5	
Births to single mothers****	2001	65	76	125	+92.3%	+64.5%	26.3	32.6	46.8	77.8%	43.5%	26	
White babies	2001	6	12	56	+833.3%	+366.7%	5.0	10.0	32.4	542.6%	224.0%	12	
African American and Other babies	2001	59	64	69	+16.9%	+7.8%	46.1	56.6	73.4	59.2%	29.6%	20	
Children in single parent families	2000	690	809	1,178	+70.7%	+45.6%	15.3	22.3	29.3	91.2%	31.2%	7	
White	2000	185	242	387	+109.2%	+59.9%	6.9	11.0	15.6	125.5%	41.5%	3	
African American and Other	2000	500	565	791	+58.2%	+40.0%	26.4	40.1	51.4	94.7%	28.2%	2	
Education													
Not Ready for Grade 1	2001	68	60	36	-47.1%	-40.0%	36.2	29.0	21.4	-40.9%	-26.2%	20	
White males	2001	12	8	9	-25.0%	+12.5%	27.3	13.1	18.0	-34.1%	37.4%	13	
White females	2001	6	5	5	-16.7%	+0.0%	16.2	11.4	15.2	-6.2%	33.3%	8	
African American and Other males	2001	28	29	12	-57.1%	-58.6%	52.8	45.3	31.6	-40.2%	-30.2%	21	
African American and Other females	2001	22	18	10	-54.5%	-44.4%	40.7	47.4	22.2	-45.5%	-53.2%	8	
Repeating Grades 1-3	2000	29	88	6	-79.3%	-93.2%	17.3	42.9	3.1	-82.1%	-92.8%	22	
White males	2000	8	20	2	-75.0%	-90.0%	17.9	35.4	4.7	-73.7%	-86.7%	25	
White females	2000	3	6	-	-100.0%	-100.0%	7.2	12.8	0.0	-100.0%	-100.0%	10	
African American and Other males	2000	6	47	3	-50.0%	-93.6%	13.6	81.9	6.3	-53.7%	-92.3%	5	
African American and Other females	2000	12	15	1	-91.7%	-93.3%	26.7	34.9	1.9	-92.9%	-94.6%	35	
Grade 3 Math below standards****	2002	58	45	68	+17.2%	+51.1%	38.7	22.7	46.3	19.6%	104.0%	17	
White males	2002	16	6	13	-18.8%	+116.7%	32.6	15.8	30.2	-7.4%	91.1%	30	
White females	2002	7	11	12	+71.4%	+9.1%	17.5	19.3	32.4	85.1%	67.9%	4	
African American and Other males	2002	23	12	23	+0.0%	+91.7%	74.2	23.5	69.7	-6.1%	196.6%	46	
African American and Other females	2002	12	16	20	+66.7%	+25.0%	40.0	30.8	58.8	47.0%	90.9%	6	
Grade 3 Reading below standards****	2002	55	26	53	-3.6%	+103.8%	36.7	13.1	36.1	-1.6%	175.6%	21	
White males	2002	17	7	10	-41.2%	+42.9%	34.7	18.4	23.3	-32.9%	26.6%	33	
White females	2002	4	5	8	+100.0%	+60.0%	10.0	8.8	21.6	116.0%	145.5%	3	
African American and Other males	2002	22	9	18	-18.2%	+100.0%	71.0	17.7	54.5	-23.2%	207.9%	44	
African American and Other females	2002	12	5	17	+41.7%	+240.0%	40.0	9.6	50.0	25.0%	420.8%	22	
Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT Grade 4	1998	54	58	51	-5.6%	-12.1%	30.0	33.5	38.1	27.0%	13.7%	18	
White males	1998	19	10	15	-21.1%	+50.0%	35.8	25.0	27.8	-22.3%	11.2%	42	
White females	1998	4	10	5	+25.0%	-50.0%	7.7	19.6	16.1	109.1%	-17.9%	4	
African American and Other males	1998	22	20	15	-31.8%	-25.0%	57.9	51.3	68.8	18.8%	34.1%	37	
African American and Other females	1998	8	18	16	+100.0%	-11.1%	26.7	41.9	56.5	111.6%	34.8%	5	

*Year of data is approximate in many cases.
**1 is best, 46 is worst.
*** Data include paternity acknowledgements.
**** BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Saluda County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Education (continued)

Indicators		Number					Percent				
	Most Recent Year	1980*	1990*	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres
Grade 8 Math below state standards**	2002	94	54	61	-35.1%	+13.0%	55.6	29.2	45.9	-17.4%	57.2%
White males	2002	13	17	15	+15.4%	-11.8%	31.7	26.6	30.0	-5.4%	12.8%
White females	2002	21	7	6	-71.4%	-14.3%	35.6	14.9	23.1	-35.1%	55.0%
African American and Other males	2002	30	14	22	-26.7%	+57.1%	85.7	42.4	81.5	-4.9%	92.2%
African American and Other females	2002	29	16	18	-37.9%	+12.5%	87.9	39.0	60.0	-31.7%	53.8%
Grade 8 Reading below state standards**	2002	77	44	51	-33.8%	+15.9%	45.6	23.8	38.3	-16.0%	60.9%
White males	2002	15	10	16	+6.7%	+60.0%	36.6	15.6	32.0	-12.6%	105.1%
White females	2002	12	5	3	-75.0%	-40.0%	20.3	10.6	11.5	-43.3%	8.5%
African American and Other males	2002	27	16	17	-37.0%	+6.3%	77.1	48.5	63.0	-18.3%	29.9%
African American and Other females	2002	22	13	15	-31.8%	+15.4%	66.7	31.7	50.0	-25.0%	57.7%
Grade 9 Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT	1998	NA	57	77	NA	+35.1%	NA	36.8	43.8	NA	19.0%
White males	1998	NA	9	NA	NA	NA	NA	27.3	31.5	NA	15.4%
White females	1998	NA	7	NA	NA	NA	NA	14	14.0	NA	0.0%
African American and Other males	1998	NA	18	NA	NA	NA	NA	62.1	69.2	NA	11.4%
African American and Other females	1998	NA	22	NA	NA	NA	NA	52.4	67.5	NA	28.8%
Exit Exam (not passing all parts on 1st attempt)	2002	55	40	55	+0.0%	+37.5%	37.4	37.0	42.0	12.3%	13.5%
White males	2002	21	3	7	-66.7%	+133.3%	42.0	10.3	18.9	-55.0%	83.5%
White females	2002	6	10	9	+50.0%	-10.0%	13.6	29.4	21.4	57.4%	-27.2%
African American and Other males	2002	15	13	21	+40.0%	+61.5%	46.9	68.4	75.0	59.9%	9.6%
African American and Other females	2002	12	14	18	+50.0%	+28.6%	60.0	53.8	75.0	25.0%	39.4%
Dropout Rate (8th graders no longer enrolled in 12th grade 4 years later)	2000-02	53	60	65	+24.4%	+9.8%	28.2	30.0	38.5	36.5%	28.5%
White males	2000-02	17	16	22	+33.3%	+37.5%	27.5	25.4	38.4	39.5%	51.1%
White females	2000-02	11	7	12	+17.5%	+76.2%	21.4	15.2	28.9	34.9%	90.0%
African American and Other males	2000-02	13	21	21	+64.1%	+1.6%	30.2	43.3	56.1	85.7%	29.7%
African American and Other females	2000-02	13	16	10	-22.7%	-37.6%	36.2	37.8	30.5	-15.7%	-19.3%
Young Adults Not Completing High School (18-24)	2000	655	572	636	-2.9%	+11.2%	36.5	36.7	25.9	-29.1%	-29.4%
White males	NA	238	136	NA	NA	NA	43.3	31.9	NA	NA	NA
White females	NA	134	97	NA	NA	NA	28.8	21.0	NA	NA	NA
African American and Other males	NA	128	148	NA	NA	NA	36.6	47.0	NA	NA	NA
African American and Other females	NA	155	191	NA	NA	NA	36.3	53.7	NA	NA	NA

Economics

Poverty Rate	2000	1,361	1,052	1,038	-23.7%	-1.3%	27.3	25.4	21.9	-19.8%	-13.8%
White children	2000	409	244	282	-31.1%	+15.6%	14.9	10.3	10.5	-29.5%	1.9%
African American and Other children	2000	952	808	756	-20.6%	-6.4%	42.3	45.9	36.6	-13.4%	-20.2%
Income of Families w/children (1999 $)	2000	$ 36,452	$ 40,367	$ 46,017	+26.2%	+14.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
White families	2000	$ 40,440	$ 48,506	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
African American and Other families	2000	$ 29,518	$ 25,498	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Adolescent Risk Factors

Teenage Pregnancy (ages 14-17)	2001	28	21	7	-75.0%	-66.7%	4.6	4.5	1.3	-71.7%	-71.1%
White	2001	7	5	4	-42.9%	-20.0%	2.1	1.9	1.3	-38.7%	-31.6%
African American and Other	2001	21	16	3	-85.7%	-81.3%	7.8	8.0	1.4	-82.0%	-82.5%
Delinquency	2002	19	34	41	+115.8%	+20.6%	2.1	4.5	4.8	129.7%	7.2%
White males	2002	4	13	12	+200.0%	-7.7%	1.5	5.3	4.8	220.0%	-9.4%
White females	2002	1	4	3	+200.0%	-25.0%	0.4	2.1	1.4	240.9%	-35.1%
African American and Other males	2002	10	13	17	+70.0%	+30.8%	5.1	7.9	8.1	58.7%	2.5%
African American and Other females	2002	4	4	9	+125.0%	+125.0%	2.1	2.5	5.3	152.1%	111.8%

*Closest available data to this year was used in many cases.

**BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Kids Count 2003

Spartanburg County

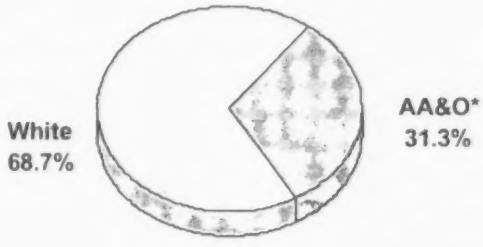
DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2000 there were an estimated 62,901 children under age 18 in the county. Of these, 43,219 were White, 16,109 were African-American, and 3,573 were other races. There were 55,867 children under age 18 in 1990, 57,724 in 1980, 59,350 in 1970, and 59,221 in 1960.

Children represent a shrinking portion of the county's population. Those under 18 constituted 24.8% of the population in 2000, down from 37.8% in 1960, 34.2% in 1970, and 28.6% in 1980.

In 2000 the 20,108 pre-schoolers under age 6 were 7.9% of the overall population: 7.3% of Whites and 9.1% of African Americans.

Figure 1: Population Ages 0-17 in 2000



* In all charts African-American is combined with other races, and often abbreviated as AA&O. Other races comprise 5.7% of children in the county, with Asian Alone at 1.9% and 'two or more races" at 1.8% as the largest Other groups.

FAMILY

Families have always been the most important influence in a child's life. Children depend on their families for material needs, stimulation and guidance. Family life is different in numerous ways from previous generations, and many families now face exceptional challenges.

Families with children now make up a smaller share of all households. Only 32.2% of all households in 2000, as compared with 46.0% of households in 1960, had children below the age of 18.

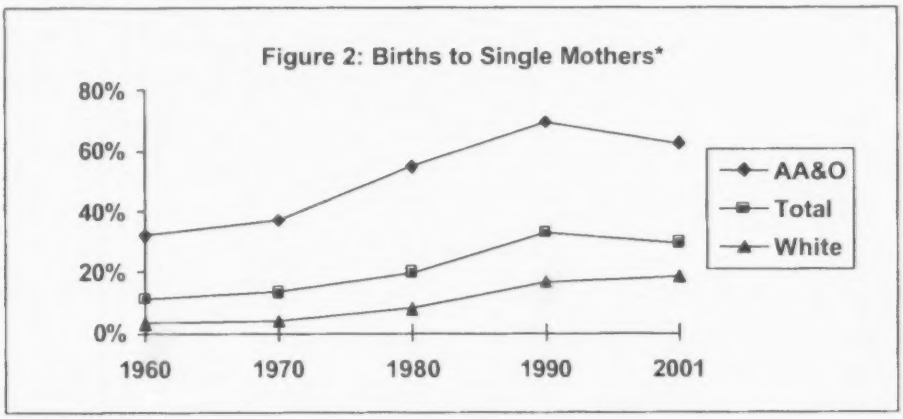
Births to Teen Mothers: In 2001, 187 babies were born to mothers younger than age 18. They were 5.4% of all babies born in the county; 4.8% of all White and 7.4% of all African-American and Other babies were born to teen mothers under the age of 18. Of the babies born to these teens in 2001, 77.5% were born to single mothers, including babies whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers.

In 2001, 517 babies were born to mothers younger than age 20. These babies were 15.0% of all born in the county; 12.8% of all White and 21.7% of all African-American and Other babies were born to mothers under the age of 20. Of the babies born to these mothers in 2001, 69.4% were born to single mothers, including paternity acknowledeged babies.

Education of Mothers Giving Birth: Children's success is strongly influenced by the education of their parents. In 2001, 825 babies, 24.0% of all babies, were born to mothers of all ages who had not completed the 12th grade. In 2001, 23.0% of White and 27.0% of African-American and Other babies were born to mothers who had completed less than the 12th grade. This is a substantial improvement from 47.8% in 1970. In addition, during 2001, 32.9% had completed 12 grades (30.3% of Whites and 41.0% of African Americans and Others) and 43.1% had more than a high school degree (46.8% of Whites and 32.0% of African American and Others).

Births to Single Mothers: Births to single mothers have increased steadily over four decades. In 2001, 680 babies, 19.8% of all babies, were recorded as born to single mothers. A decade earlier in 1990, the percentage was 29.8% and in 1960 it was 11.2%. In 2001, 11.2% of White children and 45.4% of African-American and Other children were born to single mothers. These numbers, however, do not include paternity acknowlegement births.

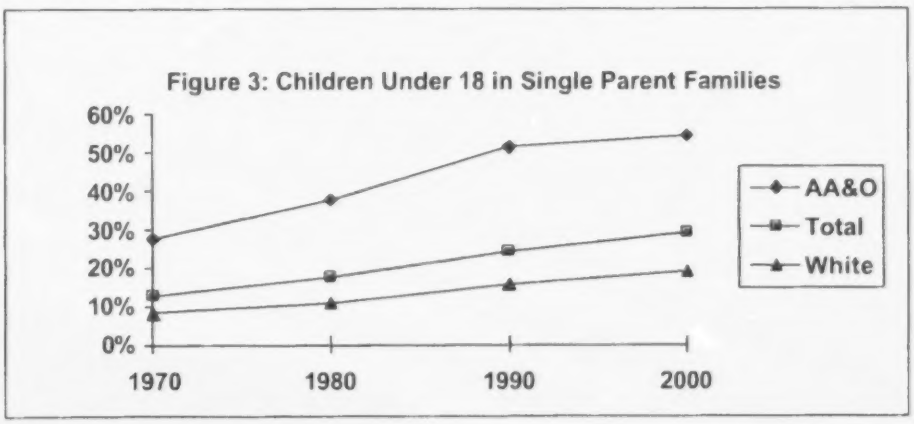
Thus, to these numbers should be added an additional group of 333 babies, 9.7% of all born in 2001, whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers. When the paternity-acknowledged babies are added, the total number born to single mothers in 2001 was 1,013, constituting 29.4% of all babies, 18.3% of White babies, and 62.6% of African-American and Others.



*Includes paternity acknowleged babies in 1980, 1990 and 2001. Prior to 1979, paternity acknowleged cases were not a statistical category, and thus were included in births to single mothers.

Divorce Rate: In 2001, 2,033 marriage licenses were issued, while 988 divorce decrees involving 777 children were filed. In 1970, only 506 children were in families involved in divorce.

Single-Parent Family: Increasing numbers of children live in single-parent families. In 2000, 16,003 children lived with only one parent. This was 29.0% of all children, up from 24.2% in 1990, 17.6% in 1980, and 12.8% in 1970. In 2000, 18.8% of White and 54.5% of African-American and Other children lived in single-parent families. Also in 2000, 4,456 or 26.9% of children under age 6 lived in single parent families: 15.5% of White and 55.8% of African American and Other pre-schoolers.



Parents Working and Child Care: Increasingly, parents must divide their time between children and employers. In order to meet family financial needs, most parents must work and thus have less time for family life. In 2000, 66.2% of mothers with children under 6 and 73.4% with children 6 - 17 were in the labor force. This has increased substantially from 1960 when 42.4% of mothers with children under 6 were in the labor force. Most fathers also work: 63.3% of children under 6 are in families where the single parent or both parents work. Caring for children is a problem for parents unable to obtain quality, affordable daycare while they are at work.

Overall, there are 9,100 spaces in state-regulated childcare facilities* in the county, 90.4% of these are in licensed programs and 9.6% are in registered programs. Of the spaces, 84.6% are in licensed childcare centers serving more than 12 children, 8.5% are in registered or licensed family childcare homes serving six or fewer children, 0.7% are in licensed group childcare homes serving 7-12 children, and 6.2% are in registered or licensed church programs.

The homes and centers are severely constrained by the limited ability of parents to pay. In the county, the average weekly charge is $ 80.11 for centers and $ 73.94 for homes. Consequently, center wages are low: 14.8% of centers with pre-school staff and 26.9% of centers with assistant pre-school staff report paying these staff under $6 per hour. Paying $6-$8 per hour are 70.4% of centers with pre-school staff and 65.4% of centers with assistants. Low wages attract workers with limited education. In 40.7% of centers, most pre-school staff and in 34.6% of centers most assistants have only a high school degree. In 51.9% of centers few to none of the pre-school staff have early childhood credentials. In childcare homes, 58.3% of lead providers have no more education than a high school degree or GED; 10% have less than a high school degree.

Family Violence: In 2000, 2,563 domestic assaults were recorded by law enforcement officials. These domestic assaults comprised 35.7% of all assaults, which include aggravated assaults, simple assaults, and intimidation. Overall, 56.0% of all domestic assaults involve spouse abuse which constitutes 20.0% of all assaults. Since most family violence is not reported, the true incidence of family disruption is much more widespread than even the large number of reported cases would indicate.

Separation from Parents: Some children do not live with their natural parents. In 2000, 6.3% of all children did not live with their natural parents. Approximately 2,702 or 4.3% of all children lived with relatives, 1,025 or 1.6% lived with non-relatives, 104 or 0.2% were householders or spouses, and 121 or 0.2% were in institutional facilities.

Abuse and Neglect: In 2000-01, there were 1,040 investigations into reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children. Through its investigations, the Department of Social Services (DSS) determined that 531 of the investigations were indicated for abuse or neglect: 24.0% for physical abuse, 8.1% for sexual abuse, 0.5% for mental injury, 36.0% for physical neglect, 0.9% for educational neglect, 3.1% for medical neglect, 26.3% for threat of harm for physical/sexual abuse, and 1.1% for other types of abuse.

In the indicated cases of abuse and neglect, DSS determined there were 805 children who were victims of abuse or neglect. Of these, 45.3% were male, 54.7% were female; 65.7% were White, 34.3% were African-American and Other. By age, 33.8% were ages 0 - 5, 41.6% were ages 6 - 12, and 24.6% were ages 13 - 17. In the indicated cases, 34.0% of the children lived in two-parent families, 44.4% in single parent families, 15.9% with unmarried couples, and 5.7% in other circumstances.

Out of Home Placements: As of June 2001, 242 children lived in foster care. The median age at first placement in the county is 8.1 years. The ages of children in foster care were 10.7% 0-2, 10.7% 3-5, 20.7% 6-10, 17.8% 11-13, and 40.1% 14 and above. The foster care population is 55.0% males and 45.0% females. Regarding their future, 24.8% were under a plan for placement in adoptive homes, 43.4% for return to a parent or guardian, 5.8% for placement with a relative, 20.3% for independent living, 5.8% for permanent foster care, and 0.0% for other circumstances.

Adult/Child Ratio: A measure of potential adult attention for children from family and community is the ratio of adults to children and youth. In 2000 there were 3.03 adults for every person below age 18. This was up substantially from 1960, when there were only 1.65 adults for every person under the age 18. This indicates that today there are more adults potentially available to provide attention and care for each child than in the past.

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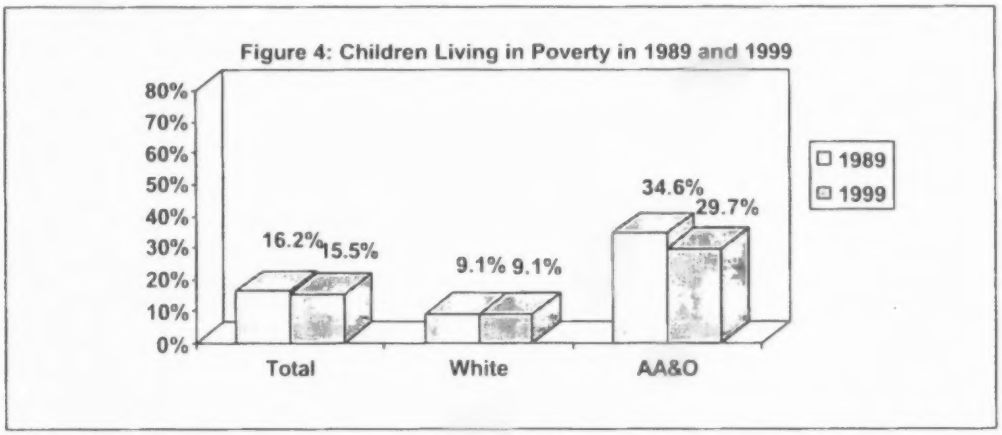
* This data is the best currently available; however, an effort is being made to check the coverage and improve the accuracy. As soon as more recent and complete data becomes available, it will be posted on the website.

ECONOMIC STATUS

Low income makes it difficult for many families to provide the material and environmental enrichment necessary for healthy child development.

Poverty: In 1999, 9,600 children and youth under the age of 18 lved in 4,741 families with incomes below poverty, comprising 15.5% of all children and youth: 9.1% of Whites and 29.7% of African-Americans and Others. A rough estimate of child poverty in 2001 calculated by the Census Bureau was 23.0%.



Poverty has always been a serious problem. While the rate among children under age 18 in 1989 was 16.2%, it was 17.0% in 1979 and 20.5% in 1969.

Children and the elderly are the age groups most seriously affected by poverty. In 1999, 15.2% of children 0 - 5 (8.0% White, 31.2% African-American and Other), and 14.8% of children 6 - 17 (8.9% White, 27.9% African-American and Other), lived in poverty; 13.3% of persons 65 years and older lived in poverty. Historically, the poverty rate among the elderly was much higher. During the last three decades, federal policy actions have substantially improved the economic status of older persons but have not done so for children.

Single-parent families are most likely to be poor. In 1999, 35.7% of children in single-parent families lived in poverty, but only 5.9% of children in married-couple families were poor. Children in single-parent families made up 61.3% of all the county's children living in poverty.

In 2002, the poverty level was $15,020 for a family of three and $18,100 for a family of four. The poverty threshold is often criticized as an arbitrary number. People can still be poor but may be just above the poverty level. Federal programs utilize varying thresholds. For example, in 1999 there were 24,207 children ages 0-17 who were less than 200 percent of poverty; thus an additional 14,607 children were above the poverty level but could still be considered poor or near-poor with incomes below $30,040 and $36,200 respectively for 3 and 4 person families.

Children Under 18 in Poverty in 1999

Percent of Poverty	Total		White		African American & Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 50%	4,295	6.9%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 100%	9,600	15.5%	3,885	9.1%	5,715	29.7%
Under 125%	12,799	20.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 150%	16,430	26.4%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 175%	20,426	32.9%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 185%	22,061	35.5%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 200%	24,207	39.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total Children	62,901		43,219		19,682	

Note: Missing data will be released by the Census Bureau later in 2003, and will be posted on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

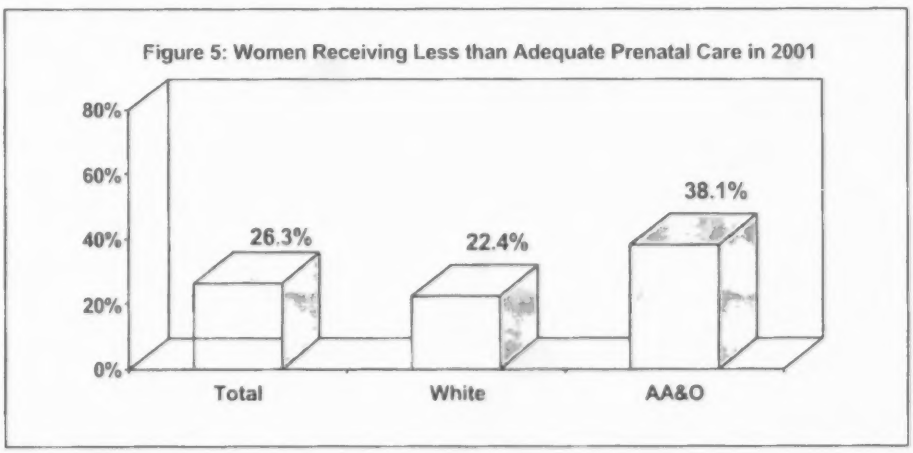
Income: The mean income of families with children in 1999 was $52,472. In 1989 it was $48,171, and 1979, it was $43,829, adjusted for inflation (i.e., in 1999 dollars). The mean income of single-parent families with children was $23,857 for single parents in 1999, as compared with $64,082 in married-couple families with children. From 1999 to 2000, Spartanburg County real dollar per capita income (eliminating inflation) increased by 1.2%.

Child Support Payments: There were 1,524[7] families receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families in fiscal year 2002, but only 20.1 % had child support court orders. Their average monthly payment of child support was $ 274, including child support receipts and tax refund intercepts. In addition, during fiscal year 2002, an estimated 3,707 parents in non-TANF families were obligated to pay a monthly average of $ 240. Information is not available regarding the amount actually paid.

HEALTH

Good health during a child's formative years helps children to reach their maximum potential. Good health requires healthy lifestyles and effective primary care, starting during the prenatal period and continuing through adolescence into adulthood. Children's health reflects the well-being of the community, as well as how adequately they are protected.

Prenatal Care: Early and continuous prenatal care can make a significant difference in assuring births of healthy babies. Delayed or insufficient prenatal care is associated with low birthweight and other health risks for infants. In 2001, 655, or 19.0% of pregnant women received no prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy. In 2001, 907 or 26.3% of pregnant women received less than adequate prenatal care: 578 or 22.4% of Whites and 329 or 38.1% of African-Americans and Others. In that same year, 26 women received no prenatal care at all.



Low Birthweight: Low birthweight of less than 5.5 pounds and very low birthweight of less than 3.3 pounds are associated with health risks and growth and development problems. In 2001, 351 or 10.2% of all babies in the county were born with low birthweight: 14.8% of African-American and Other babies and 8.6% of White babies. During 1999-2001, approximately 173 or 1.7% of all babies were born with very low birthweight and had the most serious complications: 1.4% of White babies and 2.8% of African-American and Other babies. The cost of hospitalization for each newborn low birthweight baby in the county in 1999 - 2001 was $17,847 and $118,015 for each very low birthweight baby, compared with $2,417 for a baby of normal birthweight. The result was excess cost in the county of $8,028,313 for all low birthweight babies, of which $5,163,396 was for very low birthweight babies.

Infant Mortality: During the decade since 1989-91, the overall infant mortality rate decreased by 38.1% from 11.3 to 7.0 per 1000 live births. For Whites, the rate decreased 41.3% from 10.4 to 6.1 per 1000 live births, while for African-Americans and Others the rate decreased 28.1% from 13.1 to 9.4 per 1000 live births. Over the three-year period 1999-2001, 46 White and 24 African-American and Other infants died before age one. By comparison, 75 White and 41 African-American and Other infants died during 1989-91.

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[7] Number is an unduplicated count for the entire fiscal year.

Child Injuries and Deaths: Childhood deaths and injuries reflect whether communities are safe for children. In 2001, children in the Spartanburg County went to the emergency room 6,444 times because of injuries. Boys are injured more often than girls. Children visit the emergency room at comparable rates for each age from 0 to 17.

In South Carolina, the major causes of death among young children are unintentional injuries, cancer, homicide, and congenital anomalies. Over the three year period 1999-2001, 27 White and 7 African-American and Other children ages 1-14 died in the county. During 1989-91, 26 White and 19 African-American and Other children died.

Immunization: Immunization rates are an important indication of whether young children are receiving adequate preventive health care. During FY 1989-90, 47.6% of children less than two years old seen in public health clinics were not fully immunized against such preventable diseases as Polio, Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Haemophilus Influenza B and Whooping Cough. After a concerted statewide campaign to increase immunizations, the percentage of children seen in public health clinics who were not fully immunized in January 2001 had declined in the county to 17.3%. The DHEC statewide birth registry survey of all two year old children found that 88.1% were fully immunized in 2001. This success demonstrates the potential to improve the status of children when the leadership of the state and its communities act decisively together.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Children and youth are infected with sexually transmitted diseases through sexual abuse or irresponsible sexual activity. National prevalence rates indicate: a 1 in 8 chance that sexually active 15 year-old girls will develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), the most rapidly increasing cause of infertility; 10% of sexually active adolescent girls and boys are infected with chlamydia, the most common cause of PID; and as many as 15% of teen girls are infected with human papilloma virus, often with strains linked to cervical cancer. Furthermore, research evidence indicates that susceptibility to HIV/AIDS increases by 3 to 8 times through prior infection with various STDs.

According to national studies, approximately 1 in 4 sexually experienced youth aged 13-19 acquires a STD eve year; since two-thirds of all high school students have had sexual intercourse and half engage in intercourse over a thr month period, this would suggest that 10-15% of teens are infected with STDs annually. For 2000, this would indicate th an estimated 2,412 to 3,618 youth ages 13-19 in the county were infected with a STD. Many infections are either n identified for treatment or not reported. In the county, there were 12 reported cases of children under age 15 and 165 you ages 15 - 19 infected with gonorrhea; 23 youth under 15 and 291 ages 15 - 19 were reported infected with chlamyd Youth with undiagnosed and untreated STDs often spread their infections.

Healthy Lifestyles: Although no county data is available, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2001 found that ma high school students are not following good health habits. The YRBS revealed that 26% felt that they were overweight; 42 were trying to lose weight: 27% of boys and 57% of girls. Although during a week 79% of high school students ate fru 59% ate salad, and over 83% ate vegetables, only 17% ate the recommended five or more servings of fruit and vegetabl per day. During a week, 49% did stretching or muscle strengthening exercises, and 59% exercised three or more times f 20 minutes in sports that made them sweat or breathe hard. However, 11% of students engaged in no vigorous or modera activity at all during a week: 8% of boys and 13% of girls.

Tobacco Use:* Cigarette smoking starts at a young age and often becomes habitual. In the county during 2002 among all students 15 and older, 15.6% first smoked by age 11, 35.1% by age 13, and 50.4% by age 15. In a typical month, 14.5% of 7th and 8th graders and 24.6% of high school students smoked cigarettes. White youths were much more likely than African-Americans to smoke: 23.9% of White male and 24.3% of White female 7th to 12th graders used cigarettes, as compared with 12.2% of African-American males and 12.1% of African American females. A smaller but significant group of high school students (5.9%) used smokeless tobacco monthly; it was used primarily by White males (15.0% compared with 0.7% of all other race and sex groups).

* County participation in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking was not complete but county data is presented to provide the best available picture of teen risk-taking attitudes and behavior in Spartanburg County. Five of 7 districts participated; but partial participation by District 2 (grades 9 and 12 only) and District 4.

Disabilities: No data are collected on the true prevalence of disabilities within the county. According to national reported estimates, over 10% of children and youth have developmental disabilities at any point in time, and more than 17 are affected at some time before age 18 by deafness, blindness, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, speech defects, development delays, learning disabilities, and emotional or behavioral problems. For 2000 this suggests that at least 6,290 children a youth under age 18 in the county are currently affected by disabilities.

Approximately 5% of children and youth nationally have serious disabilities which have lifelong implications f work, social life and community living. Typically among children and youth, there are 1 - 2% who are mentally retarded, - 3% with serious emotional disturbances, over 1% with orthopedic or multiple disabilities, including cerebral palsy a many hereditary conditions, and under 1% with visual or hearing impairments.

Other chronic health problems also affect the lives of many children. Over 3% of children have one or more these limitations. Such serious chronic conditions affect 1 - 2% who have respiratory problems (asthma and chron bronchitis), 0.5 - 1.0% with neurological problems (epilepsy and seizures), and less than 1% with circulatory proble (congenital heart defects and acquired diseases).

Other disabilities are identified primarily in school performance. These would include 2,895 students in grades 12 with learning disabilities and 1,374 students in grades 1-12 with speech/language deficits.

Disabilities are caused by genetics, disease, poor prenatal conditions, injuries, and environmental factors. For example, lead exposure, primarily from paint dust, was detected in over 1% of all children screened, including 25 i Spartanburg County.

Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: While over 20% of 9-17 year olds meet diagnostic criteria for some form of mental disorder, the number with serious emotional disturbance and impaired functioning in family, school, o community activities is: 9-13% for substantial functional impairment and 5-9% for extreme functional impairment. The rates among poor children are at the higher end of these ranges. Based on a federal formula for estimating prevalence, i the county there are 12% or 3,823 seriously emotionally disturbed 9-17 year olds with substantial functional impairmen and 8% or 2,549 with extreme functional impairment during the course of a year. Conduct disorders, attention deficit, depression, and anxiety disorders are the most prevalent, each affecting 3% or more of school-aged children. These disorders may occur simultaneously in a child. The prevalence rates are highest among males, adolescents, an disadvantaged persons in communities under stress and lacking social cohesion; depression, however, is more prevalen among females. On the YRBS, 20% of boys and 33% of girls in high school reported that during the past year they felt s sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that they stopped doing some usual activities. Another indicato of emotional problems is the 8% of high school students in South Carolina who reported that they had "attempted suicide" in the past year: 5% of boys and 10% of girls. Suicide attempts resulted in 4% of high school students reporting that they required treatment by a doctor or nurse for injury, poisoning, or overdose.

Inadequate Healthcare: No county level data is routinely collected regarding the number of children and youth with inadequate healthcare. According to estimates for 2000-02 by the Bureau of the Census through the annual Curren Population Survey, the statewide average rate of uninsured children and youth under age 18 in families with income under 200% of poverty in South Carolina was 16.6%, and 9.9% above 200% of poverty. If these rates are applied to th county, there are 4,024 children in the county below 200% of poverty with no health insurance, and 3,840 children abov 200% of poverty with no health insurance, for a total of 7,864 uninsured children in Spartanburg County. The numbe lacking basic accessible primary care is at least double the number lacking insurance. Those lacking primary care ar often dependent on health services at school. The ratio of students to nurses recommended nationally is 750:1. In th county, this would suggest the need for 56 nurses, compared with 45 currently working in the schools.

Medicaid: For several years, the State of South Carolina has emphasized enrolling eligible children int Medicaid. In late 1997, South Carolina implemented its version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program Partners for Healthy Children (PHC), and aggressively pursued outreach enrollment for PHC and Medicaid. As a result enrollment of children ages 0 through 18 in Spartanburg County has increased by 109.9% from June 1997 to June 2001 thus Medicaid and PHC were serving 36.0% of all children in that age range. The total Medicaid expenditures in Soutl Carolina for services provided to children ages 0 through 18 for state fiscal year 2002 were $991 million, at an averag statewide expenditure of $2,343 per child enrolled, approximate Medicaid expenditure for children in the county would b $53.0 million.

In June 2001, the total number of Spartanburg County children, birth through 18, enrolled in Medicaid was 22,633. The total can be broken down into the following age and race groupings:

	White	African American	Hispanic	Other	Total
Children under 1	1,013	607	139	90	1,849
Children 1 - 5	3,423	2,675	337	427	6,862
Children 6 - 14	4,674	4,900	249	668	10,491
Children 15 - 18	1,691	1,567	60	113	3,431
Total	10,801	9,749	785	1,298	22,633

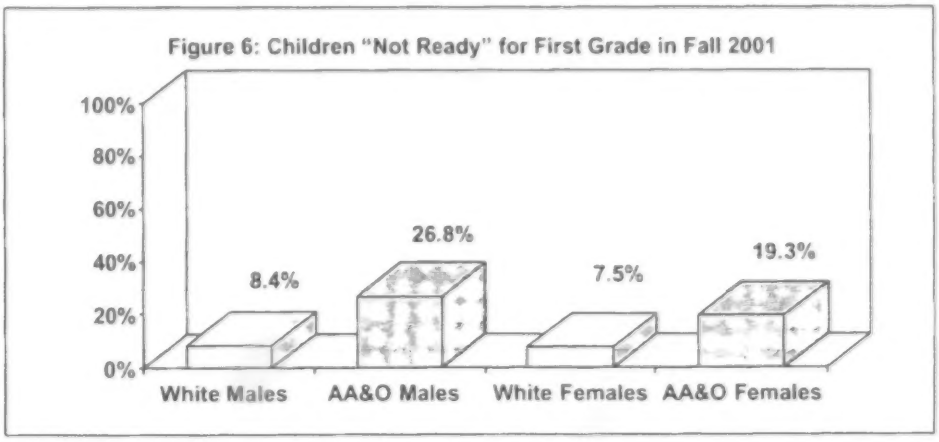
Ambulatory Care: When children lack adequate primary care, whether through lack of insurance, through limite access, or through failing to utilize available care, preventable and treatable conditions become serious and requi hospitalization. A useful indicator of inadequate primary care is the percentage of all hospitalizations that could typicall have been avoided through ambulatory care, especially for pneumonia, asthma, diarrhea and vomiting, dehydration, an severe ear, nose, and throat infections. The share of hospitalizations for these types of conditions could normally be ke below 20%; for children in the county under the age of 18 during 2001, the share was 31.5% for Whites and 27.6% f African-Americans and Others.

READINESS AND EARLY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Too many children reach school without the readiness skills needed for success in learning, such as language, soci skills, visual and auditory discrimination, memory recall, and knowledge of colors, letters, numbers, names of objects, et Likewise, some schools are not ready to respond appropriately to the varying developmental levels of children in the ear grades. As a result, too many students do not experience the success needed to create the motivation and engagement th sustain learning.

1st Grade "Readiness" on 2001-02 Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB):

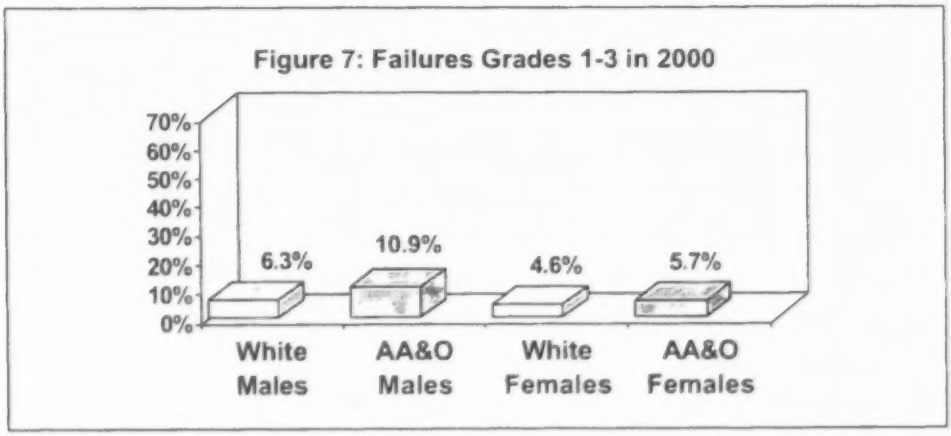
419 children not ready 13.3% children not ready



1st Grade Failures in 2002:

133 children failing 4.0% children failing

Failures Grades 1-3 in 2002 (approximate cumulative percentage of grades one, two and three):	
254 children failing	7.5% children failing



Over-age for Grade 3 in 2001	
344 children over-age	11.1% children over-age

Special Education: Large numbers of children are placed in special education classes. In elementary school, 1,137 six and seven year olds and 1,103 eight and nine year-olds were enrolled in special education classes during 2001-02, approximately 17.3% and 16.0% of their age groups respectively: 15.6% of White 8 – 9 year olds were in special education and 16.8% of African American and Others.

Readiness Summary: A serious problem exists in terms of student readiness and school success in the early grades. With 13.3% assessed not ready for the 1st grade, 11.1% over age in grade 3, and 16.0% of eight and nine year-olds placed in special education, unacceptably large numbers of students still begin school without good prospects of success in future school achievement and graduation; however, great improvement has occurred since the mid 1990s.

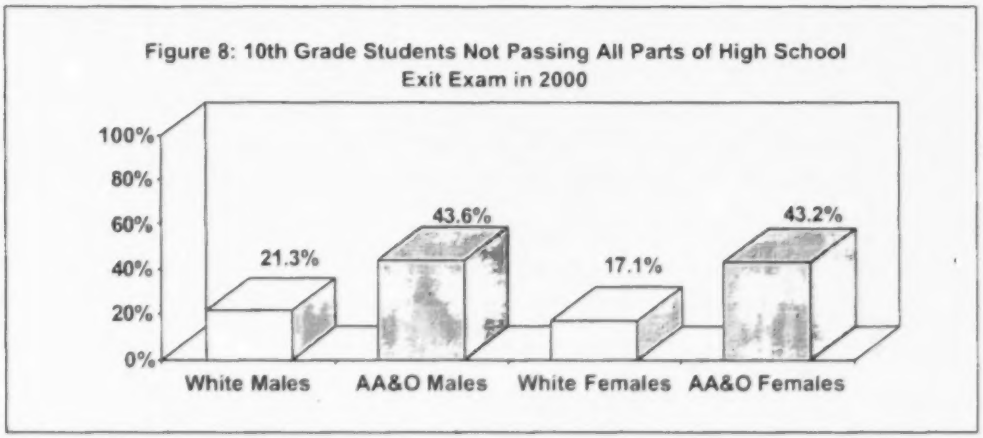
School Achievement

By the end of elementary school, significant numbers of students perform below minimum standards. The following standardized test measures, comparing student performance to state minimum standards, should be used in combination with routine classroom assessments more reflective of real-world performance skills.

Special Education: Special education placements reflect both the significant number of children with serious handicapping conditions and a large number of students with mild learning and behavioral problems that have not been accommodated successfully by the regular educational program. The result is a large system of self-contained, resource, and itinerant services to meet the needs of 1,374 speech and language impaired, 2,895 learning disabled, 417 emotionally disabled, 852 mentally impaired, and 528 physically handicapped, deaf, blind, and other handicapped students. Special education classes served approximately 14.5% of all students in grades 1 - 12 during 2001-2002.

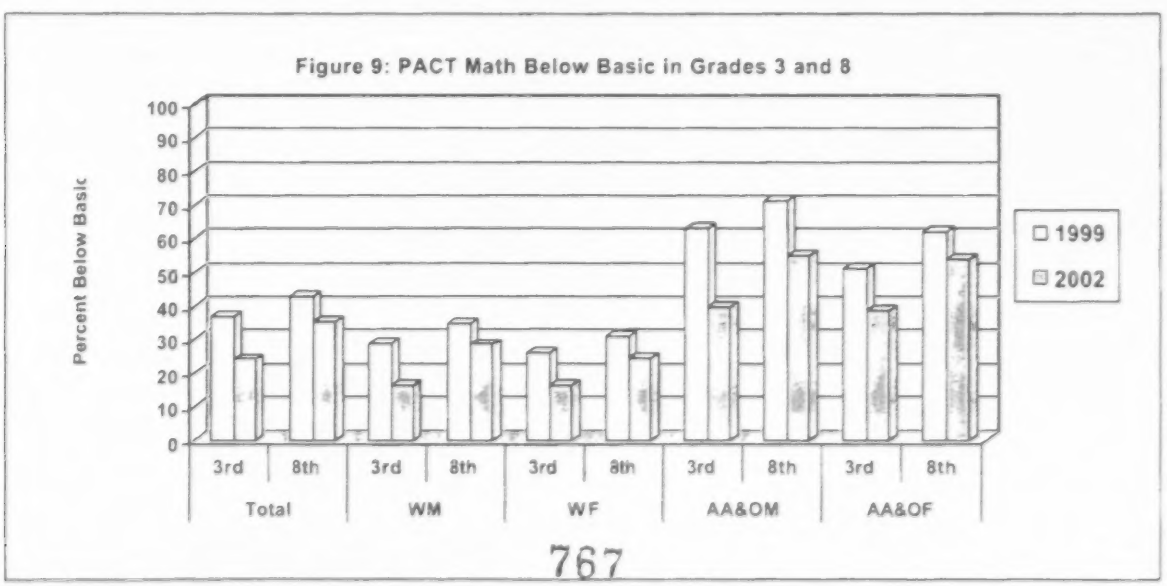
Exit Exam - not passing all parts of Exit Exam on first attempt in the 10th grade in 2002

636 students did not pass all parts — 25.7% of students did not pass all parts



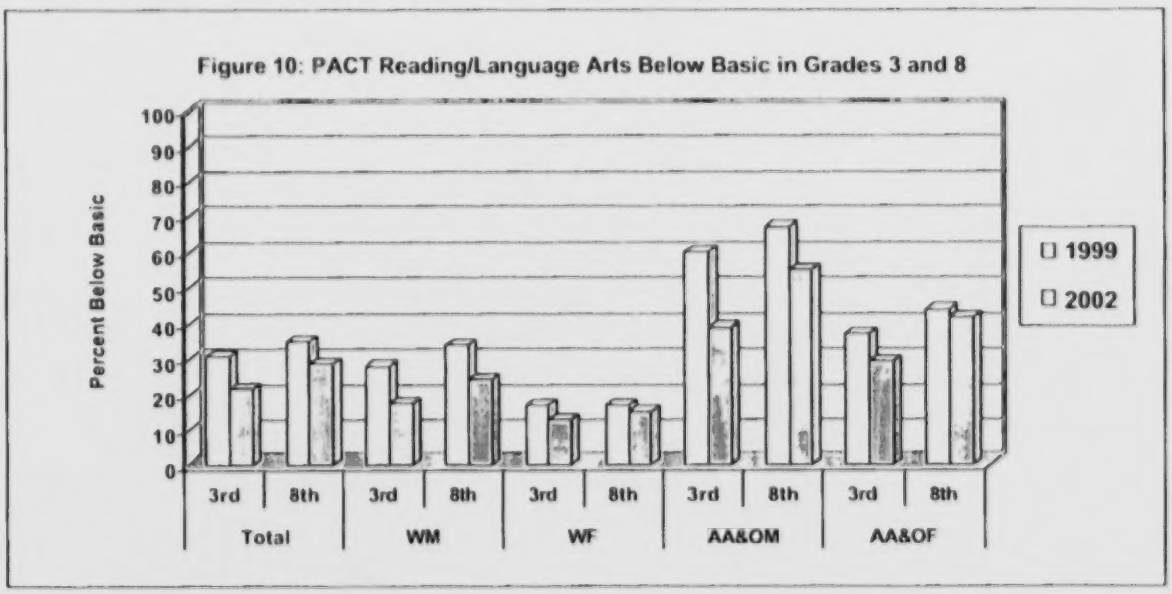
Achievement Trends: How has performance on standardized achievement tests changed over the past 20 years? During the 1980s, student performance on the BSAP tests improved dramatically. Between 1981 and 1990, the percentage of 8th grade students in Spartanburg County who did not meet standards declined from 47.7% to 24.5% in math and from 41.6% to 22.7% in reading. During the 1990's the BSAP trend changed, with 23.8% not meeting 8th grade math standards in 1998 and 27.2% in reading. On standardized tests, the first year when South Carolina students take the exam is comparable to the challenge encountered by the national norm group which took the test only once. Looking at first year data, the percentage of 4th grade students at or below the 25th percentile of national norms was 22% in 1983 on the CTBS, 23.1% in 1990 on the Stanford, and 26.7% in 1995 on the Metropolitan; for 9th graders, the percentage in the bottom quarter was 26.5% in 1990 and 21.7% in 1995. Although not comparable, the percent below basic on the 4th grade PACT in 1999, the first year of administration, was 35.4%, but in 2002 21.2% of 4th graders were below basic in reading and math; the percentage of 8th graders below basic in reading and math averaged 38.9% in 1999 and 31.9% in 2002.

PACT: The Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) was first administered in 1999 for grades 3 - 8 in math and reading/language arts. Math assesses skills in numbers, numerical and algebraic concepts, patterns and functions, geometry, measurement, probability and statistics. The percentage of students scoring below basic in math has decreased by 24.8% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 3,362 students below basic in grades 3-8 but there would have been an additional 1,111 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
		Math (%)				
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	24.1	16.3	16.4	39.7	38.3
	4	21.9	14.9	13.2	38.7	35.2
	5	24.8	17.1	16.2	42.2	40.3
	6	26.4	19.4	17.0	49.7	37.6
	7	36.5	30.4	24.8	56.3	53.2
	8	35.2	28.5	24.5	55.2	54.0
Basic	3	40.0	37.3	41.1	42.2	41.0
	4	35.6	33.2	34.8	36.9	40.9
	5	39.7	39.2	39.5	39.4	41.7
	6	38.5	36.6	39.6	35.6	43.3
	7	32.2	32.1	34.4	28.0	31.9
	8	43.6	44.0	47.7	37.4	39.8
Proficient	3	20.5	25.2	23.4	11.9	13.9
	4	23.4	26.4	28.0	15.8	16.5
	5	22.2	23.9	28.6	14.1	14.2
	6	21.7	24.9	26.3	12.1	15.2
	7	16.9	17.4	22.8	10.3	10.3
	8	13.8	16.8	19.0	5.1	4.7
Advanced	3	15.5	21.1	19.2	6.2	6.8
	4	19.1	25.5	24.0	8.7	7.5
	5	13.3	19.9	15.7	4.3	3.8
	6	13.3	19.2	17.1	2.7	3.9
	7	14.4	20.1	18.0	5.4	4.6
	8	7.3	10.7	8.8	2.2	1.5

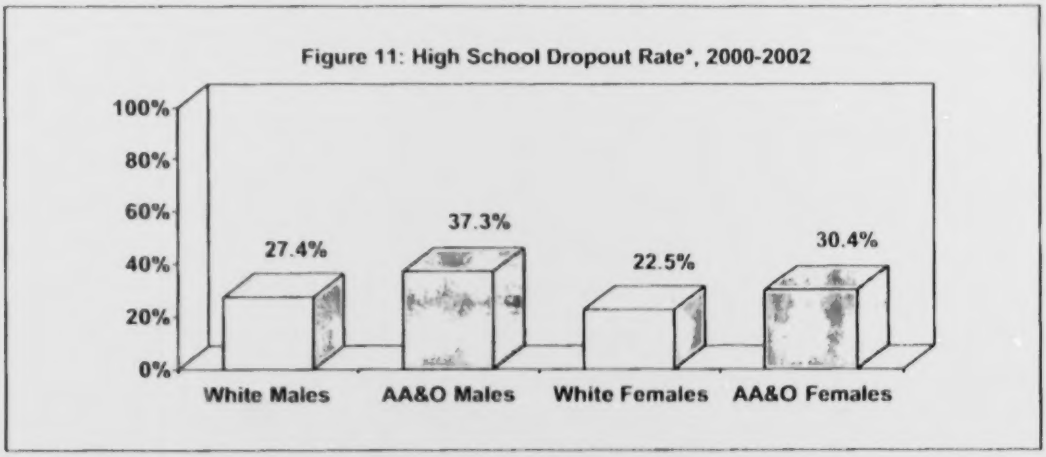
Reading/Language Arts assesses reading, listening, speaking, writing, research, and communication wi technology. The first PACT assessment found a high percentage of elementary and middle grades students performin below standards and only a modest number above basic. The percentage of students scoring below basic reading/language arts has decreased by 20.2% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 2,8 students below basic in grades 3 - 8 but there would have been an additional 723 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
	Reading/Language Arts (%)					
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	21.6	17.4	12.8	38.9	29.3
	4	20.6	17.3	9.7	41.3	26.4
	5	26.2	21.1	13.7	48.2	39.0
	6	28.3	26.0	14.5	56.9	32.7
	7	25.6	23.1	13.7	48.4	32.5
	8	28.7	24.1	15.3	54.9	41.8
Basic	3	35.4	33.8	30.5	38.1	44.7
	4	40.8	39.4	38.4	41.8	47.8
	5	45.5	49.7	44.0	41.0	43.9
	6	33.9	33.6	32.5	29.6	41.6
	7	41.6	42.0	37.4	39.3	51.5
	8	40.5	42.7	37.9	36.5	45.4
Proficient	3	38.2	44.7	47.4	22.4	23.8
	4	35.7	40.3	46.6	16.7	25.2
	5	27.0	27.8	40.1	10.2	16.7
	6	28.6	31.6	36.8	12.3	22.2
	7	27.3	29.2	39.3	11.3	14.6
	8	25.2	28.2	36.7	7.3	11.3
Advanced	3	4.8	4.1	9.3	0.6	2.2
	4	2.8	3.0	5.2	0.2	0.6
	5	1.3	1.4	2.1	0.6	0.4
	6	9.2	8.8	16.2	1.3	3.5
	7	5.5	5.7	9.6	0.9	1.3
	8	5.6	4.9	10.1	1.2	1.5

Dropout Rate - 8th grade students no longer enrolled in grade 12
(average of students for the three years ending 2000-2002)

867 students drop out annually **27.6% students drop out?**



Dropouts: Distressing numbers of students drop out and fail to graduate. An average of 31.3% of 8th graders failed to graduate** from county schools five years later during the period 1980-84, 39.2% during 1985-89, and 31.8% during 1990-94, 32.1% during 1995-97 and 33.7% during 1998-2000***.

During 2001-02, 99.6% of all who did graduate received the State High School Diploma, while the remaining 0.4% received a State Certificate for meeting the required Carnegie units but not passing the Exit Exam.

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*12th grade enrollment compared to 8th grade enrollment four years earlier

** This is calculated by using 8th grade enrollment to graduation data.

*** 2001 data will be available soon and will be posted on the website.

Fortunately, many dropouts enroll in adult education programs and either earn a high school diploma or obtain a GED. During 2001-02, 167 Adult Education high school diplomas were awarded to school completers and in 2001 433 GEDs were awarded in the county. Over time, adult education high school diplomas and GEDs increase the effective school completion rate substantially. In the 2000 Census, 20.0% of county resident 25 - 34 year-olds said they had not completed either high school or a GED.

Achievement Summary: The numbers of students testing below basic on the PACT and dropping out range from 20.6% to 37.6%. Thus, far too many students fail to acquire the knowledge, skills, learning habits, and motivation necessary to compete in the economy or contribute to society in the 21st Century.

ADOLESCENT RISK BEHAVIORS

Academic achievement is greatly influenced by the prevailing youth culture which often promotes popularity with peers and partying rather than studying and doing well in school. The prevalence of adolescent risk-taking and under-achievement is illustrated by the poor grades of substance-abusing teens.

Substance Abuser Rates at Levels of Academic Performance

	Usual School Grades in Past Year					Total
	A Range	B Range	C Range	D Range	F Range	
Smoked Cigarettes (in past 30 days)	14.2%	23.3%	30.2%	40.6%	52.3%	24.6%
Drank 5 or More Drinks on One Occasion (in past 30 days)	11.6%	16.6%	20.6%	28.7%	30.1%	17.5%
Used Any Illicit Drug (in past 30 days)	9.8%	16.5%	24.8%	32.0%	46.0%	18.7%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

As influence from parents and other adults declines during adolescence, significant numbers of students engage in violence, crime, school offenses, depressive emotions and attempted suicide:

Risk Behaviors Participated in During Past 12 Months	White Male		White Female		African American Male		African American Female		Total		Total (Grade 7-12)
	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	
Carried a handgun or knife for self-defense?	19.2%	28.0%	4.6%	5.6%	13.8%	18.2%	6.7%	11.7%	11.5%	16.1%	13.9%
Carried a handgun or knife as a weapon?	3.7%	7.2%	0.9%	1.1%	7.6%	10.5%	4.0%	6.8%	3.6%	5.2%	4.5%
Been in a fight with someone?	36.8%	30.3%	14.6%	14.2%	45.1%	36.6%	32.7%	25.5%	30.7%	24.3%	27.4%
Hit your boyfriend or girlfriend?	1.2%	1.0%	6.6%	7.9%	7.4%	4.7%	17.3%	27.2%	6.8%	7.9%	7.4%
Been hit by your boyfriend or girlfriend?	5.5%	5.1%	6.2%	8.1%	13.4%	8.3%	11.9%	12.5%	8.3%	7.7%	8.0%
Rec'd detention or in-school suspension?	31.8%	38.1%	19.6%	27.0%	45.2%	49.4%	37.4%	45.2%	31.5%	36.3%	34.0%
Been suspended from school?	10.3%	12.0%	2.4%	5.4%	26.3%	23.2%	14.5%	19.1%	11.5%	11.9%	11.7%
Stolen anything worth > $5?	8.3%	15.6%	5.4%	8.8%	13.1%	14.3%	11.9%	13.3%	8.9%	12.6%	10.8%
Had an accident while driving?	NA	15.5%	NA	13.5%	NA	7.2%	NA	6.4%	NA	12.7%	NA
Been arrested and booked?	1.7%	4.1%	1.2%	2.4%	7.6%	8.0%	3.8%	4.0%	3.0%	3.9%	3.5%
Felt hopeless for two weeks or more?	13.2%	15.6%	19.6%	27.6%	16.1%	15.4%	25.6%	32.2%	17.9%	22.5%	20.3%
Seriously considered attempting suicide?	3.8%	7.5%	9.3%	13.2%	6.5%	5.9%	8.3%	11.9%	6.8%	10.1%	8.5%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

Adolescence is often a time of taking risks and asserting independence from adults. When asked whether they would tell an adult about a problem, the following percentages of county students said they would be "not likely" or "very unlikely" to tell if they:

-heard a student threaten to harm someone: 28.3% middle school, 44.6% high school;
-saw a student with a handgun at school: 21.7% middle school, 15.8% high school;
-saw a student with a knife at school: 22.4% middle school, 29.4% high school;
-saw a student with drugs at school: 29.2% middle school, 57.4% high school;

Alcohol Use:* In the county during 2001-02, 17.9% of 7th and 8th graders and 34.2% of high schoolers said they had used alcohol in the past month. Of White males in grades 7 - 12, 29.6% had used it in the past month, compared with 17.5% of African-American males; likewise, 30.2% of White females said they had used alcohol, compared with 26.9% of African-American females. Many youth first used alcohol at an early age: 12.2% had used alcohol by age 11 or younger, 29.7% by age 13, and 58.8% by age 15.

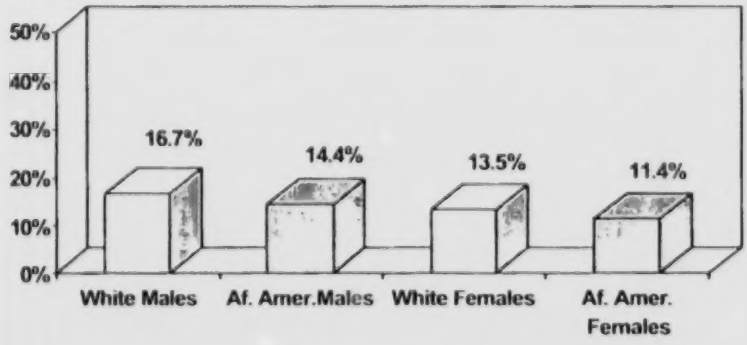
During the previous year, 20.1% of 7th and 8th graders and 31.7% of high schoolers said they had ridden with a drinking driver. Of seniors who drive, 19.1% said they had driven after drinking. Widespread use is encouraged by the ready availability and perceived low risk of alcohol use. Among students who expressed an opinion, 36.6% of eighth graders and 74.8% of seniors felt that beer was easy to get. Also, 71.1% of eighth graders and 69.5% of seniors felt there was not a great risk in drinking two drinks a day, and 45.7% of eighth graders and 53.9% of high schoolers felt there was not a great risk in drinking 5 drinks every weekend.

Heavy Drinking:* In 2001-02, 6.4% of 7th and 8th graders and 17.5% of high school students in the county repor drinking 5 or more drinks in a day during the past month. When asked how many drinks, if any, they usually consur 12.6% of all county students in grades 7 - 12 in 2001-02 responded 3 or more drinks at a time and 6.6% reported usually 5 more drinks. Among high school students, 17.5% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 9.6% 5 or mc Among seniors, 26.1% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 15.1% 5 or more; however 24.2% of seni said that they drank 5 or more drinks in a day once or more during the past month.

Drugs:* In 2001-02, 7.6% of 7th and 8th graders and 18.7% of high schoolers in the county reported using ille drugs during the previous month. Among students in grades 7 - 12, use was reported by 16.7% of White males, 13.5% Wl females, 14.4% of African-American males, and 11.4% of African-American females. Some young people initiated drug at an early age: 5.1% had experienced their first use by age 11 or sooner; 16.1% had used a drug by age 13, and 33.9% by 15.

In the past year, 9.8% of all high school students in the county who drive and 15.6% of seniors who drive said that they had driven after using drugs. Such use is encouraged by the ready availability of drugs: 17.1% of 8th graders who had an opinion said it is easy to get marijuana and 7.0% said it is easy to get cocaine or crack; 63.0% of seniors said it is easy to get marijuana and 28.2% said it was easy to get cocaine or crack.

Figure 12: Drug Use among Students Grades 7-12 during 2001-02*



* County participation in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking was not complete but county data is presented to provide the best available picture of teen risk-taking attitudes and behavior in Spartanburg County. Five of 7 districts participated; but partial participation by District 2 (grades 9 and 12 only) and District 4.

Sexual Activity and Pregnancy: Many teenagers now engage in sexual activity. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) administered to a representative sample of high school students throughout South Carolina in 2001 showed that sexual activity begins at an early age: 7% of female and 21% of male students have engaged in intercourse before age 13; by age 15, 38% the females and 49% of males have engaged in sexual intercourse. Statewide, 48% of females and 50% of males in the 11th and 12th grades reported engaging in intercourse during the past three months. Furthermore, 27% of female and 33% of male 12th graders have had intercourse with four or more partners during their lifetimes.

Premature sexual activity often results in pregnancy. In the county, 240 girls between the ages of 14 and 17 became pregnant in 1999, 237 in 2000 and 240 in 2001. This represented 3.4% of all girls ages 14 – 17 in 2001; several times this percentage become pregnant at least once by age 18. The 2001 pregnancy rate for ages 14 - 17 was 3.0% for Whites and 4.3% for African-Americans and Others. Of all pregnancies of 14-17 year olds, 76.7% resulted in live births with almost all other pregnancies ending in abortions.

Teen pregnancy rates increased substantially across the state during the 1980s; as a result, greater emphasis was devoted to preventing teen pregnancy. Since 1989, the teen pregnancy rate in Spartanburg County has decreased by 54.4. Overall, it has decreased by 43.4% for Whites, and decreased by 67.7% for African Americans and Others.

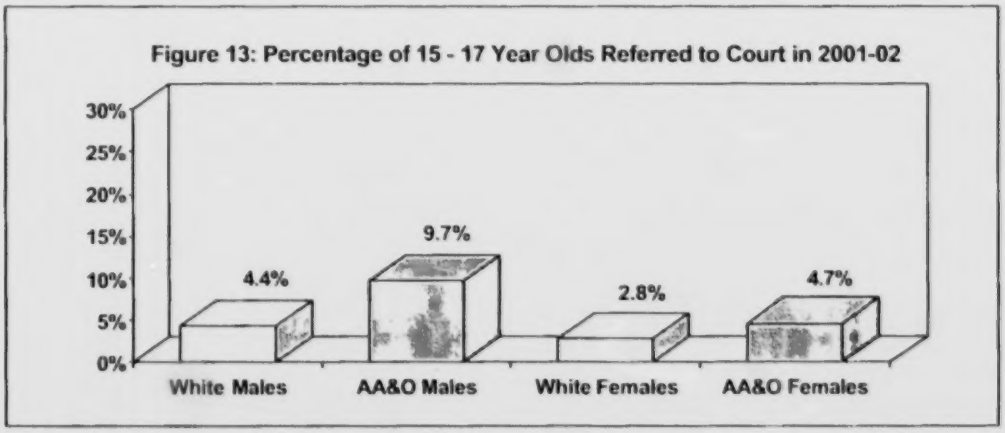
Juvenile Delinquency: In 2001-02, 932 individual juvenile offenders in the county were referred to the Solicitor for delinquency; of these, 12.4% were age 12 or younger, 33.8% were 13 or 14, and 53.8% were 15 or older.

Of the referrals to the family court, 6.9% of all referrals were for violent and serious crimes which include drug trafficking, acts against persons for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and serious property offenses for arson and burglary. Also, 161 juvenile cases constituting 12.7% of all referrals were for status offenses. Status offenses include truancy, running away, incorrigibility, and other offenses that would not be crimes for adults.

Delinquents are likely to live in families with low income: 34.9% lived in families with income under $10,000, 24.1% with $10,000-$19,999 and 41.0% with $20,000 or more. Furthermore, only 21.2% of delinquents lived with both natural parents, while 56.7% lived in a single parent household, 18.6% lived with other relatives, and 3.5% in other situations including parent plus step-parent. Delinquency or criminal activity occurs among many related family members. 37.8% had at least one family member who was delinquent or had some criminal record.

Youth referred to the family courts are likely to have been there before. In 2001-02, 53.0% had at least one prior referral and 20.9% had been referred to court 3 times or more. Many were referred at an early age. For delinquents 15 – 17 years old, 4.0% had been referred by the age of 10, 10.2% by the age of 12, and 26.2% by the age of 14.

During 2001-02, 497 youth ages 15 to 17 were referred to the family courts. In the county, 4.7% of all youth 15 to 17 were referred to court in one year and roughly double that percentage are referred at least once by age 18. Furthermore, the National Youth Survey indicates that typically across the United States the proportion of youth engaging in crime is two or three times the number ever apprehended. In 2001-02, there were 76 juveniles committed from the county to DJJ custody and placed in residential programs.



Not in School or Employed: During 2000, 1,505 teenagers ages 16-19 were idle, meaning they neither worked any hours nor were enrolled in school, even part-time. Idle teens comprised 11.1% of their age group: 8.1% for White and 18.1% African-American & Other teens. A much larger number, perhaps twice as many, were not engaged in either school full time or work full time. The data reflect a serious failure in both school completion and the critical transition from school to work, significantly affecting their development as future workers. For an in-depth description of the problems of young adults seeking to enter the labor force, visit our website at www.scyoungadults.org for our state and county reports on 18-29 year olds.

Deaths: During 1997-2001, 81 youth ages 15 to 19 died. Historically, automobile accidents have been the major cause, resulting in 35 deaths between 1996 and 2000; homicides killed 6 youth 15 to 19 years old during the five-year period, and 11 youth committed suicide. Alcohol use is often a significant factor in deaths among teenagers.

SUMMARY

Facing the Scope of Problems: The data on families, economic status, health, readiness, school achievement, and adolescent risk behaviors provide a troublesome picture of the condition of children in Spartanburg County. The 29.0% of children in single-parent families, 15.5% in poverty, 33.7% not graduating from school, 34.2% of high school students using alcohol and 18.7% using drugs each month, and other data profiled in this report suggest that too many children are at risk of not growing up to become self-supporting adults, good family members, and responsible community citizens.

Emphasizing the Positive: South Carolina Kids Count reports have been developed to describe the problems of children in each of the counties. Fortunately, the majority of children and youth are doing well, and some very well. One simple description is the percentage of children who do not fall into the problem categories reported. For the county, 85.0% of children are born to non-teen mothers ages 20 or older, 70.6% are born to married parents, and 71.0% lived in two-parent families; 84.5% were not poor and 61.0% lived in families with incomes above twice the poverty level for a family of three, $30,040 in 2002; 89.8% of babies were born with normal birthweights; 86.7% were assessed as ready for the first grade, 64.8% scored basic or better on PACT for 8th grade math and 71.3% for 8th grade reading, 74.3% passed all parts of the Exit Exam in the 10th grade, and 66.3% graduated with their class. In a typical month, 65.8% of high school students do not drink alcohol, 81.3% do not use drugs, and 75.4% do not smoke. Unfortunately, the absence of a problem is not always an indicator of success. Some data is available for exemplary performance: for example, 43.0% of 3rd graders and 30.8% of 8th graders scored proficient or advanced on PACT in reading and 36.0% of 3rd graders and 21.1% of 8th graders in math. Unfortunately, data on success is not generally available.

Despite the limitations of success data, we must emphasize the positive in providing good support and appropriate influences for children and youth. Recent philosophy and publications such as those of the Search Institute (700 South Third Street, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN, 55415-1138, tel. 1-800-888-7828, www.search-institute.org), emphasize the critical importance of "developmental assets" to promote and support positive development. One short book from the Search Institute, (What Kids Need to Succeed, by Peter J. Benson, Judy Gailbraith, and Pamela Espeland, 1995) presents an excellent array of suggestions for promoting developmental assets through families, community, faith congregations, and schools. If each family, school, religious congregation and community organization assertively worked to build such assets, the problems described in this report would be reduced dramatically. Such positive family-school-community efforts could improve South Carolina's national Kids Count ranking from the bottom 10 to the average or even into the top 10 by prevention of unnecessary problems affecting children and youth, as shown on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

All data presented in this report is the most recent available at the date it goes to the printer. This version of the Kids Count report will be revised as more recent and additional data become available. Please send us your corrections and suggestions for improvement. We welcome your ideas for ways to make the state and county reports more useful and accurate. Please utilize local data sources whenever possible to supplement the profile provided through our report.

Data related inquiries should be directed to:

Anne Wilson, Data Manager (awilson@drss.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-4810

Calls for **copies of reports** for other counties and inquiries regarding more recent reports should be made to:

Kim Hazel-Lohr, Project Manager (khazel@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-1295

For **policy questions and general comments**, please contact:

Dr. A. Baron Holmes, Project Director (bholmes@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
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Comparable reports for all 46 counties and for the state can also be found on the World Wide Web at

www.sckidscount.org

Our website also provides: links to other websites for indicators in our report; high to low rankings for individual indicators; information on how to improve SC's national rank; and a glossary of definitions.

The national Kids Count Report can be found on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website at

www.aecf.org

Spartanburg County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Indicators	Most Recent Year	Number 1980*	Number 1990*	Number Most Recent Data	Number Percent Change 80-pres	Number Percent Change 90-pres	Percent 1980	Percent 1990	Percent Most Recent	Percent Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Percent Change 90-pres	1980 Rank	19
Health													
Low Birth Weight	2001	263	302	351	+33.5%	+16.2%	8.4	8.8	10.2	21.3%	16.4%	20	
White babies	*2001*	*160*	*170*	*223*	*+39.4%*	*+31.2%*	*7.0*	*7.1*	*8.6*	*22.9%*	*21.3%*	*35*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*103*	*132*	*128*	*+24.3%*	*-3.0%*	*12.0*	*12.6*	*14.8*	*23.6%*	*18.0%*	*23*	
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	2001	1,224	1,690	907	+25.9%	-46.3%	39.1	49.0	26.3	-32.7%	-46.4%	21	
White babies	*2001*	*740*	*936*	*578*	*-21.9%*	*-38.2%*	*32.6*	*39.0*	*22.4*	*-31.3%*	*-42.6%*	*35*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*484*	*754*	*329*	*-32.0%*	*-56.4%*	*56.4*	*71.8*	*38.1*	*-32.4%*	*-46.9%*	*28*	
Infant Mortality	2001	132	116	70	-47.0%	-39.7%	1.4	1.1	0.7	-51.1%	-38.1%	11	
White babies	*2001*	*72*	*75*	*46*	*-36.1%*	*-38.7%*	*1.1*	*1.0*	*0.6*	*-43.0%*	*-41.3%*	*20*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*60*	*41*	*24*	*-60.0%*	*-41.5%*	*2.3*	*1.3*	*0.9*	*-59.6%*	*-28.1%*	*25*	
Family													
Births to mothers under 18	2001	278	291	187	-32.7%	-35.7%	8.9	8.4	5.4	-39.2%	-36.0%	20	
White babies	*2001*	*146*	*140*	*123*	*-15.8%*	*-12.1%*	*6.4*	*5.8*	*4.8*	*-25.4%*	*-17.8%*	*30*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*132*	*151*	*64*	*-51.5%*	*-57.6%*	*15.4*	*14.4*	*7.4*	*-51.8%*	*-48.4%*	*40*	
Births to mothers under 20	2001	643	703	517	-19.6%	-26.5%	20.6	20.4	15.0	-27.0%	-26.5%	22	
White babies	*2001*	*371*	*401*	*330*	*-11.1%*	*+17.7%*	*16.3*	*16.7*	*12.8*	*-21.7%*	*-23.5%*	*24*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*272*	*302*	*187*	*-31.3%*	*+38.1%*	*31.7*	*28.8*	*21.7*	*-31.6%*	*-24.7%*	*43*	
Births to mothers with less than a high school education	2001	1,123	1,009	825	-26.5%	-18.2%	35.9	29.3	24.0	-33.2%	-18.0%	27	
White babies	*2001*	*733*	*602*	*592*	*-19.2%*	*-1.7%*	*32.3*	*25.1*	*22.9*	*-29.1%*	*-8.8%*	*30*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*390*	*407*	*233*	*-40.3%*	*-42.8%*	*45.5*	*38.8*	*27.0*	*-40.6%*	*-30.3%*	*43*	
Births to single mothers****	2001	647	1,126	1,013	+56.6%	-10.0%	20.7	32.7	29.4	42.1%	-10.0%	12	
White babies	*2001*	*177*	*397*	*473*	*+167.2%*	*+19.1%*	*7.8*	*16.6*	*18.3*	*134.7%*	*10.5%*	*39*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*470*	*729*	*540*	*+14.9%*	*-25.9%*	*54.8*	*69.4*	*62.6*	*14.2%*	*-9.9%*	*44*	
Children in single parent families	2000	9,412	11,800	16,003	+70.0%	+35.6%	17.6	24.2	29.0	64.9%	20.0%	17	
White	*2000*	*4,586*	*5,640*	*7,375*	*+60.8%*	*+30.8%*	*10.8*	*15.4*	*18.8*	*73.8%*	*21.9%*	*34*	
African American and Other	*2000*	*4,793*	*6,080*	*8,628*	*+80.0%*	*+41.9%*	*37.5*	*51.2*	*54.5*	*45.2%*	*6.4%*	*43*	
Education													
Not Ready for Grade 1	2001	1,015	644	419	-58.7%	-34.9%	31.4	19.9	13.3	-57.6%	-33.2%	1	
White males	*2001*	*323*	*183*	*90*	*-72.1%*	*-50.8%*	*28.5*	*15.4*	*8.4*	*-70.5%*	*-45.5%*	*17*	
White females	*2001*	*202*	*101*	*73*	*-63.9%*	*-27.7%*	*18.9*	*9.9*	*7.5*	*-60.3%*	*-24.2%*	*17*	
African American and Other males	*2001*	*262*	*204*	*152*	*-42.0%*	*-25.5%*	*49.7*	*38.3*	*26.8*	*-46.1%*	*-30.0%*	*9*	
African American and Other females	*2001*	*228*	*156*	*100*	*-56.1%*	*-35.9%*	*44.7*	*31.8*	*19.3*	*-56.8%*	*-39.3%*	*17*	
Repeating Grades 1-3	2000	682	548	216	-68.3%	-60.6%	21.2	17.5	6.4	-69.8%	-63.4%	30	
White males	*2000*	*217*	*171*	*72*	*-66.8%*	*-57.9%*	*19.0*	*15.2*	*6.3*	*-66.8%*	*-58.6%*	*28*	
White females	*2000*	*118*	*109*	*48*	*-59.3%*	*-56.0%*	*10.9*	*10.6*	*4.6*	*-57.8%*	*-56.6%*	*27*	
African American and Other males	*2000*	*205*	*141*	*61*	*-70.2%*	*-56.7%*	*42.1*	*28.5*	*10.9*	*-74.1%*	*-61.8%*	*40*	
African American and Other females	*2000*	*138*	*126*	*30*	*-78.3%*	*-76.2%*	*28.4*	*26.6*	*5.7*	*-79.9%*	*-78.6%*	*38*	
Grade 3 Math below standards*****	2002	1,040	359	758	-27.1%	+111.1%	32.3	12.2	24.1	-25.4%	97.5%	6	
White males	*2002*	*316*	*77*	*175*	*-44.6%*	*+127.3%*	*27.2*	*7.5*	*16.3*	*-40.1%*	*117.3%*	*16*	
White females	*2002*	*281*	*96*	*164*	*-41.6%*	*+70.8%*	*24.4*	*9.3*	*16.4*	*-32.8%*	*76.3%*	*12*	
African American and Other males	*2002*	*232*	*86*	*210*	*-9.5%*	*+144.2%*	*51.9*	*19.3*	*39.7*	*-23.5%*	*105.7%*	*12*	
African American and Other females	*2002*	*206*	*100*	*209*	*+1.5%*	*+109.0%*	*47.0*	*23.2*	*38.3*	*-18.5%*	*65.1%*	*14*	
Grade 3 Reading below standards*****	2002	864	321	679	-21.4%	+111.5%	26.8	11.0	21.6	-19.4%	96.4%	8	
White males	*2002*	*291*	*107*	*186*	*-36.1%*	*+73.8%*	*25.0*	*10.5*	*17.4*	*-30.4%*	*65.7%*	*14*	
White females	*2002*	*185*	*59*	*128*	*-30.8%*	*+116.9%*	*16.0*	*5.7*	*12.8*	*-20.0%*	*124.6%*	*18*	
African American and Other males	*2002*	*239*	*94*	*205*	*-14.2%*	*+118.1%*	*53.3*	*21.2*	*38.9*	*-27.0%*	*83.5%*	*14*	
African American and Other females	*2002*	*143*	*60*	*160*	*+11.9%*	*+166.7%*	*32.6*	*14.0*	*29.3*	*-10.1%*	*109.3%*	*7*	
Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT Grade 4	1998	668	662	615	-7.9%	-7.1%	22.0	23.1	21.5	-2.3%	-6.9%	7	
White males	*1998*	*228*	*225*	*148*	*-35.1%*	*-34.2%*	*20.1*	*21.6*	*15.4*	*-23.4%*	*-28.7%*	*13*	
White females	*1998*	*133*	*152*	*109*	*-18.0%*	*-28.3%*	*12.4*	*15.1*	*10.7*	*-13.7%*	*-29.1%*	*17*	
African American and Other males	*1998*	*174*	*143*	*172*	*-1.1%*	*+20.3%*	*41.9*	*34.6*	*44.4*	*6.0%*	*28.3%*	*8*	
African American and Other females	*1998*	*130*	*140*	*179*	*+37.7%*	*+27.9%*	*32.7*	*35.4*	*40.7*	*24.5%*	*15.0%*	*14*	

*Year of data is approximate in many cases.
**1 is best, 46 is worst.
*** Data include paternity acknowledgements.
**** BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Spartanburg County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Education (continued)

Indicators		Number					Percent				
	Most Recent Year	1980*	1990*	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres
Grade 8 Math below state standards**	2002	1,577	634	1,084	-31.3%	+71.0%	47.7	24.5	35.2	-26.2%	43.7%
White males	*2002*	*498*	*205*	*300*	*-39.8%*	*+46.3%*	*41.0*	*21.4*	*28.5*	*-30.5%*	*33.2%*
White females	*2002*	*480*	*197*	*260*	*-45.8%*	*+32.0%*	*39.7*	*20.3*	*24.5*	*-38.3%*	*20.7%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*301*	*113*	*270*	*-10.3%*	*+138.9%*	*67.5*	*36.7*	*55.2*	*-18.2%*	*50.4%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*291*	*119*	*254*	*-12.7%*	*+113.4%*	*68.2*	*34.1*	*54.0*	*-20.8%*	*58.4%*
Grade 8 Reading below state standards**	2002	1,377	589	882	-35.9%	+49.7%	41.6	22.7	28.7	-31.0%	26.4%
White males	*2002*	*442*	*231*	*254*	*-42.5%*	*+10.0%*	*36.4*	*24.0*	*24.1*	*-33.8%*	*0.4%*
White females	*2002*	*325*	*153*	*162*	*-50.2%*	*+5.9%*	*26.8*	*15.8*	*15.3*	*-42.9%*	*-3.2%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*326*	*114*	*269*	*-17.5%*	*+136.0%*	*72.6*	*37.4*	*54.9*	*-24.4%*	*46.8%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*278*	*90*	*197*	*-29.1%*	*+118.9%*	*65.0*	*25.6*	*41.8*	*-35.7%*	*63.3%*
Grade 9 Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT	1998	NA	658	710	NA	+7.9%	NA	26.5	24.3	NA	-8.3%
White males	*1998*	*NA*	*256*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*27.2*	*19.7*	*NA*	*-27.6%*
White females	*1998*	*NA*	*143*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*15.6*	*13.9*	*NA*	*-10.9%*
African American and Other males	*1998*	*NA*	*128*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*44.3*	*46.9*	*NA*	*5.9%*
African American and Other females	*1998*	*NA*	*130*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*39.5*	*40.6*	*NA*	*2.8%*
Exit Exam (not passing all parts on 1st attempt)	2002	1,220	574	636	-47.9%	+10.8%	41.7	24.5	25.7	-38.4%	4.9%
White males	*2002*	*399*	*194*	*192*	*-51.9%*	*-1.0%*	*36.6*	*22.3*	*21.3*	*-41.8%*	*-4.5%*
White females	*2002*	*332*	*133*	*156*	*-53.0%*	*+17.3%*	*30.1*	*15.6*	*17.1*	*-43.2%*	*9.6%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*250*	*124*	*129*	*-48.4%*	*+4.0%*	*71.8*	*43.8*	*43.6*	*-39.3%*	*-0.5%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*236*	*121*	*155*	*-34.3%*	*+28.1%*	*61.8*	*37.0*	*43.2*	*-30.1%*	*16.8%*
Dropout Rate (8th graders no longer enrolled in 12th grade 4 years later)	2000-02	964	1,035	867	-10.1%	-16.2%	27.8	30.6	27.6	-0.8%	-9.8%
White males	*2000-02*	*379*	*409*	*308*	*-18.6%*	*-24.7%*	*28.2*	*32.3*	*27.4*	*-2.8%*	*-15.1%*
White females	*2000-02*	*315*	*288*	*247*	*-21.5%*	*-14.1%*	*25.3*	*24.4*	*22.5*	*-11.2%*	*-7.7%*
African American and Other males	*2000-02*	*163*	*198*	*172*	*+5.3%*	*-13.3%*	*36.3*	*40.2*	*37.3*	*2.5%*	*-7.2%*
African American and Other females	*2000-02*	*108*	*140*	*140*	*+30.2%*	*+0.0%*	*24.6*	*31.6*	*30.4*	*23.5%*	*-3.7%*
Young Adults Not Completing High School (18-24)	2000	8,214	7,696	7,356	-10.4%	-4.4%	33.5	31.3	20.0	-40.2%	-36.0%
White males	*NA*	*3,115*	*3,013*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*32.9*	*32.6*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
White females	*NA*	*2,524*	*2,364*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*27.1*	*24.9*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other males	*NA*	*1,464*	*1,260*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*51.9*	*45.9*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other females	*NA*	*1,111*	*1,059*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*38.4*	*34.5*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
Economics											
Poverty Rate	2000	9,682	8,891	9,600	-0.8%	+8.0%	17.0	16.2	15.5	-8.8%	-4.3%
White children	*2000*	*4,379*	*3,636*	*3,885*	*-11.3%*	*+6.8%*	*10.4*	*9.1*	*9.1*	*-12.5%*	*0.0%*
African American and Other children	*2000*	*5,244*	*5,255*	*5,715*	*+9.0%*	*+8.8%*	*36.0*	*34.6*	*29.7*	*-17.6%*	*-14.3%*
Income of Families w/children (1999 $)	2000	$ 43,829	$ 48,171	$ 52,472	+19.7%	+8.9%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
White families	*2000*	*$ 47,483*	*$ 53,188*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other families	*2000*	*$ 29,011*	*$ 30,426*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
Adolescent Risk Factors											
Teenage Pregnancy (ages 14-17)	2001	396	405	240	-39.4%	-40.7%	5.5	6.0	3.4	-37.6%	-43.3%
White	*2001*	*239*	*204*	*153*	*-36.0%*	*-25.0%*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*3.0*	*-32.3%*	*-28.6%*
African American and Other	*2001*	*157*	*201*	*86*	*-45.2%*	*-57.2%*	*8.4*	*11.0*	*4.3*	*-48.8%*	*-60.9%*
Delinquency	2002	330	611	497	+50.6%	-18.7%	3.0	6.3	4.7	56.7%	-25.4%
White males	*2002*	*162*	*240*	*162*	*+0.0%*	*-32.5%*	*4.0*	*6.5*	*4.4*	*11.0%*	*-31.7%*
White females	*2002*	*53*	*102*	*103*	*+94.3%*	*+1.0%*	*1.3*	*2.9*	*2.8*	*115.3%*	*-3.5%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*94*	*206*	*156*	*+66.0%*	*-24.3%*	*6.8*	*15.8*	*9.7*	*42.5%*	*-38.7%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*21*	*63*	*76*	*+261.9%*	*+20.6%*	*1.5*	*5.0*	*4.7*	*210.8%*	*-6.7%*

*Closest available data to this year was used in many cases.
**BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Kids Count 2003

Sumter County

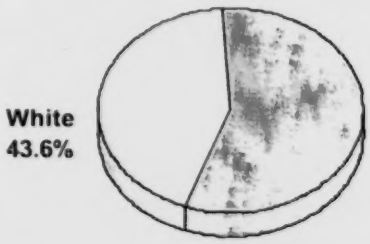
DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2000 there were an estimated 29,430 children under age 18 in the county. Of these, 12,837 were White, 15,413 were African-American, and 1,180 were other races. There were 29,417 children under age 18 in 1990, 29,360 in 1980, 32,562 in 1970, and 33,773 in 1960.

Children represent a shrinking portion of the county's population. Those under 18 constituted 28.1% of the population in 2000, down from 45.1% in 1960, 41.0% in 1970, and 33.3% in 1980.

In 2000 the 9,370 pre-schoolers under age 6 were 9.0% of the overall population: 8.1% of Whites and 9.6% of African Americans.

Figure 1: Population Ages 0-17 in 2000



* In all charts African-American is combined with other races, and often abbreviated as AA&O. Other races comprise 4.0% of children in the county, with "two or more races" at 2.0% and "some other race alone" at 0.9% as the largest Other groups.

FAMILY

Families have always been the most important influence in a child's life. Children depend on their families for material needs, stimulation and guidance. Family life is different in numerous ways from previous generations, and many families now face exceptional challenges.

Families with children now make up a smaller share of all households. Only 36.5% of all households in 2000, as compared with 54.0% of households in 1960, had children below the age of 18.

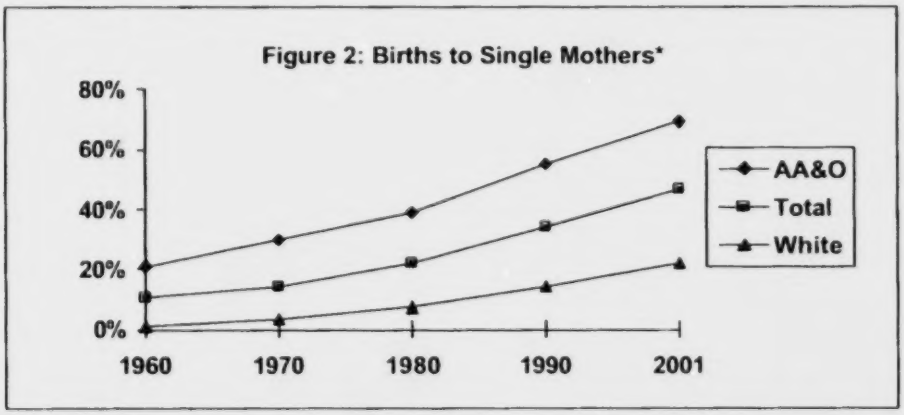
Births to Teen Mothers: In 2001, 106 babies were born to mothers younger than age 18. They were 6.6% of all babies born in the county; 3.6% of all White and 9.3% of all African-American and Other babies were born to teen mothers under the age of 18. Of the babies born to these teens in 2001, 92.5% were born to single mothers, including babies whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers.

In 2001, 297 babies were born to mothers younger than age 20. These babies were 18.5% of all born in the county; 12.8% of all White and 23.7% of all African-American and Other babies were born to mothers under the age of 20. Of the babies born to these mothers in 2001, 84.2% were born to single mothers, including paternity acknowledeged babies.

Education of Mothers Giving Birth: Children's success is strongly influenced by the education of their parents. In 2001, 309 babies, 19.3% of all babies, were born to mothers of all ages who had not completed the 12th grade. In 2001, 15.3% of White and 22.8% of African-American and Other babies were born to mothers who had completed less than the 12th grade. This is a substantial improvement from 40.4% in 1970. In addition, during 2001, 40.9% had completed 12 grades (36.4% of Whites and 45.0% of African Americans and Others) and 39.9% had more than a high school degree (48.2% of Whites and 32.2% of African American and Others).

Births to Single Mothers: Births to single mothers have increased steadily over four decades. In 2001, 557 babies, 34.6% of all babies, were recorded as born to single mothers. A decade earlier in 1990, the percentage was 30.9% and in 1960 it was 10.3%. In 2001, 14.0% of White children and 53.7% of African-American and Other children were born to single mothers. These numbers, however, do not include paternity acknowlegement births.

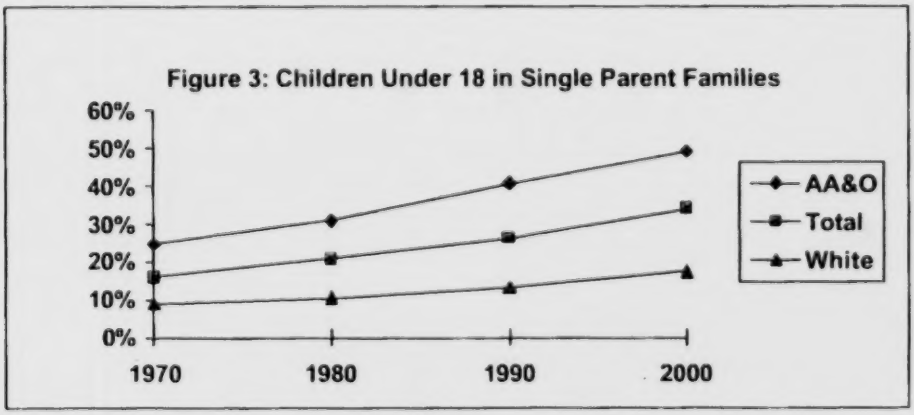
Thus, to these numbers should be added an additional group of 191 babies, 11.9% of all born in 2001, whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers. When the paternity-acknowledged babies are added, the total number born to single mothers in 2001 was 748, constituting 46.5% of all babies, 21.9% of White babies, and 69.3% of African-American and Others.



*Includes paternity acknowleged babies in 1980, 1990 and 2001. Prior to 1979, paternity acknowleged cases were not a statistical category, and thus were included in births to single mothers.

Divorce Rate: In 2001, 849 marriage licenses were issued, while 466 divorce decrees involving 409 children were filed. In 1970, only 271 children were in families involved in divorce.

Single-Parent Family: Increasing numbers of children live in single-parent families. In 2000, 8,512 children lived with only one parent. This was 34.0% of all children, up from 26.2% in 1990, 20.6% in 1980, and 15.9% in 1970. In 2000, 17.3% of White and 49.0% of African-American and Other children lived in single-parent families. Also in 2000, 2,329 or 31.9% of children under age 6 lived in single parent families: 14.3% of White and 50.1% of African American and Other pre-schoolers.



Parents Working and Child Care: Increasingly, parents must divide their time between children and employers. In order to meet family financial needs, most parents must work and thus have less time for family life. In 2000, 67.1% of mothers with children under 6 and 73.3% with children 6 - 17 were in the labor force. This has increased substantially from 1960 when 27.2% of mothers with children under 6 were in the labor force. Most fathers also work: 63.5% of children under 6 are in families where the single parent or both parents work. Caring for children is a problem for parents unable to obtain quality, affordable daycare while they are at work.

Overall, there are 4,702 spaces in state-regulated childcare facilities* in the county, 95.3% of these are in licensed programs and 4.7% are in registered programs. Of the spaces, 92.9% are in licensed childcare centers serving more than 12 children, 4.5% are in registered or licensed family childcare homes serving six or fewer children, 2.0% are in licensed group childcare homes serving 7-12 children, and 0.6% are in registered or licensed church programs.

The homes and centers are severely constrained by the limited ability of parents to pay. In the county, the average weekly charge is $ 69.17 for centers and $ 64.44 for homes. Consequently, center wages are low: 43.5% of centers with pre-school staff and 62.5% of centers with assistant pre-school staff report paying these staff under $6 per hour. Paying $6-$8 per hour are 30.4% of centers with pre-school staff and 37.5% of centers with assistants. Low wages attract workers with limited education. In 56.5% of centers, most pre-school staff and in 75% of centers most assistants have only a high school degree. In 39.1% of centers few to none of the pre-school staff have early childhood credentials. In childcare homes, 53.2% of lead providers have no more education than a high school degree or GED; 18.8% have less than a high school degree.

Family Violence: In 2000, 777 domestic assaults were recorded by law enforcement officials. These domestic assaults comprised 33.7% of all assaults, which include aggravated assaults, simple assaults, and intimidation. Overall, 61.1% of all domestic assaults involve spouse abuse which constitutes 20.6% of all assaults. Since most family violence is not reported, the true incidence of family disruption is much more widespread than even the large number of reported cases would indicate.

Separation from Parents: Some children do not live with their natural parents. In 2000, 8.6% of all children did not live with their natural parents. Approximately 1,989 or 6.8% of all children lived with relatives, 449 or 1.5% lived with non-relatives, 23 or 0.1% were householders or spouses, and 74 or 0.3% were in institutional facilities.

Abuse and Neglect: In 2000-01, there were 575 investigations into reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children. Through its investigations, the Department of Social Services (DSS) determined that 215 of the investigations were indicated for abuse or neglect: 10.0% for physical abuse, 3.8% for sexual abuse, 0.0% for mental injury, 26.3% for physical neglect, 6.7% for educational neglect, 3.8% for medical neglect, 48.8% for threat of harm for physical/sexual abuse, and 0.8% for other types of abuse.

In the indicated cases of abuse and neglect, DSS determined there were 391 children who were victims of abuse or neglect. Of these, 48.8% were male, 51.2% were female; 33.3% were White, 66.8% were African-American and Other. By age, 42.3% were ages 0 - 5, 36.2% were ages 6 - 12, and 21.4% were ages 13 - 17. In the indicated cases, 28.4% of the children lived in two-parent families, 48.8% in single parent families, 18.9% with unmarried couples, and 3.8% in other circumstances.

Out of Home Placements: As of June 2001, 119 children lived in foster care. The median age at first placement in the county is 3.6 years. The ages of children in foster care were 17.7% 0-2, 10.1% 3-5, 26.9% 6-10, 16.0% 11-13, and 29.4% 14 and above. The foster care population is 58.8% males and 41.2% females. Regarding their future, 39.5% were under a plan for placement in adoptive homes, 26.1% for return to a parent or guardian, 0.8% for placement with a relative, 10.1% for independent living, 23.5% for permanent foster care, and 0.0% for other circumstances.

Adult/Child Ratio: A measure of potential adult attention for children from family and community is the ratio of adults to children and youth. In 2000 there were 2.56 adults for every person below age 18. This was up substantially from 1960, when there were only 1.22 adults for every person under the age 18. This indicates that today there are more adults potentially available to provide attention and care for each child than in the past.

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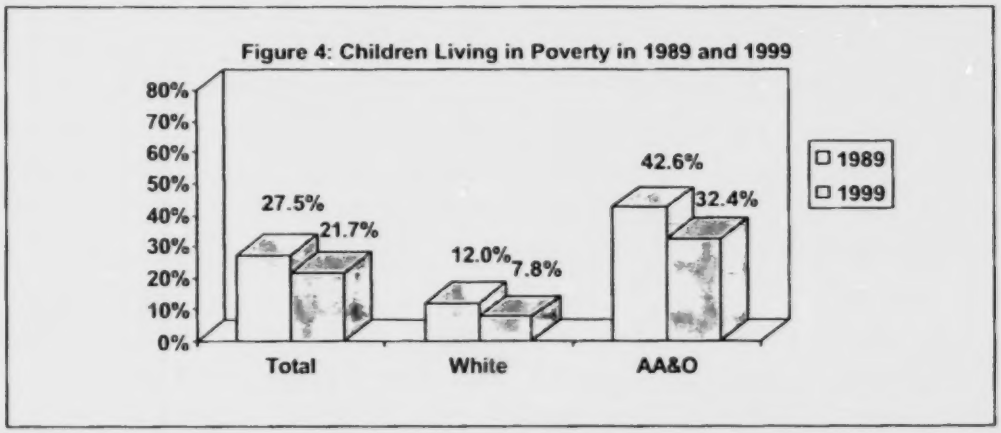
* This data is the best currently available; however, an effort is being made to check the coverage and improve the accuracy. As soon as more recent and complete data becomes available, it will be posted on the website.

ECONOMIC STATUS

Low income makes it difficult for many families to provide the material and environmental enrichment necessary for healthy child development.

Poverty: In 1999, 6,297 children and youth under the age of 18 lved in 2,850 families with incomes below poverty, comprising 21.7% of all children and youth: 7.8% of Whites and 32.4% of African-Americans and Others. A rough estimate of child poverty in 2001 calculated by the Census Bureau was 23.0%.



Poverty has always been a serious problem. While the rate among children under age 18 in 1989 was 27.5%, it was 29.3% in 1979 and 38.5% in 1969.

Children and the elderly are the age groups most seriously affected by poverty. In 1999, 23.5% of children 0 - 5 (8.6% White, 35.7% African-American and Other), and 20.8% of children 6 - 17 (7.2% White, 30.8% African-American and Other), lived in poverty; 17.4% of persons 65 years and older lived in poverty. Historically, the poverty rate among the elderly was much higher. During the last three decades, federal policy actions have substantially improved the economic status of older persons but have not done so for children.

Single-parent families are most likely to be poor. In 1999, 42.8% of children in single-parent families lived in poverty, but only 9.1% of children in married-couple families were poor. Children in single-parent families made up 69.0% of all the county's children living in poverty.

In 2002, the poverty level was $15,020 for a family of three and $18,100 for a family of four. The poverty threshold is often criticized as an arbitrary number. People can still be poor but may be just above the poverty level. Federal programs utilize varying thresholds. For example, in 1999 there were 14,221 children ages 0-17 who were less than 200 percent of poverty; thus an additional 7,924 children were above the poverty level but could still be considered poor or near-poor with incomes below $30,040 and $36,200 respectively for 3 and 4 person families.

Children Under 18 in Poverty in 1999

Percent of Poverty	Total		White		African American & Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 50%	3,045	10.5%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 100%	6,297	21.7%	987	7.8%	5,310	32.4%
Under 125%	8,176	28.2%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 150%	10,648	36.7%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 175%	12,370	42.7%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 185%	13,001	44.9%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 200%	14,221	49.1%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total Children	29,430		12,837		16,593	

Note: Missing data will be released by the Census Bureau later in 2003, and will be posted on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

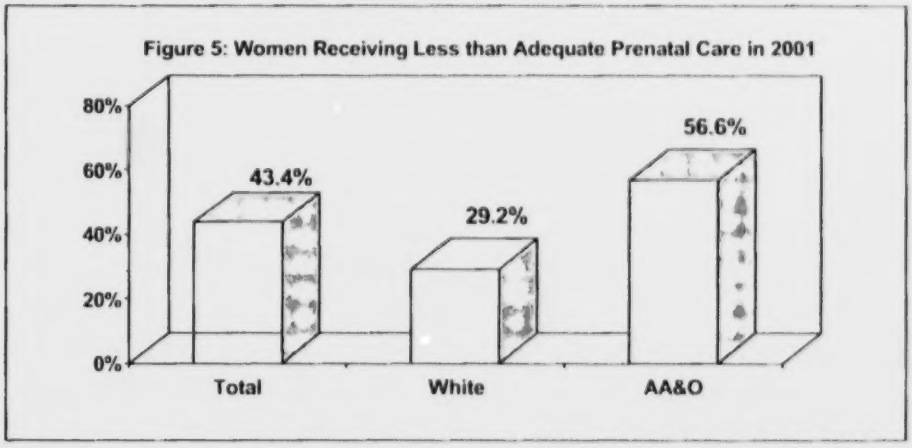
Income: The mean income of families with children in 1999 was $45,863. In 1989 it was $36,807, and 1979, it was $34,337, adjusted for inflation (i.e., in 1999 dollars). The mean income of single-parent families with children was $23,199 for single parents in 1999, as compared with $57,630 in married-couple families with children. From 1999 to 2000, Sumter County real dollar per capita income (eliminating inflation) increased by 1.8%.

Child Support Payments: There were 1,314[7] families receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families in fiscal year 2002, but only 27.1 % had child support court orders. Their average monthly payment of child support was $ 246, including child support receipts and tax refund intercepts. In addition, during fiscal year 2002, an estimated 2,556 parents in non-TANF families were obligated to pay a monthly average of $ 220. Information is not available regarding the amount actually paid.

HEALTH

Good health during a child's formative years helps children to reach their maximum potential. Good health requires healthy lifestyles and effective primary care, starting during the prenatal period and continuing through adolescence into adulthood. Children's health reflects the well-being of the community, as well as how adequately they are protected.

Prenatal Care: Early and continuous prenatal care can make a significant difference in assuring births of healthy babies. Delayed or insufficient prenatal care is associated with low birthweight and other health risks for infants. In 2001, 480, or 29.8% of pregnant women received no prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy. In 2001, 699, or 43.4% of pregnant women received less than adequate prenatal care: 226 or 29.2% of Whites and 473 or 56.6% of African-Americans and Others. In that same year, 2 women received no prenatal care at all.



Low Birthweight: Low birthweight of less than 5.5 pounds and very low birthweight of less than 3.3 pounds are associated with health risks and growth and development problems. In 2001, 132 or 8.2% of all babies in the county were born with low birthweight: 10.3% of African-American and Other babies and 6.0% of White babies. During 1999-2001, approximately 104 or 2.1% of all babies were born with very low birthweight and had the most serious complications: 1.3% of White babies and 2.8% of African-American and Other babies. The cost of hospitalization for each newborn low birthweight baby in the county in 1999 - 2001 was $16,234 and $72,886 for each very low birthweight baby, compared with $2,245 for a baby of normal birthweight. The result was excess cost in the county of $2,909,661 for all low birthweight babies, of which $1,883,764 was for very low birthweight babies.

Infant Mortality: During the decade since 1989-91, the overall infant mortality rate decreased by 25.8% from 12.9 to 9.5 per 1000 live births. For Whites, the rate decreased 16.7% from 6.9 to 5.8 per 1000 live births, while for African-Americans and Others the rate decreased 29.8% from 18.6 to 13.0 per 1000 live births. Over the three-year period 1999-2001, 14 White and 34 African-American and Other infants died before age one. By comparison, 19 White and 53 African-American and Other infants died during 1989-91.

[7] Number is an unduplicated count for the entire fiscal year.

Child Injuries and Deaths: Childhood deaths and injuries reflect whether communities are safe for children. In 2001, children in the Sumter County went to the emergency room 3,055 times because of injuries. Boys are injured more often than girls. Children visit the emergency room at comparable rates for each age from 0 to 17.

In South Carolina, the major causes of death among young children are unintentional injuries, cancer, homicide, and congenital anomalies. Over the three year period 1999-2001, 6 White and 11 African-American and Other children ages 1-14 died in the county. During 1989-91, 9 White and 25 African-American and Other children died.

Immunization: Immunization rates are an important indication of whether young children are receiving adequate preventive health care. During FY 1989-90, 56.1% of children less than two years old seen in public health clinics were not fully immunized against such preventable diseases as Polio, Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Haemophilus Influenza B and Whooping Cough. After a concerted statewide campaign to increase immunizations, the percentage of children seen in public health clinics who were not fully immunized in January 2001 had declined in the county to 9.0%. The DHEC statewide birth registry survey of all two year old children found that 88.1% were fully immunized in 2001. This success demonstrates the potential to improve the status of children when the leadership of the state and its communities act decisively together.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Children and youth are infected with sexually transmitted diseases through sexual abuse or irresponsible sexual activity. National prevalence rates indicate: a 1 in 8 chance that sexually active 15 year-old girls will develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), the most rapidly increasing cause of infertility; 10% of sexually active adolescent girls and boys are infected with chlamydia, the most common cause of PID; and as many as 15% of teen girls are infected with human papilloma virus, often with strains linked to cervical cancer. Furthermore, research evidence indicates that susceptibility to HIV/AIDS increases by 3 to 8 times through prior infection with various STDs.

According to national studies, approximately 1 in 4 sexually experienced youth aged 13-19 acquires a STD ever year; since two-thirds of all high school students have had sexual intercourse and half engage in intercourse over a three month period, this would suggest that 10-15% of teens are infected with STDs annually. For 2000, this would indicate that an estimated 1,152 to 1,728 youth ages 13-19 in the county were infected with a STD. Many infections are either not identified for treatment or not reported. In the county, there were 8 reported cases of children under age 15 and 95 youth ages 15 - 19 infected with gonorrhea; 15 youth under 15 and 267 ages 15 - 19 were reported infected with chlamydia. Youth with undiagnosed and untreated STDs often spread their infections.

Healthy Lifestyles: Although no county data is available, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2001 found that many high school students are not following good health habits. The YRBS revealed that 26% felt that they were overweight; 42% were trying to lose weight: 27% of boys and 57% of girls. Although during a week 79% of high school students ate fruit, 59% ate salad, and over 83% ate vegetables, only 17% ate the recommended five or more servings of fruit and vegetables per day. During a week, 49% did stretching or muscle strengthening exercises, and 59% exercised three or more times for 20 minutes in sports that made them sweat or breathe hard. However, 11% of students engaged in no vigorous or moderate activity at all during a week: 8% of boys and 13% of girls.

Tobacco Use:* Cigarette smoking starts at a young age and often becomes habitual. In the county during 2002 among all students 15 and older, 15.4% first smoked by age 11, 33.7% by age 13, and 51.2% by age 15. In a typical month, 20.3% of 7th and 8th graders and 26.4% of high school students smoked cigarettes. White youths were much more likely than African-Americans to smoke: 30.1% of White male and 39.1% of White female 7th to 12th graders used cigarettes, as compared with 24.3% of African-American males and 11.9% of African American females. A smaller but significant group of high school students (2.8%) used smokeless tobacco monthly; it was used primarily by White males (11.5% compared with 0.8% of all other race and sex groups).

* County participation in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking was not complete but county data is presented to provide the best available picture of teen risk-taking attitudes and behavior in Sumter County. Both districts participated, but participation by District 17 was principally by middle school grades.

Disabilities: No data are collected on the true prevalence of disabilities within the county. According to national reported estimates, over 10% of children and youth have developmental disabilities at any point in time, and more than 17 are affected at some time before age 18 by deafness, blindness, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, speech defects, developmental delays, learning disabilities, and emotional or behavioral problems. For 2000 this suggests that at least 2,943 children and youth under age 18 in the county are currently affected by disabilities.

Approximately 5% of children and youth nationally have serious disabilities which have lifelong implications for work, social life and community living. Typically among children and youth, there are 1 - 2% who are mentally retarded, 2 - 3% with serious emotional disturbances, over 1% with orthopedic or multiple disabilities, including cerebral palsy and many hereditary conditions, and under 1% with visual or hearing impairments.

Other chronic health problems also affect the lives of many children. Over 3% of children have one or more of these limitations. Such serious chronic conditions affect 1 - 2% who have respiratory problems (asthma and chronic bronchitis), 0.5 - 1.0% with neurological problems (epilepsy and seizures), and less than 1% with circulatory problems (congenital heart defects and acquired diseases).

Other disabilities are identified primarily in school performance. These would include 1,856 students in grades 1-12 with learning disabilities and 852 students in grades 1-12 with speech/language deficits.

Disabilities are caused by genetics, disease, poor prenatal conditions, injuries, and environmental factors. For example, lead exposure, primarily from paint dust, was detected in over 1% of all children screened, including 70 in Sumter County.

Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: While over 20% of 9-17 year olds meet diagnostic criteria for some form of mental disorder, the number with serious emotional disturbance and impaired functioning in family, school, or community activities is: 9-13% for substantial functional impairment and 5-9% for extreme functional impairment. The rates among poor children are at the higher end of these ranges. Based on a federal formula for estimating prevalence, in the county there are 12% or 1,815 seriously emotionally disturbed 9-17 year olds with substantial functional impairment and 8% or 1,210 with extreme functional impairment during the course of a year. Conduct disorders, attention deficit, depression, and anxiety disorders are the most prevalent, each affecting 3% or more of school-aged children. These disorders may occur simultaneously in a child. The prevalence rates are highest among males, adolescents, and disadvantaged persons in communities under stress and lacking social cohesion; depression, however, is more prevalent among females. On the YRBS, 20% of boys and 33% of girls in high school reported that during the past year they felt so sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that they stopped doing some usual activities. Another indicator of emotional problems is the 8% of high school students in South Carolina who reported that they had "attempted suicide" in the past year: 5% of boys and 10% of girls. Suicide attempts resulted in 4% of high school students reporting that they required treatment by a doctor or nurse for injury, poisoning, or overdose.

Inadequate Healthcare: No county level data is routinely collected regarding the number of children and youth with inadequate healthcare. According to estimates for 2000-02 by the Bureau of the Census through the annual Current Population Survey, the statewide average rate of uninsured children and youth under age 18 in families with incomes under 200% of poverty in South Carolina was 16.6%, and 9.9% above 200% of poverty. If these rates are applied to the county, there are 2,364 children in the county below 200% of poverty with no health insurance, and 1,509 children above 200% of poverty with no health insurance, for a total of 3,873 uninsured children in Sumter County. The number lacking basic accessible primary care is at least double the number lacking insurance. Those lacking primary care are often dependent on health services at school. The ratio of students to nurses recommended nationally is 750:1. In the county, this would suggest the need for 24 nurses, compared with 9 currently working in the schools.

Medicaid: For several years, the State of South Carolina has emphasized enrolling eligible children into Medicaid. In late 1997, South Carolina implemented its version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, Partners for Healthy Children (PHC), and aggressively pursued outreach enrollment for PHC and Medicaid. As a result, enrollment of children ages 0 through 18 in Sumter County has increased by 64.9% from June 1997 to June 2001; thus Medicaid and PHC were serving 47.8% of all children in that age range. The total Medicaid expenditures in South Carolina for services provided to children ages 0 through 18 for state fiscal year 2002 were $991 million, at an average statewide expenditure of $2,343 per child enrolled, approximate Medicaid expenditure for children in the county would be $33.0 million.

In June 2001, the total number of Sumter County children, birth through 18, enrolled in Medicaid was 14,072. The total can be broken down into the following age and race groupings:

	White	African American	Hispanic	Other	Total
Children under 1	282	727	14	30	1,053
Children 1 - 5	1,039	2,957	40	148	4,184
Children 6 - 14	1,314	4,958	14	219	6,505
Children 15 - 18	413	1,873	6	38	2,330
Total	3,048	10,515	74	435	14,072

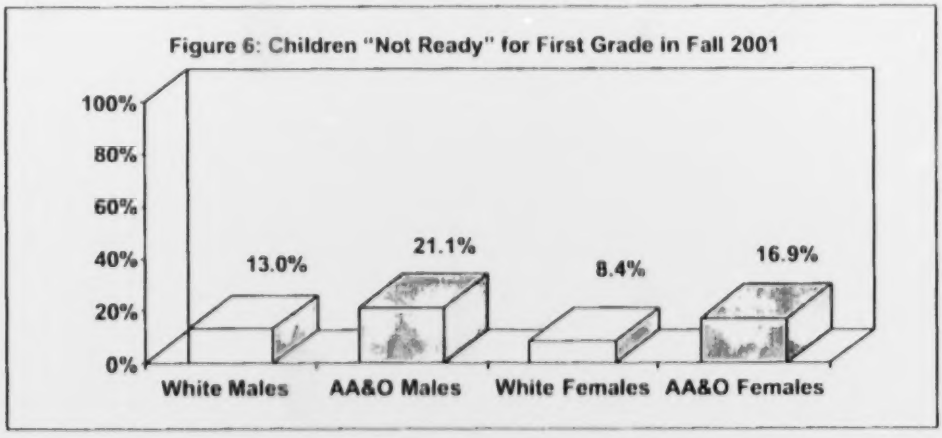
Ambulatory Care: When children lack adequate primary care, whether through lack of insurance, through limite access, or through failing to utilize available care, preventable and treatable conditions become serious and requi hospitalization. A useful indicator of inadequate primary care is the percentage of all hospitalizations that could typicall have been avoided through ambulatory care, especially for pneumonia, asthma, diarrhea and vomiting, dehydration, ar severe ear, nose, and throat infections. The share of hospitalizations for these types of conditions could normally be ke below 20%; for children in the county under the age of 18 during 2001, the share was 30.5% for Whites and 31.9% f African-Americans and Others.

READINESS AND EARLY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Too many children reach school without the readiness skills needed for success in learning, such as language, soci skills, visual and auditory discrimination, memory recall, and knowledge of colors, letters, numbers, names of objects, et Likewise, some schools are not ready to respond appropriately to the varying developmental levels of children in the ear grades. As a result, too many students do not experience the success needed to create the motivation and engagement th sustain learning.

1st Grade "Readiness" on 2001-02 Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB):

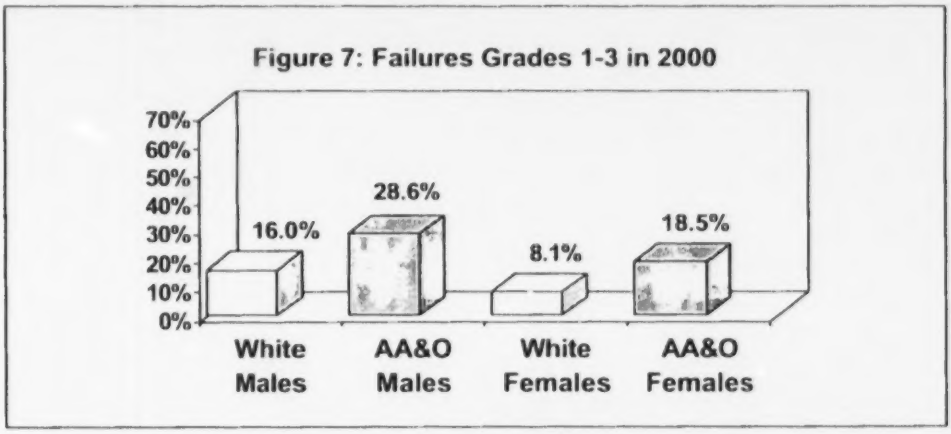
230 children not ready 15.8% children not ready



1st Grade Failures in 2002:

138 children failing 9.1% children failing

Failures Grades 1-3 in 2002 (approximate cumulative percentage of grades one, two and three):	
277 children failing	18.6% children failing



Over-age for Grade 3 in 2001	
310 children over-age	22.9% children over-age

Special Education: Large numbers of children are placed in special education classes. In elementary school, 688 six and seven year olds and 638 eight and nine year-olds were enrolled in special education classes during 2001-02, approximately 23.9% and 21.7% of their age groups respectively: 20.6% of White 8 – 9 year olds were in special education and 22.4% of African American and Others.

Readiness Summary: A serious problem exists in terms of student readiness and school success in the early grades. With 15.8% assessed not ready for the 1st grade, 22.9% over age in grade 3, and 21.7% of eight and nine year-olds placed in special education, unacceptably large numbers of students still begin school without good prospects of success in future school achievement and graduation; however, great improvement has occurred since the mid 1990s.

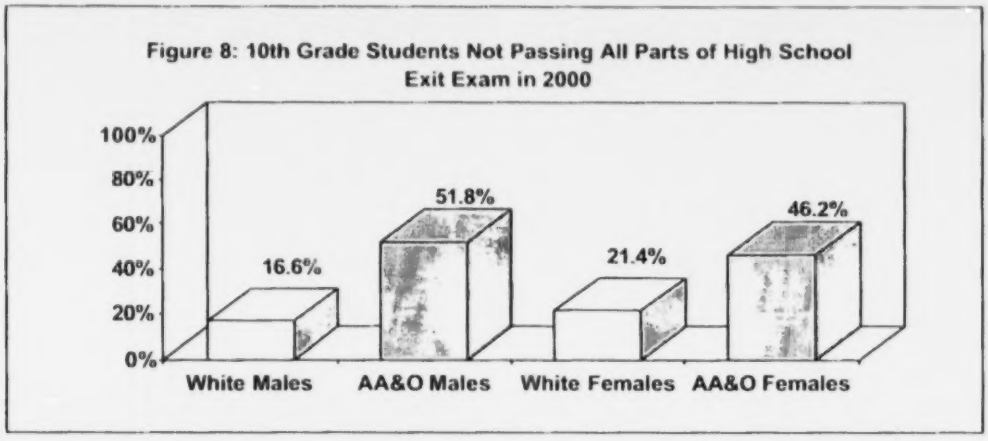
School Achievement

By the end of elementary school, significant numbers of students perform below minimum standards. The following standardized test measures, comparing student performance to state minimum standards, should be used in combination with routine classroom assessments more reflective of real-world performance skills.

Special Education: Special education placements reflect both the significant number of children with serious handicapping conditions and a large number of students with mild learning and behavioral problems that have not been accommodated successfully by the regular educational program. The result is a large system of self-contained, resource, and itinerant services to meet the needs of 852 speech and language impaired, 1,856 learning disabled, 221 emotionally disabled, 1,017 mentally impaired, and 136 physically handicapped, deaf, blind, and other handicapped students. Special education classes served approximately 22.9% of all students in grades 1 - 12 during 2001-2002.

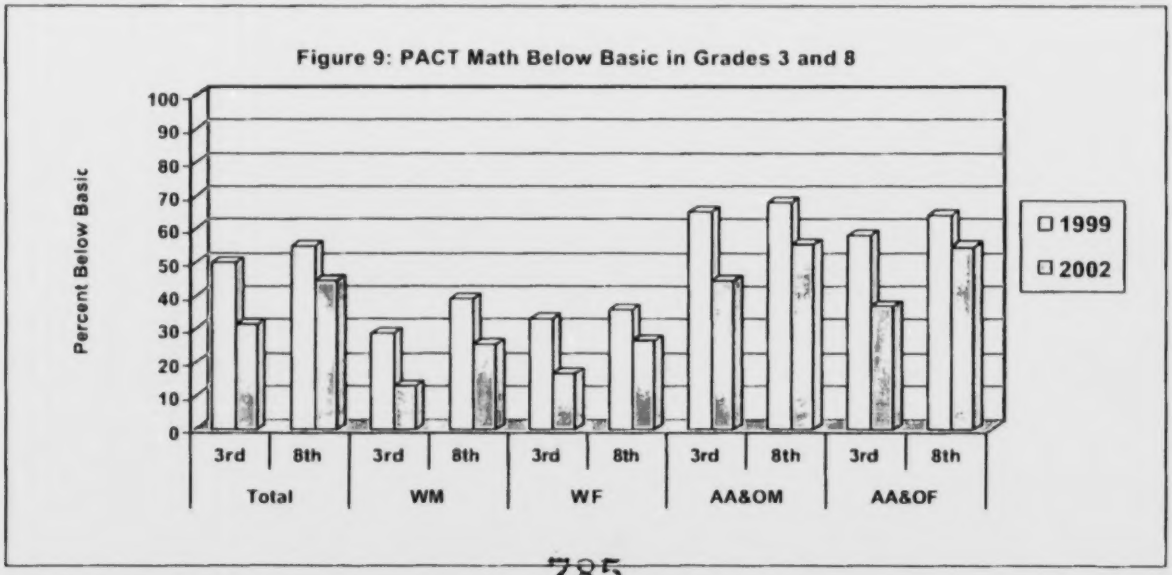
Exit Exam - not passing all parts of Exit Exam on first attempt in the 10th grade in 2002

379 students did not pass all parts | 37.3% of students did not pass all parts



Achievement Trends: How has performance on standardized achievement tests changed over the past 20 years? During the 1980s, student performance on the BSAP tests improved dramatically. Between 1981 and 1990, the percentage of 8th grade students in Sumter County who did not meet standards declined from 72.2% to 34.5% in math and from 56.8% to 29.1% in reading. During the 1990's the BSAP trend changed, with 42.9% not meeting 8th grade math standards in 1998 and 38.4% in reading. On standardized tests, the first year when South Carolina students take the exam is comparable to the challenge encountered by the national norm group which took the test only once. Looking at first year data, the percentage of 4th grade students at or below the 25th percentile of national norms was 29.3% in 1983 on the CTBS, 37.3% in 1990 on the Stanford, and 37.6% in 1995 on the Metropolitan; for 9th graders, the percentage in the bottom quarter was 32.7% in 1990 and 35.6% in 1995. Although not comparable, the percent below basic on the 4th grade PACT in 1999, the first year of administration, was 42.0%, but in 2002 24.5% of 4th graders were below basic in reading and math; the percentage of 8th graders below basic in reading and math averaged 47.6% in 1999 and 41.9% in 2002.

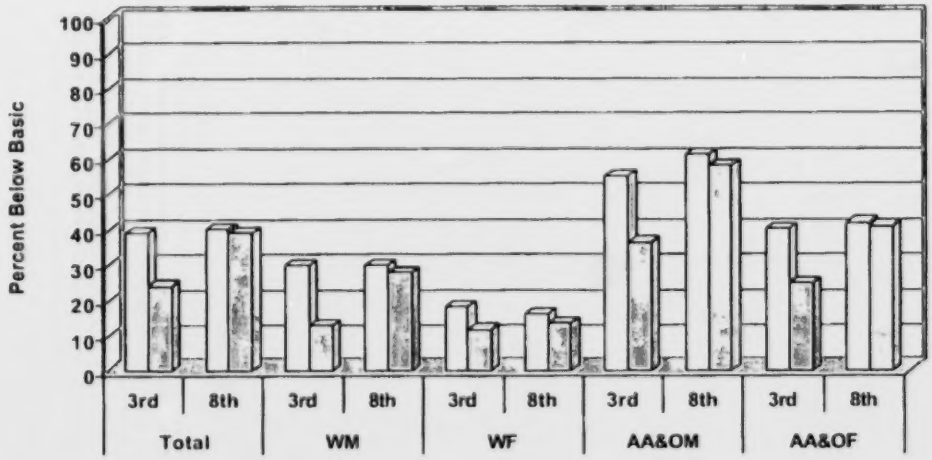
PACT: The Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) was first administered in 1999 for grades 3 - 8 in math and reading/language arts. Math assesses skills in numbers, numerical and algebraic concepts, patterns and functions, geometry, measurement, probability and statistics. The percentage of students scoring below basic in math has decreased by 28.4% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 2,011 students below basic in grades 3-8 but there would have been an additional 798 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
		Math (%)				
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	31.5	13.0	16.7	44.6	37.1
	4	27.8	10.5	16.7	37.0	35.6
	5	32.4	17.5	20.4	45.2	35.3
	6	34.5	18.6	14.0	48.6	40.0
	7	43.6	31.5	25.9	55.4	48.1
	8	44.6	25.5	26.4	55.3	54.6
Basic	3	47.2	49.4	47.7	41.9	50.6
	4	40.7	37.0	40.8	41.4	42.3
	5	47.7	48.1	53.5	41.4	50.7
	6	41.7	35.9	45.9	39.2	45.6
	7	38.2	39.1	43.7	33.0	39.9
	8	45.1	51.8	57.1	40.1	40.1
Proficient	3	14.2	21.9	21.2	9.7	10.5
	4	20.4	31.2	22.5	16.1	16.7
	5	14.3	23.9	17.1	10.2	11.0
	6	16.1	29.5	26.2	8.2	11.0
	7	12.1	16.4	21.5	8.3	8.2
	8	8.0	14.5	15.1	3.1	5.0
Advanced	3	7.2	15.8	14.4	3.9	1.8
	4	11.1	21.4	20.0	5.5	5.3
	5	5.5	10.4	9.0	3.2	3.0
	6	7.7	16.0	14.0	4.0	3.3
	7	6.1	13.0	8.9	3.2	3.8
	8	2.3	8.2	1.4	1.5	0.3

Reading/Language Arts assesses reading, listening, speaking, writing, research, and communication with technology. The first PACT assessment found a high percentage of elementary and middle grades students performing below standards and only a modest number above basic. The percentage of students scoring below basic in reading/language arts has decreased by 31.5% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 1,516 students below basic in grades 3 - 8 but there would have been an additional 699 at 1999 performance rates.

Figure 10: PACT Reading/Language Arts Below Basic in Grades 3 and 8

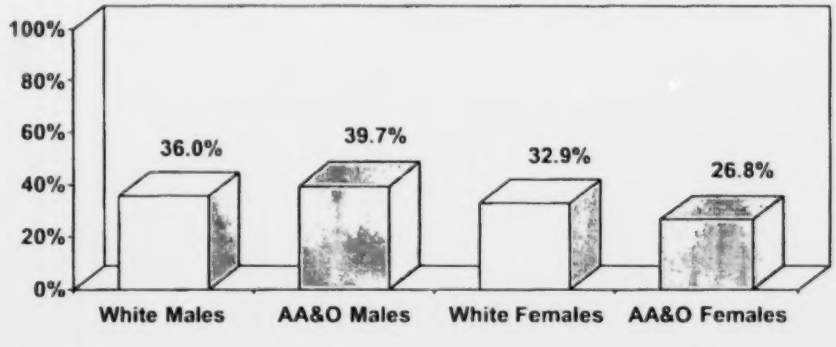


Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
	Reading/Language Arts (%)					
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	23.9	12.7	11.7	36.2	24.9
	4	21.2	11.7	9.6	33.3	20.8
	5	29.7	21.7	13.9	45.5	27.7
	6	33.0	20.1	10.5	54.1	29.7
	7	29.7	23.3	8.5	45.4	29.3
	8	39.1	27.7	13.3	58.0	40.9
Basic	3	39.3	31.0	26.1	40.6	49.5
	4	48.8	43.4	42.1	49.4	55.5
	5	53.3	55.1	55.5	45.9	58.6
	6	40.2	41.5	44.5	35.0	43.1
	7	49.2	49.6	48.9	46.5	52.0
	8	42.4	44.5	43.8	34.8	47.9
Proficient	3	33.6	51.4	53.6	22.7	23.5
	4	28.9	43.8	45.0	17.2	22.5
	5	16.3	21.7	29.4	8.6	13.5
	6	22.2	32.5	35.8	9.6	22.6
	7	19.5	25.4	38.5	7.7	17.1
	8	16.4	23.2	38.6	6.4	10.5
Advanced	3	3.2	4.9	8.6	0.5	2.1
	4	1.2	1.1	3.3	0.0	1.2
	5	0.6	1.5	1.2	0.0	0.2
	6	4.5	6.0	9.2	1.3	4.6
	7	1.7	1.7	4.1	0.4	1.6
	8	2.1	4.5	4.3	0.8	0.8

Dropout Rate - 8th grade students no longer enrolled in grade 12
(average of students for the three years ending 2000-2002)

524 students drop out annually **33.7% students drop out?**

Figure 11: High School Dropout Rate*, 2000-2002



Dropouts: Distressing numbers of students drop out and fail to graduate. An average of 28.5% of 8th graders failed to graduate** from county schools five years later during the period 1980-84, 26.8% during 1985-89, and 33.3% during 1990-94, 34.7% during 1995-97 and 42.7% during 1998-2000***.

During 2001-02, 96.4% of all who did graduate received the State High School Diploma, while the remaining 3.6% received a State Certificate for meeting the required Carnegie units but not passing the Exit Exam.

*12th grade enrollment compared to 8th grade enrollment four years earlier
** This is calculated by using 8th grade enrollment to graduation data.
*** 2001 data will be available soon and will be posted on the website.

Fortunately, many dropouts enroll in adult education programs and either earn a high school diploma or obtain a GED. During 2001-02, 81 Adult Education high school diplomas were awarded to school completers and in 2001 115 GEDs were awarded in the county. Over time, adult education high school diplomas and GEDs increase the effective school completion rate substantially. In the 2000 Census, 15.7% of county resident 25 - 34 year-olds said they had not completed either high school or a GED.

Achievement Summary: The numbers of students testing below basic on the PACT and dropping out range from 21.2% to 44.6%. Thus, far too many students fail to acquire the knowledge, skills, learning habits, and motivation necessary to compete in the economy or contribute to society in the 21st Century.

ADOLESCENT RISK BEHAVIORS

Academic achievement is greatly influenced by the prevailing youth culture which often promotes popularity with peers and partying rather than studying and doing well in school. The prevalence of adolescent risk-taking and under-achievement is illustrated by the poor grades of substance-abusing teens.

Substance Abuser Rates at Levels of Academic Performance

	Usual School Grades in Past Year					
	A Range	B Range	C Range	D Range	F Range	Total
Smoked Cigarettes (in past 30 days)	16.3%	19.5%	31.9%	40.0%	57.3%	26.4%
Drank 5 or More Drinks on One Occasion (in past 30 days)	8.6%	8.3%	16.9%	26.2%	42.8%	13.8%
Used Any Illicit Drug (in past 30 days)	12.0%	12.7%	24.2%	30.1%	49.1%	19.3%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

As influence from parents and other adults declines during adolescence, significant numbers of students engage in violence, crime, school offenses, depressive emotions and attempted suicide:

Risk Behaviors Participated in During Past 12 Months	White Male		White Female		African American Male		African American Female		Total		Total (Grade 7-12)
	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	
Carried a handgun or knife for self-defense?	19.9%	24.7%	4.4%	5.1%	16.2%	20.3%	5.1%	4.9%	10.9%	13.1%	11.9%
Carried a handgun or knife as a weapon?	3.8%	8.2%	0.9%	2.2%	11.6%	15.1%	3.4%	4.8%	5.6%	7.9%	6.6%
Been in a fight with someone?	37.4%	36.2%	20.1%	21.7%	37.9%	33.5%	28.5%	20.2%	31.3%	27.3%	29.5%
Hit your boyfriend or girlfriend?	1.9%	2.5%	7.8%	16.2%	5.0%	2.8%	16.2%	22.3%	8.7%	11.9%	10.2%
Been hit by your boyfriend or girlfriend?	6.9%	8.9%	4.9%	12.5%	9.9%	7.1%	8.8%	9.1%	8.1%	9.1%	8.6%
Rec'd detention or in-school suspension?	43.8%	35.2%	29.3%	28.1%	47.8%	37.9%	38.9%	31.9%	40.6%	33.5%	37.4%
Been suspended from school?	16.2%	14.8%	8.4%	10.1%	25.2%	23.6%	16.3%	14.2%	17.5%	16.2%	16.9%
Stolen anything worth > $5?	14.0%	17.0%	8.8%	12.2%	14.4%	16.7%	9.8%	7.2%	11.8%	12.6%	12.2%
Had an accident while driving?	NA	13.2%	NA	10.6%	NA	6.5%	NA	4.3%	NA	7.8%	NA
Been arrested and booked?	2.7%	6.9%	1.4%	1.6%	4.8%	5.2%	1.9%	1.2%	2.8%	3.5%	3.1%
Felt hopeless for two weeks or more?	18.4%	22.6%	27.2%	33.4%	13.8%	10.6%	23.7%	23.0%	20.5%	21.3%	20.8%
Seriously considered attempting suicide?	9.8%	11.9%	14.6%	18.3%	5.3%	5.0%	8.7%	6.9%	9.0%	9.4%	9.2%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

Adolescence is often a time of taking risks and asserting independence from adults. When asked whether they would tell an adult about a problem, the following percentages of county students said they would be "not likely" or "very unlikely" to tell if they:

-heard a student threaten to harm someone: 39.4% middle school, 54.2% high school;
-saw a student with a handgun at school: 29.7% middle school, 26.7% high school;
-saw a student with a knife at school: 31.6% middle school, 36.4% high school;
-saw a student with drugs at school: 39.2% middle school, 65.9% high school;

Alcohol Use:* In the county during 2001-02, 21.9% of 7th and 8th graders and 32.7% of high schoolers said they had used alcohol in the past month. Of White males in grades 7 - 12, 29.3% had used it in the past month, compared with 26.3% of African-American males; likewise, 36.6% of White females said they had used alcohol, compared with 24.2% of African-American females. Many youth first used alcohol at an early age: 15.0% had used alcohol by age 11 or younger, 33.8% by age 13, and 60.0% by age 15.

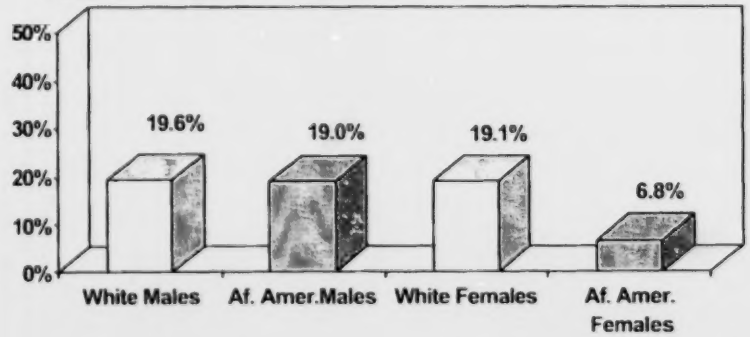
During the previous year, 20.3% of 7th and 8th graders and 26.3% of high schoolers said they had ridden with a drinking driver. Of seniors who drive, 12.7% said they had driven after drinking. Widespread use is encouraged by the ready availability and perceived low risk of alcohol use. Among students who expressed an opinion, 41.1% of eighth graders and 70.5% of seniors felt that beer was easy to get. Also, 70.2% of eighth graders and 65.9% of seniors felt there was not a great risk in drinking two drinks a day, and 48.6% of eighth graders and 41.5% of high schoolers felt there was not a great risk in drinking 5 drinks every weekend.

Heavy Drinking:* In 2001-02, 6.9% of 7th and 8th graders and 13.8% of high school students in the county repor drinking 5 or more drinks in a day during the past month. When asked how many drinks, if any, they usually consume, 9.' of all county students in grades 7 - 12 in 2001-02 responded 3 or more drinks at a time and 4.2% reported usually 5 or m drinks. Among high school students, 13.7% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 6.1% 5 or more. Amc seniors, 12.7% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 5.7% 5 or more; however 12.2% of seniors said t they drank 5 or more drinks in a day once or more during the past month.

Drugs:* In 2001-02, 9.7% of 7th and 8th graders and 19.3% of high schoolers in the county reported using ille drugs during the previous month. Among students in grades 7 - 12, use was reported by 19.6% of White males, 19.1% Wh females, 19.0% of African-American males, and 6.8% of African-American females. Some young people initiated drug u at an early age: 5.7% had experienced their first use by age 11 or sooner; 14.5% had used a drug by age 13, and 33.5% by a 15.

In the past year, 8.9% of all high school students in the county who drive and 10.3% of seniors who drive said that they had driven after using drugs. Such use is encouraged by the ready availability of drugs: 20.8% of 8th graders who had an opinion said it is easy to get marijuana and 6.3% said it is easy to get cocaine or crack; 62.7% of seniors said it is easy to get marijuana and 23.7% said it was easy to get cocaine or crack.

Figure 12: Drug Use among Students Grades 7-12 during 2001-02*



* County participation in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking was not complete but county data is presented to provide the best available picture of teen risk-taking attitudes and behavior in Sumter County. Both districts participated, but participation by District 17 was principally by middle school grades.

Sexual Activity and Pregnancy: Many teenagers now engage in sexual activity. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) administered to a representative sample of high school students throughout South Carolina in 2001 showed that sexual activity begins at an early age: 7% of female and 21% of male students have engaged in intercourse before age 13; by age 15, 38% the females and 49% of males have engaged in sexual intercourse. Statewide, 48% of females and 50% of males in the 11th and 12th grades reported engaging in intercourse during the past three months. Furthermore, 27% of female and 33% of male 12th graders have had intercourse with four or more partners during their lifetimes.

Premature sexual activity often results in pregnancy. In the county, 148 girls between the ages of 14 and 17 became pregnant in 1999, 134 in 2000 and 135 in 2001. This represented 4.2% of all girls ages 14 – 17 in 2001; several times this percentage become pregnant at least once by age 18. The 2001 pregnancy rate for ages 14 - 17 was 2.4% for Whites and 5.5% for African-Americans and Others. Of all pregnancies of 14-17 year olds, 77.8% resulted in live births, with almost all other pregnancies ending in abortions.

Teen pregnancy rates increased substantially across the state during the 1980s; as a result, greater emphasis v devoted to preventing teen pregnancy. Since 1989, the teen pregnancy rate in Sumter County has decreased by 21.6 Overall, it has decreased by 25.0% for Whites, and decreased by 24.7% for African Americans and Others.

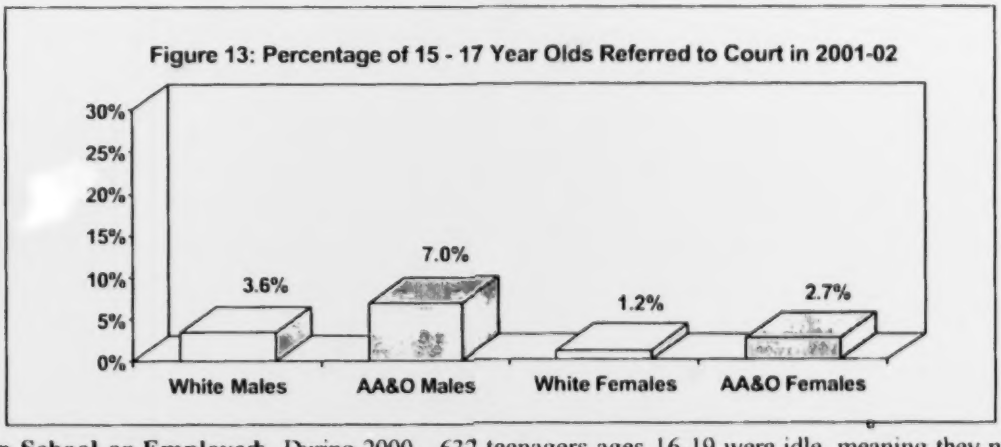
Juvenile Delinquency: In 2001-02, 334 individual juvenile offenders in the county were referred to the Solicitor for delinquency; of these, 9.9% were age 12 or younger, 31.1% were 13 or 14, and 59.0% were 15 or older.

Of the referrals to the family court, 15.3% of all referrals were for violent and serious crimes which include drug trafficking, acts against persons for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and serious property offenses for arson and burglary. Also, 73 juvenile cases constituting 16.0% of all referrals were for status offenses. Status offenses include truancy, running away, incorrigibility, and other offenses that would not be crimes for adults.

Delinquents are likely to live in families with low income: 34.2% lived in families with income under $10,000, 32.9% with $10,000-$19,999 and 32.9% with $20,000 or more. Furthermore, only 15.9% of delinquents lived with both natural parents, while 55.5% lived in a single parent household, 24.6% lived with other relatives, and 4.0% in other situations including parent plus step-parent. Delinquency or criminal activity occurs among many related family members: 37.9% had at least one family member who was delinquent or had some criminal record.

Youth referred to the family courts are likely to have been there before. In 2001-02, 53.3% had at least one prior referral and 18.0% had been referred to court 3 times or more. Many were referred at an early age. For delinquents 15 - 17 years old, 2.9% had been referred by the age of 10, 9.9% by the age of 12, and 24.7% by the age of 14.

During 2001-02, 195 youth ages 15 to 17 were referred to the family courts. In the county, 3.9% of all youth 15 to 17 were referred to court in one year and roughly double that percentage are referred at least once by age 18. Furthermore, the National Youth Survey indicates that typically across the United States the proportion of youth engaging in crime is two or three times the number ever apprehended. In 2001-02, there were 26 juveniles committed from the county to DJJ custody and placed in residential programs.



Not in School or Employed: During 2000, 632 teenagers ages 16-19 were idle, meaning they neither worked any hours nor were enrolled in school, even part-time. Idle teens comprised 9.9% of their age group: 10.0% for White and 9.8% African-American & Other teens. A much larger number, perhaps twice as many, were not engaged in either school full time or work full time. The data reflect a serious failure in both school completion and the critical transition from school to work, significantly affecting their development as future workers. For an in-depth description of the problems of young adults seeking to enter the labor force, visit our website at www.scyoungadults.org for our state and county reports on 18-29 year olds.

Deaths: During 1997-2001, 33 youth ages 15 to 19 died. Historically, automobile accidents have been the major cause, resulting in 9 deaths between 1996 and 2000; homicides killed 6 youth 15 to 19 years old during the five-year period, and 6 youth committed suicide. Alcohol use is often a significant factor in deaths among teenagers.

SUMMARY

Facing the Scope of Problems: The data on families, economic status, health, readiness, school achievement, and adolescent risk behaviors provide a troublesome picture of the condition of children in Sumter County. The 34.0% of children in single-parent families, 21.7% in poverty, 42.7% not graduating from school, 32.7% of high school students using alcohol and 19.3% using drugs each month, and other data profiled in this report suggest that too many children are at risk of not growing up to become self-supporting adults, good family members, and responsible community citizens.

Emphasizing the Positive: South Carolina Kids Count reports have been developed to describe the problems of children in each of the counties. Fortunately, the majority of children and youth are doing well, and some very well. One simple description is the percentage of children who do not fall into the problem categories reported. For the county, 81.5% of children are born to non-teen mothers ages 20 or older, 53.5% are born to married parents, and 66.0% lived in two-parent families; 78.3% were not poor and 50.9% lived in families with incomes above twice the poverty level for a family of three, $30,040 in 2002; 91.8% of babies were born with normal birthweights; 84.2% were assessed as ready for the first grade, 55.4% scored basic or better on PACT for 8th grade math and 60.9% for 8th grade reading, 62.7% passed all parts of the Exit Exam in the 10th grade, and 57.3% graduated with their class. In a typical month, 67.3% of high school students do not drink alcohol, 80.7% do not use drugs, and 73.6% do not smoke. Unfortunately, the absence of a problem is not always an indicator of success. Some data is available for exemplary performance: for example, 36.8% of 3rd graders and 18.5% of 8th graders scored proficient or advanced on PACT in reading and 21.4% of 3rd graders and 10.3% of 8th graders in math. Unfortunately, data on success is not generally available.

Despite the limitations of success data, we must emphasize the positive in providing good support and appropriate influences for children and youth. Recent philosophy and publications such as those of the Search Institute (700 South Third Street, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN, 55415-1138, tel. 1-800-888-7828, www.search-institute.org), emphasize the critical importance of "developmental assets" to promote and support positive development. One short book from the Search Institute, (What Kids Need to Succeed, by Peter J. Benson, Judy Gailbraith, and Pamela Espeland, 1995) presents an excellent array of suggestions for promoting developmental assets through families, community, faith congregations, and schools. If each family, school, religious congregation and community organization assertively worked to build such assets, the problems described in this report would be reduced dramatically. Such positive family-school-community efforts could improve South Carolina's national Kids Count ranking from the bottom 10 to the average or even into the top 10 by prevention of unnecessary problems affecting children and youth, as shown on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

All data presented in this report is the most recent available at the date it goes to the printer. This version of the Kids Count report will be revised as more recent and additional data become available. Please send us your corrections and suggestions for improvement. We welcome your ideas for ways to make the state and county reports more useful and accurate. Please utilize local data sources whenever possible to supplement the profile provided through our report.

Data related inquiries should be directed to:

Anne Wilson, Data Manager (awilson@drss.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-4810

Calls for **copies of reports** for other counties and inquiries regarding more recent reports should be made to:

Kim Hazel-Lohr, Project Manager (khazel@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-1295

For **policy questions and general comments**, please contact:

Dr. A. Baron Holmes, Project Director (bholmes@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-2291

Comparable reports for all 46 counties and for the state can also be found on the World Wide Web at

www.sckidscount.org

Our website also provides: links to other websites for indicators in our report; high to low rankings for individual indicators; information on how to improve SC's national rank; and a glossary of definitions.

The national Kids Count Report can be found on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website at

www.aecf.org

Sumter County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Indicators		Number					Percent					R
	Most Recent Year	1980*	1990*	Most Recent Data	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980 Rank	199
Health													
Low Birth Weight	2001	164	167	132	-19.5%	-21.0%	9.2	8.8	8.2	-11.4%	-6.5%	29	
White babies	*2001*	*46*	*62*	*46*	*+0.0%*	*-25.8%*	*5.3*	*6.3*	*6.0*	*13.2%*	*-5.3%*	*15*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*118*	*105*	*86*	*-27.1%*	*-18.1%*	*13.0*	*11.3*	*10.3*	*-20.9%*	*-9.3%*	*31*	
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	2001	764	810	699	+8.5%	-13.7%	43.1	42.5	43.4	0.7%	2.1%	26	
White babies	*2001*	*232*	*292*	*226*	*-2.6%*	*-22.6%*	*26.8*	*29.8*	*29.2*	*9.0%*	*-2.1%*	*23*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*532*	*518*	*473*	*-11.1%*	*-8.7%*	*58.7*	*55.9*	*56.6*	*-3.6%*	*1.1%*	*29*	
Infant Mortality	2001	86	72	48	-44.2%	-33.3%	1.6	1.3	1.0	-41.7%	-25.8%	22	
White babies	*2001*	*26*	*19*	*14*	*-46.2%*	*-26.3%*	*1.0*	*0.7*	*0.6*	*-42.4%*	*-16.7%*	*16*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*60*	*53*	*34*	*43.3%*	*-35.8%*	*2.3*	*1.9*	*1.3*	*42.1%*	*-29.8%*	*22*	
Family													
Births to mothers under 18	2001	148	107	106	-28.4%	-0.9%	8.3	5.6	6.6	-20.9%	17.5%	17	
White babies	*2001*	*38*	*37*	*28*	*-26.3%*	*-24.3%*	*4.4*	*3.8*	*3.6*	*-18.0%*	*-4.7%*	*13*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*110*	*70*	*78*	*-29.1%*	*+11.4%*	*12.1*	*7.6*	*9.3*	*-23.1%*	*23.4%*	*18*	
Births to mothers under 20	2001	367	296	297	-19.1%	+0.3%	20.7	15.5	18.5	-10.6%	19.1%	23	
White babies	*2001*	*136*	*122*	*99*	*-27.2%*	*+18.9%*	*15.7*	*12.5*	*12.8*	*-18.5%*	*2.7%*	*20*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*231*	*174*	*198*	*-14.3%*	*-13.8%*	*25.5*	*18.8*	*23.7*	*-7.0%*	*26.0%*	*20*	
Births to mothers with less than a high school education	2001	526	368	309	-41.3%	-16.0%	29.7	19.3	19.2	-35.3%	-0.6%	9	
White babies	*2001*	*204*	*152*	*118*	*-42.2%*	*-22.4%*	*23.6*	*15.5*	*15.3*	*-35.1%*	*-1.5%*	*13*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*322*	*216*	*191*	*-40.7%*	*-11.6%*	*35.5*	*23.3*	*22.8*	*-35.6%*	*-2.1%*	*40*	
Births to single mothers****	2001	416	647	748	+79.8%	+15.6%	23.5	34.0	46.5	98.2%	36.9%	17	
White babies	*2001*	*63*	*138*	*169*	*+168.3%*	*+22.5%*	*7.3*	*14.1*	*21.9*	*201.0%*	*55.4%*	*33*	
African American and Other babies	*2001*	*353*	*509*	*579*	*+64.0%*	*+13.8%*	*38.9*	*55.0*	*69.3*	*78.0%*	*26.0%*	*4*	
Children in single parent families	2000	5,483	6,598	8,512	+55.2%	+29.0%	20.6	26.2	34.0	65.1%	29.8%	29	
White	*2000*	*1,504*	*1,764*	*2,046*	*+36.0%*	*+16.0%*	*10.5*	*13.2*	*17.3*	*64.7%*	*31.0%*	*30*	
African American and Other	*2000*	*3,947*	*4,764*	*6,466*	*+63.8%*	*+35.7%*	*30.8*	*40.7*	*49.0*	*59.2%*	*20.5%*	*40*	
Education													
Not Ready for Grade 1	2001	494	583	230	-53.4%	-60.5%	38.6	35.3	15.8	-59.1%	-55.2%	26	
White males	*2001*	*95*	*82*	*39*	*-58.9%*	*-52.4%*	*33.8*	*24.8*	*13.0*	*-61.5%*	*-47.6%*	*29*	
White females	*2001*	*45*	*61*	*22*	*-51.1%*	*-63.9%*	*18.3*	*17.2*	*8.4*	*-54.1%*	*-51.2%*	*14*	
African American and Other males	*2001*	*207*	*239*	*92*	*-55.6%*	*-61.5%*	*51.1*	*46.9*	*21.1*	*-58.7%*	*-55.0%*	*15*	
African American and Other females	*2001*	*147*	*201*	*77*	*-47.6%*	*-61.7%*	*42.1*	*44.1*	*16.9*	*-59.9%*	*-61.7%*	*12*	
Repeating Grades 1-3	2000	203	182	303	+49.3%	+66.5%	16.1	11.6	19.2	19.3%	65.5%	19	
White males	*2000*	*52*	*30*	*51*	*-1.9%*	*+70.0%*	*18.8*	*9.0*	*16.0*	*-14.9%*	*77.8%*	*27*	
White females	*2000*	*23*	*22*	*22*	*-4.3%*	*+0.0%*	*9.0*	*6.7*	*8.1*	*-10.0%*	*20.9%*	*20*	
African American and Other males	*2000*	*88*	*85*	*141*	*+60.2%*	*+65.9%*	*23.7*	*18.0*	*28.8*	*20.7%*	*58.9%*	*21*	
African American and Other females	*2000*	*38*	*45*	*88*	*+131.6%*	*+95.6%*	*11.0*	*10.2*	*18.5*	*68.2%*	*81.4%*	*9*	
Grade 3 Math below standards****	2002	535	385	415	-22.4%	+7.8%	42.8	26.2	31.5	-26.4%	20.2%	25	
White males	*2002*	*109*	*48*	*32*	*-70.6%*	*-33.3%*	*37.8*	*14.5*	*13.0*	*-65.5%*	*-10.3%*	*35*	
White females	*2002*	*80*	*41*	*37*	*-53.8%*	*-9.8%*	*30.0*	*13.7*	*16.7*	*-44.3%*	*21.9%*	*32*	
African American and Other males	*2002*	*176*	*160*	*184*	*+4.5%*	*+15.0%*	*52.4*	*37.6*	*44.6*	*-14.9%*	*18.6%*	*14*	
African American and Other females	*2002*	*168*	*136*	*162*	*-3.6%*	*+19.1%*	*47.9*	*32.8*	*37.1*	*-22.5%*	*13.1%*	*16*	
Grade 3 Reading below standards****	2002	416	244	314	-24.5%	+28.7%	33.3	16.7	23.9	-28.2%	43.1%	16	
White males	*2002*	*84*	*28*	*31*	*-63.1%*	*+10.7%*	*29.3*	*8.5*	*12.7*	*-56.7%*	*49.4%*	*22*	
White females	*2002*	*39*	*25*	*26*	*-33.3%*	*+4.0%*	*14.6*	*8.3*	*11.7*	*-19.9%*	*41.0%*	*16*	
African American and Other males	*2002*	*165*	*108*	*148*	*-10.3%*	*+37.0%*	*49.1*	*25.7*	*36.2*	*-26.3%*	*40.9%*	*10*	
African American and Other females	*2002*	*125*	*83*	*109*	*-12.8%*	*+31.3%*	*35.6*	*20.1*	*24.9*	*-30.1%*	*23.9%*	*11*	
Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT Grade 4	1998	349	540	415	+18.9%	-23.1%	29.3	37.3	29.3	0.0%	-21.4%	17	
White males	*1998*	*83*	*88*	*42*	*-33.3%*	*-52.3%*	*23.6*	*27.4*	*16.3*	*-30.9%*	*-40.5%*	*20*	
White females	*1998*	*41*	*72*	*37*	*-9.8%*	*-48.6%*	*16.0*	*23.5*	*13.5*	*-15.6%*	*-42.6%*	*25*	
African American and Other males	*1998*	*130*	*224*	*207*	*+59.2%*	*-7.6%*	*41.3*	*54.2*	*48.5*	*12.8%*	*-14.2%*	*7*	
African American and Other females	*1998*	*111*	*156*	*128*	*+15.3%*	*-17.9%*	*33.3*	*38.2*	*30.8*	*-7.5%*	*-19.4%*	*15*	

*Year of data is approximate in many cases.
**1 is best, 46 is worst.
*** Data include paternity acknowledgements.
**** BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Sumter County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Education (continued)

Indicators		Number					Percent				
	Most Recent Year	1980*	1990*	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres
Grade 8 Math below state standards**	2002	1,042	397	545	-47.7%	+37.3%	72.2	34.5	44.6	-38.2%	29.3%
White males	*2002*	*139*	*61*	*56*	*-59.7%*	*-8.2%*	*49.5*	*22.7*	*25.5*	*-48.5%*	*12.3%*
White females	*2002*	*125*	*52*	*56*	*-55.2%*	*+7.7%*	*49.0*	*20.9*	*26.4*	*-46.1%*	*26.3%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*368*	*152*	*215*	*-41.6%*	*+41.4%*	*85.2*	*44.4*	*55.3*	*-35.1%*	*24.5%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*408*	*132*	*218*	*-46.6%*	*+65.2%*	*86.3*	*45.2*	*54.6*	*-36.7%*	*20.8%*
Grade 8 Reading below state standards**	2002	819	334	477	-41.8%	+42.8%	56.8	29.1	39.1	-31.2%	34.4%
White males	*2002*	*106*	*62*	*61*	*-42.5%*	*-1.6%*	*37.7*	*23.2*	*27.7*	*-26.5%*	*19.4%*
White females	*2002*	*71*	*35*	*28*	*-60.6%*	*-20.0%*	*27.8*	*14.0*	*13.3*	*-52.2%*	*-5.0%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*325*	*145*	*225*	*-30.8%*	*+55.2%*	*75.6*	*42.5*	*58.0*	*-23.3%*	*36.5%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*316*	*92*	*163*	*-48.4%*	*+77.2%*	*67.0*	*31.7*	*40.9*	*-39.0%*	*29.0%*
Grade 9 Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT	1998	NA	423	512	NA	+21.0%	NA	32.7	32.4	NA	-0.9%
White males	*1998*	*NA*	*62*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*22.1*	*14.2*	*NA*	*-35.7%*
White females	*1998*	*NA*	*47*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*18.6*	*13.7*	*NA*	*-26.3%*
African American and Other males	*1998*	*NA*	*178*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*46.2*	*44.7*	*NA*	*-3.2%*
African American and Other females	*1998*	*NA*	*133*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*36*	*41.7*	*NA*	*15.8%*
Exit Exam (not passing all parts on 1st attempt)	2002	665	350	379	-43.0%	+8.3%	52.6	31.7	37.3	-29.1%	17.7%
White males	*2002*	*95*	*38*	*32*	*-66.3%*	*-15.8%*	*33.2*	*16.0*	*16.6*	*-50.0%*	*3.8%*
White females	*2002*	*74*	*30*	*43*	*-41.9%*	*+43.3%*	*27.3*	*12.7*	*21.4*	*-21.6%*	*68.5%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*235*	*160*	*143*	*-39.1%*	*-10.6%*	*72.1*	*52.5*	*51.8*	*-28.2%*	*-1.3%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*257*	*118*	*159*	*-38.1%*	*+34.7%*	*68.5*	*37.0*	*46.2*	*-32.6%*	*24.9%*
Dropout Rate (8th graders no longer enrolled in 12th grade 4 years later)	2000-02	353	374	524	+48.7%	+40.3%	24.4	26.8	33.7	38.3%	26.0%
White males	*2000-02*	*89*	*108*	*107*	*+20.5%*	*-1.2%*	*28.0*	*32.1*	*36.0*	*28.4%*	*12.0%*
White females	*2000-02*	*77*	*67*	*100*	*+29.4%*	*+49.9%*	*26.3*	*22.1*	*32.9*	*24.8%*	*49.0%*
African American and Other males	*2000-02*	*122*	*127*	*193*	*+58.2%*	*+52.6%*	*28.8*	*32.9*	*39.7*	*37.7%*	*20.7%*
African American and Other females	*2000-02*	*65*	*73*	*125*	*+91.8%*	*+72.0%*	*15.7*	*19.5*	*26.8*	*70.2%*	*36.9%*
Young Adults Not Completing High School (18-24)	2000	3,672	2,566	2,211	-39.8%	-13.8%	26.9	21.1	15.7	-41.5%	-25.5%
White males	*NA*	*982*	*592*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*24.4*	*16.9*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
White females	*NA*	*766*	*467*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*22.6*	*16.9*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other males	*NA*	*1,163*	*926*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*38.3*	*33.2*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other females	*NA*	*761*	*581*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*23.8*	*18.8*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*

Economics

Poverty Rate	2000	8,513	8,028	6,297	-26.0%	-21.6%	29.3	27.5	21.7	-25.9%	-21.1%
White children	*2000*	*1,310*	*1,721*	*987*	*-24.7%*	*-42.6%*	*9.2*	*12.0*	*7.8*	*-15.2%*	*-35.0%*
African American and Other children	*2000*	*7,151*	*6,307*	*5,310*	*-25.7%*	*-15.8%*	*48.6*	*42.6*	*32.4*	*-33.3%*	*-23.9%*
Income of Families w/children (1999 $)	2000	$ 34,337	$ 36,807	$ 45,863	+33.6%	+24.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
White families	*2000*	*$ 41,223*	*$ 43,887*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
African American and Other families	*2000*	*$ 24,602*	*$ 27,067*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*

Adolescent Risk Factors

Teenage Pregnancy (ages 14-17)	2001	210	153	135	-35.7%	-11.8%	5.9	4.9	4.2	-28.6%	-14.3%
White	*2001*	*76*	*57*	*33*	*-56.6%*	*-42.1%*	*4.5*	*3.9*	*2.4*	*-46.9%*	*-38.5%*
African American and Other	*2001*	*134*	*96*	*102*	*-23.9%*	*+6.3%*	*7.1*	*5.9*	*5.5*	*-22.4%*	*-6.8%*
Delinquency	2002	148	206	195	+31.8%	-5.3%	2.8	4.4	3.9	38.7%	-11.7%
White males	*2002*	*60*	*69*	*38*	*-36.7%*	*-44.9%*	*4.5*	*5.8*	*3.6*	*-21.1%*	*-38.8%*
White females	*2002*	*24*	*30*	*12*	*-50.0%*	*-60.0%*	*2.0*	*2.8*	*1.2*	*-38.8%*	*-56.3%*
African American and Other males	*2002*	*45*	*78*	*106*	*+135.6%*	*+35.9%*	*3.3*	*6.7*	*7.0*	*112.7%*	*4.8%*
African American and Other females	*2002*	*19*	*29*	*39*	*+105.3%*	*+34.5%*	*1.3*	*2.4*	*2.7*	*105.5%*	*11.3%*

*Closest available data to this year was used in many cases.
**BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Kids Count 2003

Union County

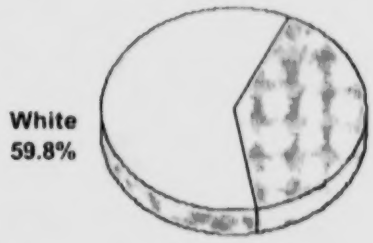
DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2000 there were an estimated 7,126 children under age 18 in the county. Of these, 4,260 were White, 2,743 were African-American, and 123 were other races. There were 7,551 children under age 18 in 1990, 8,863 in 1980, 10,235 in 1970, and 11,765 in 1960.

Children represent a shrinking portion of the county's population. Those under 18 constituted 23.8% of the population in 2000, down from 39.2% in 1960, 35.0% in 1970, and 28.8% in 1980.

In 2000 the 2,269 pre-schoolers under age 6 were 7.6% of the overall population: 6.7% of Whites and 9.4% of African Americans.

Figure 1: Population Ages 0-17 in 2000



* In all charts African-American is combined with other races, and often abbreviated as AA&O. Other races comprise 1.7% of children in the county, with "two or more races" at 1.2% and "some other race alone" at 0.3% as the largest Other groups.

FAMILY

Families have always been the most important influence in a child's life. Children depend on their families for material needs, stimulation and guidance. Family life is different in numerous ways from previous generations, and many families now face exceptional challenges.

Families with children now make up a smaller share of all households. Only 29.4% of all households in 2000, as compared with 44.0% of households in 1960, had children below the age of 18.

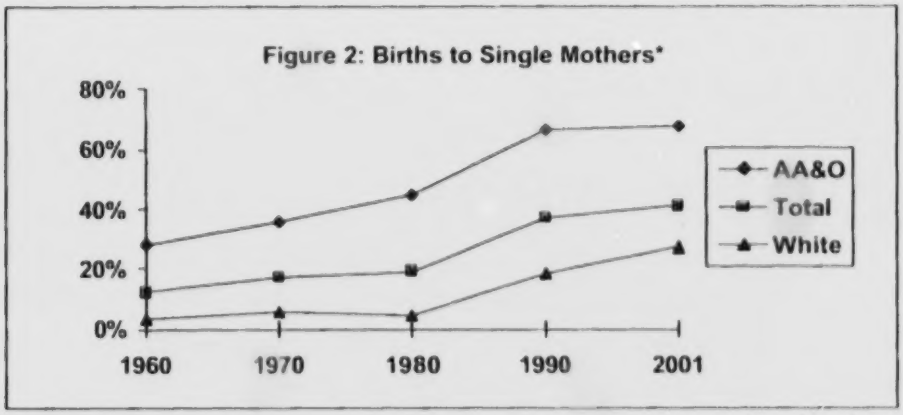
Births to Teen Mothers: In 2001, 22 babies were born to mothers younger than age 18. They were 6.0% of all babies born in the county; 5.4% of all White and 7.1% of all African-American and Other babies were born to teen mothers under the age of 18. Of the babies born to these teens in 2001, 68.2% were born to single mothers, including babies whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers.

In 2001, 64 babies were born to mothers younger than age 20. These babies were 17.4% of all born in the county; 14.2% of all White and 23.6% of all African-American and Other babies were born to mothers under the age of 20. Of the babies born to these mothers in 2001, 79.7% were born to single mothers, including paternity acknowledeged babies.

Education of Mothers Giving Birth: Children's success is strongly influenced by the education of their parents. In 2001, 87 babies, 23.8% of all babies, were born to mothers of all ages who had not completed the 12th grade. In 2001, 21.3% of White and 28.6% of African-American and Other babies were born to mothers who had completed less than the 12th grade. This is a substantial improvement from 52.1% in 1970. In addition, during 2001, 38.4% had completed 12 grades (36.0% of Whites and 42.9% of African Americans and Others) and 37.8% had more than a high school degree (42.7% of Whites and 28.6% of African American and Others).

Births to Single Mothers: Births to single mothers have increased steadily over four decades. In 2001, 86 babies, 23.4% of all babies, were recorded as born to single mothers. A decade earlier in 1990, the percentage was 34.4% and in 1960 it was 12.1%. In 2001, 12.9% of White children and 43.3% of African-American and Other children were born to single mothers. These numbers, however, do not include paternity acknowlegement births.

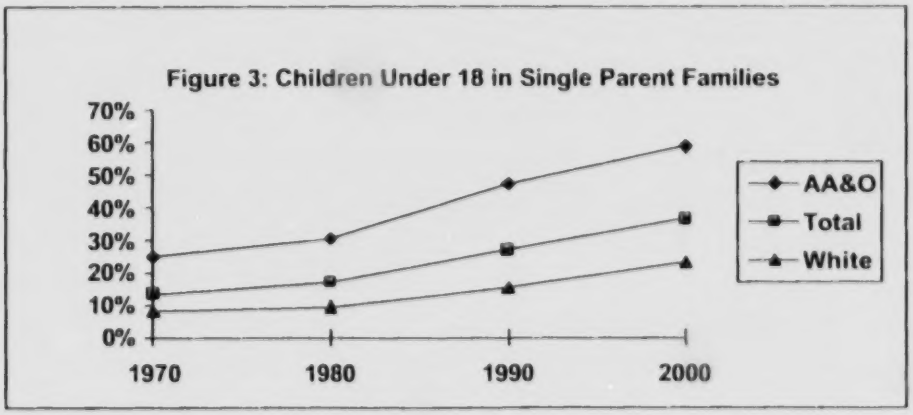
Thus, to these numbers should be added an additional group of 65 babies, 17.7% of all born in 2001, whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers. When the paternity-acknowledged babies are added, the total number born to single mothers in 2001 was 151, constituting 41.0% of all babies, 27.1% of White babies, and 67.7% of African-American and Others.



*Includes paternity acknowleged babies in 1980, 1990 and 2001. Prior to 1979, paternity acknowleged cases were not a statistical category, and thus were included in births to single mothers.

Divorce Rate: In 2001, 196 marriage licenses were issued, while 96 divorce decrees involving 64 children were filed. In 1970, only 78 children were in families involved in divorce.

Single-Parent Family: Increasing numbers of children live in single-parent families. In 2000, 2,134 children lived with only one parent. This was 36.4% of all children, up from 26.9% in 1990, 17.1% in 1980, and 13.4% in 1970. In 2000, 23.2% of White and 58.8% of African-American and Other children lived in single-parent families. Also in 2000, 635 or 38.3% of children under age 6 lived in single parent families: 22.5% of White and 65.5% of African American and Other pre-schoolers.



Parents Working and Child Care: Increasingly, parents must divide their time between children and employers. In order to meet family financial needs, most parents must work and thus have less time for family life. In 2000, 77.1% of mothers with children under 6 and 73.8% with children 6 - 17 were in the labor force. This has increased substantially from 1960 when 50.1% of mothers with children under 6 were in the labor force. Most fathers also work: 68.2% of children under 6 are in families where the single parent or both parents work. Caring for children is a problem for parents unable to obtain quality, affordable daycare while they are at work.

Overall, there are 457 spaces in state-regulated childcare facilities* in the county, 73.5% of these are in licensed programs and 26.5% are in registered programs. Of the spaces, 65.6% are in licensed childcare centers serving more than 12 children, 21.0% are in registered or licensed family childcare homes serving six or fewer children, 7.9% are in licensed group childcare homes serving 7-12 children, and 5.5% are in registered or licensed church programs.

The homes and centers are severely constrained by the limited ability of parents to pay. In the county, the average weekly charge is $ 58.75 for centers and $ 60.63 for homes. Consequently, center wages are low: 28.6% of centers with pre-school staff and 33.3% of centers with assistant pre-school staff report paying these staff under $6 per hour. Paying $6-$8 per hour are 42.9% of centers with pre-school staff and 0% of centers with assistants. Low wages attract workers with limited education. In 57.1% of centers, most pre-school staff and in 0% of centers most assistants have only a high school degree. In 28.6% of centers few to none of the pre-school staff have early childhood credentials. In childcare homes, 54.6% of lead providers have no more education than a high school degree or GED; 18.2% have less than a high school degree.

Family Violence: In 2000, 153 domestic assaults were recorded by law enforcement officials. These domestic assaults comprised 29.1% of all assaults, which include aggravated assaults, simple assaults, and intimidation. Overall, 58.8% of all domestic assaults involve spouse abuse which constitutes 17.1% of all assaults. Since most family violence is not reported, the true incidence of family disruption is much more widespread than even the large number of reported cases would indicate.

Separation from Parents: Some children do not live with their natural parents. In 2000, 8.3% of all children did not live with their natural parents. Approximately 340 or 4.8% of all children lived with relatives, 133 or 1.9% lived with non-relatives, 8 or 0.1% were householders or spouses, and 107 or 1.5% were in institutional facilities.

Abuse and Neglect: In 2000-01, there were 121 investigations into reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children. Through its investigations, the Department of Social Services (DSS) determined that 39 of the investigations were indicated for abuse or neglect: 14.6% for physical abuse, 10.4% for sexual abuse, 0.0% for mental injury, 22.9% for physical neglect, 2.1% for educational neglect, 8.3% for medical neglect, 39.6% for threat of harm for physical/sexual abuse, and 2.1% for other types of abuse.

In the indicated cases of abuse and neglect, DSS determined there were 66 children who were victims of abuse or neglect. Of these, 48.5% were male, 51.5% were female; 66.7% were White, 33.3% were African-American and Other. By age, 36.5% were ages 0 - 5, 41.3% were ages 6 - 12, and 22.2% were ages 13 - 17. In the indicated cases, 30.3% of the children lived in two-parent families, 43.9% in single parent families, 24.2% with unmarried couples, and 1.5% in other circumstances.

Out of Home Placements: As of June 2001, 5 children lived in foster care. The median age at first placement in the county is 14.3 years. The ages of children in foster care were 20.0% 0-2, 0.0% 3-5, 0.0% 6-10, 0.0% 11-13, and 80.0% 14 and above. The foster care population is 60.0% males and 40.0% females. Regarding their future, 20.0% were under a plan for placement in adoptive homes, 0.0% for return to a parent or guardian, 20.0% for placement with a relative, 60.0% for independent living, 0.0% for permanent foster care, and 0.0% for other circumstances.

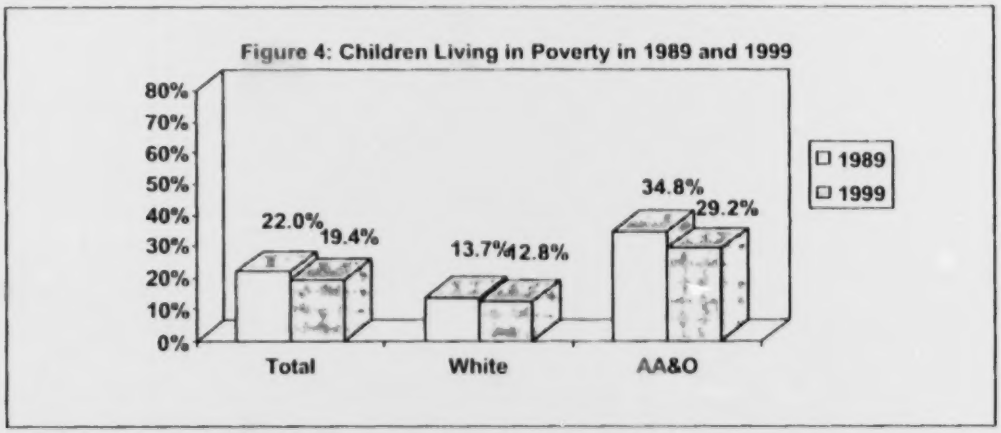
Adult/Child Ratio: A measure of potential adult attention for children from family and community is the ratio of adults to children and youth. In 2000 there were 3.19 adults for every person below age 18. This was up substantially from 1960, when there were only 1.55 adults for every person under the age 18. This indicates that today there are more adults potentially available to provide attention and care for each child than in the past.

* This data is the best currently available; however, an effort is being made to check the coverage and improve the accuracy. As soon as more recent and complete data becomes available, it will be posted on the website.

ECONOMIC STATUS

Low income makes it difficult for many families to provide the material and environmental enrichment necessary for healthy child development.

Poverty: In 1999, 1,350 children and youth under the age of 18 lived in 708 families with incomes below poverty, comprising 19.4% of all children and youth: 12.8% of Whites and 29.2% of African-Americans and Others. A rough estimate of child poverty in 2001 calculated by the Census Bureau was 23.0%.



Poverty has always been a serious problem. While the rate among children under age 18 in 1989 was 22.0%, it was 12.9% in 1979 and 19.5% in 1969.

Children and the elderly are the age groups most seriously affected by poverty. In 1999, 21.0% of children 0 - 5 (10.5% White, 39.0% African-American and Other), and 17.1% of children 6 - 17 (12.8% White, 23.3% African-American and Other), lived in poverty; 15.9% of persons 65 years and older lived in poverty. Historically, the poverty rate among the elderly was much higher. During the last three decades, federal policy actions have substantially improved the economic status of older persons but have not done so for children.

Single-parent families are most likely to be poor. In 1999, 39.2% of children in single-parent families lived in poverty, but only 4.3% of children in married-couple families were poor. Children in single-parent families made up 62.2% of all the county's children living in poverty.

In 2002, the poverty level was $15,020 for a family of three and $18,100 for a family of four. The poverty threshold is often criticized as an arbitrary number. People can still be poor but may be just above the poverty level. Federal programs utilize varying thresholds. For example, in 1999 there were 3,445 children ages 0-17 who were less than 200 percent of poverty; thus an additional 2,095 children were above the poverty level but could still be considered poor or near-poor with incomes below $30,040 and $36,200 respectively for 3 and 4 person families.

Children Under 18 in Poverty in 1999

Percent of Poverty	Total		White		African American & Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 50%	602	8.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 100%	1,350	19.4%	534	12.8%	816	29.2%
Under 125%	1,728	24.8%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 150%	2,287	32.8%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 175%	2,727	39.1%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 185%	2,982	42.8%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 200%	3,445	49.4%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total Children	7,126		4,260		2,866	

Note: Missing data will be released by the Census Bureau later in 2003, and will be posted on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

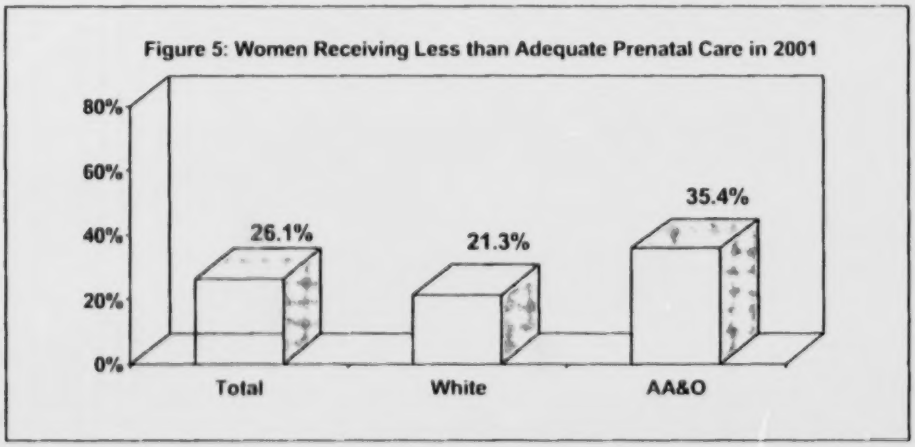
Income: The mean income of families with children in 1999 was $39,323. In 1989 it was $37,408, and 1979, it was $38,758, adjusted for inflation (i.e., in 1999 dollars). The mean income of single-parent families with children was $19,274 for single parents in 1999, as compared with $51,379 in married-couple families with children. From 1999 to 2000, Union County real dollar per capita income (eliminating inflation) increased by 0.6%.

Child Support Payments: There were 284[7] families receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families in fiscal year 2002, but only 25.0 % had child support court orders. Their average monthly payment of child support was $ 270, including child support receipts and tax refund intercepts. In addition, during fiscal year 2002, an estimated 885 parents in non-TANF families were obligated to pay a monthly average of $ 208. Information is not available regarding the amount actually paid.

HEALTH

Good health during a child's formative years helps children to reach their maximum potential. Good health requires healthy lifestyles and effective primary care, starting during the prenatal period and continuing through adolescence into adulthood. Children's health reflects the well-being of the community, as well as how adequately they are protected.

Prenatal Care: Early and continuous prenatal care can make a significant difference in assuring births of healthy babies. Delayed or insufficient prenatal care is associated with low birthweight and other health risks for infants. In 2001, 64, or 17.4% of pregnant women received no prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy. In 2001, 96, or 26.1% of pregnant women received less than adequate prenatal care: 51 or 21.3% of Whites and 45 or 35.4% of African-Americans and Others. In that same year, 2 women received no prenatal care at all.



Low Birthweight: Low birthweight of less than 5.5 pounds and very low birthweight of less than 3.3 pounds are associated with health risks and growth and development problems. In 2001, 33 or 9.0% of all babies in the county were born with low birthweight: 10.2% of African-American and Other babies and 8.3% of White babies. During 1999-2001, approximately 22 or 1.9% of all babies were born with very low birthweight and had the most serious complications: 1.0% of White babies and 3.4% of African-American and Other babies. The cost of hospitalization for each newborn low birthweight baby in the county in 1999 - 2001 was $14,678 and $57,602 for each very low birthweight baby, compared with $2,927 for a baby of normal birthweight. The result was excess cost in the county of $513,505 for all low birthweight babies, of which $309,828 was for very low birthweight babies.

Infant Mortality: During the decade since 1989-91, the overall infant mortality rate decreased by 16.8% from 9.5 to 7.9 per 1000 live births. For Whites, the rate decreased 18.1% from 6.9 to 5.7 per 1000 live births, while for African-Americans and Others the rate decreased 10.8% from 12.9 to 11.5 per 1000 live births. Over the three-year period 1999-2001, 4 White and 5 African-American and Other infants died before age one. By comparison, 5 White and 7 African-American and Other infants died during 1989-91.

[7] Number is an unduplicated count for the entire fiscal year.

Child Injuries and Deaths: Childhood deaths and injuries reflect whether communities are safe for children. In 2001, children in the Union County went to the emergency room 1,093 times because of injuries. Boys are injured more often than girls. Children visit the emergency room at comparable rates for each age from 0 to 17.

In South Carolina, the major causes of death among young children are unintentional injuries, cancer, homicide, and congenital anomalies. Over the three year period 1999-2001, 1 White and 2 African-American and Other children ages 1-14 died in the county. During 1989-91, 5 White and 3 African-American and Other children died.

Immunization: Immunization rates are an important indication of whether young children are receiving adequate preventive health care. During FY 1989-90, 56.6% of children less than two years old seen in public health clinics were not fully immunized against such preventable diseases as Polio, Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Haemophilus Influenza B and Whooping Cough. After a concerted statewide campaign to increase immunizations, the percentage of children seen in public health clinics who were not fully immunized in January 2001 had declined in the county to 1.8%. The DHEC statewide birth registry survey of all two year old children found that 88.1% were fully immunized in 2001. This success demonstrates the potential to improve the status of children when the leadership of the state and its communities act decisively together.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Children and youth are infected with sexually transmitted diseases through sexual abuse or irresponsible sexual activity. National prevalence rates indicate: a 1 in 8 chance that sexually active 15 year-old girls will develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), the most rapidly increasing cause of infertility; 10% of sexually active adolescent girls and boys are infected with chlamydia, the most common cause of PID; and as many as 15% of teen girls are infected with human papilloma virus, often with strains linked to cervical cancer. Furthermore, research evidence indicates that susceptibility to HIV/AIDS increases by 3 to 8 times through prior infection with various STDs.

According to national studies, approximately 1 in 4 sexually experienced youth aged 13-19 acquires a STD ever year; since two-thirds of all high school students have had sexual intercourse and half engage in intercourse over a three month period, this would suggest that 10-15% of teens are infected with STDs annually. For 2000, this would indicate that an estimated 274 to 410 youth ages 13-19 in the county were infected with a STD. Many infections are either not identified for treatment or not reported. In the county, there were 3 reported cases of children under age 15 and 16 youth ages 15 - 19 infected with gonorrhea; 3 youth under 15 and 25 ages 15 - 19 were reported infected with chlamydia. Youth with undiagnosed and untreated STDs often spread their infections.

Healthy Lifestyles: Although no county data is available, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2001 found that many high school students are not following good health habits. The YRBS revealed that 26% felt that they were overweight; 42% were trying to lose weight: 27% of boys and 57% of girls. Although during a week 79% of high school students ate fruit, 59% ate salad, and over 83% ate vegetables, only 17% ate the recommended five or more servings of fruit and vegetables per day. During a week, 49% did stretching or muscle strengthening exercises, and 59% exercised three or more times for 20 minutes in sports that made them sweat or breathe hard. However, 11% of students engaged in no vigorous or moderate activity at all during a week: 8% of boys and 13% of girls.

Tobacco Use:* Cigarette smoking starts at a young age and often becomes habitual. In the county during 2002 among all students 15 and older, 18.1% first smoked by age 11, 42.0% by age 13, and 56.2% by age 15. In a typical month, 16.5% of 7th and 8th graders and 24.6% of high school students smoked cigarettes. White youths were much more likely than African-Americans to smoke: 27.4% of White male and 29.1% of White female 7th to 12th graders used cigarettes, as compared with 8.1% of African-American males and 10.3% of African American females. A smaller but significant group of high school students (4.9%) used smokeless tobacco monthly; it was used primarily by White males (14.0% compared with 1.1% of all other race and sex groups).

* Data is from the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking.

Disabilities: No data are collected on the true prevalence of disabilities within the county. According to national reported estimates, over 10% of children and youth have developmental disabilities at any point in time, and more than 17 are affected at some time before age 18 by deafness, blindness, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, speech defects, development delays, learning disabilities, and emotional or behavioral problems. For 2000 this suggests that at least 713 children ar youth under age 18 in the county are currently affected by disabilities.

Approximately 5% of children and youth nationally have serious disabilities which have lifelong implications f work, social life and community living. Typically among children and youth, there are 1 - 2% who are mentally retarded, - 3% with serious emotional disturbances, over 1% with orthopedic or multiple disabilities, including cerebral palsy an many hereditary conditions, and under 1% with visual or hearing impairments.

Other chronic health problems also affect the lives of many children. Over 3% of children have one or more these limitations. Such serious chronic conditions affect 1 - 2% who have respiratory problems (asthma and chron bronchitis), 0.5 - 1.0% with neurological problems (epilepsy and seizures), and less than 1% with circulatory problen (congenital heart defects and acquired diseases).

Other disabilities are identified primarily in school performance. These would include 444 students in grades 1- with learning disabilities and 200 students in grades 1-12 with speech/language deficits.

Disabilities are caused by genetics, disease, poor prenatal conditions, injuries, and environmental factors. For example, lead exposure, primarily from paint dust, was detected in over 1% of all children screened, including 2 in Union County.

Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: While over 20% of 9-17 year olds meet diagnostic criteria for some form of mental disorder, the number with serious emotional disturbance and impaired functioning in family, school, or community activities is: 9-13% for substantial functional impairment and 5-9% for extreme functional impairment. The rates among poor children are at the higher end of these ranges. Based on a federal formula for estimating prevalence, in the county there are 12% or 441 seriously emotionally disturbed 9-17 year olds with substantial functional impairment and 8% or 294 with extreme functional impairment during the course of a year. Conduct disorders, attention deficit, depression, and anxiety disorders are the most prevalent, each affecting 3% or more of school-aged children. These disorders may occur simultaneously in a child. The prevalence rates are highest among males, adolescents, and disadvantaged persons in communities under stress and lacking social cohesion; depression, however, is more prevalent among females. On the YRBS, 20% of boys and 33% of girls in high school reported that during the past year they felt so sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that they stopped doing some usual activities. Another indicator of emotional problems is the 8% of high school students in South Carolina who reported that they had "attempted suicide" in the past year: 5% of boys and 10% of girls. Suicide attempts resulted in 4% of high school students reporting that they required treatment by a doctor or nurse for injury, poisoning, or overdose.

Inadequate Healthcare: No county level data is routinely collected regarding the number of children and youth with inadequate healthcare. According to estimates for 2000-02 by the Bureau of the Census through the annual Current Population Survey, the statewide average rate of uninsured children and youth under age 18 in families with incomes under 200% of poverty in South Carolina was 16.6%, and 9.9% above 200% of poverty. If these rates are applied to the county, there are 573 children in the county below 200% of poverty with no health insurance, and 365 children above 200% of poverty with no health insurance, for a total of 938 uninsured children in Union County. The number lacking basic accessible primary care is at least double the number lacking insurance. Those lacking primary care are often dependent on health services at school. The ratio of students to nurses recommended nationally is 750:1. In the county, this would suggest the need for 7 nurses, compared with 6 currently working in the schools.

Medicaid: For several years, the State of South Carolina has emphasized enrolling eligible children into Medicaid. In late 1997, South Carolina implemented its version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, Partners for Healthy Children (PHC), and aggressively pursued outreach enrollment for PHC and Medicaid. As a result, enrollment of children ages 0 through 18 in Union County has increased by 128.2% from June 1997 to June 2001; thus Medicaid and PHC were serving 46.6% of all children in that age range. The total Medicaid expenditures in South Carolina for services provided to children ages 0 through 18 for state fiscal year 2002 were $991 million, at an average statewide expenditure of $2,343 per child enrolled, approximate Medicaid expenditure for children in the county would be $7.8 million.

In June 2001, the total number of Union County children, birth through 18, enrolled in Medicaid was 3,322. The total can be broken down into the following age and race groupings:

	White	African American	Hispanic	Other	Total
Children under 1	114	115	1	3	233
Children 1 - 5	446	511	5	35	997
Children 6 - 14	747	744	4	82	1,577
Children 15 - 18	256	253	0	6	515
Total	1,563	1,623	10	126	3,322

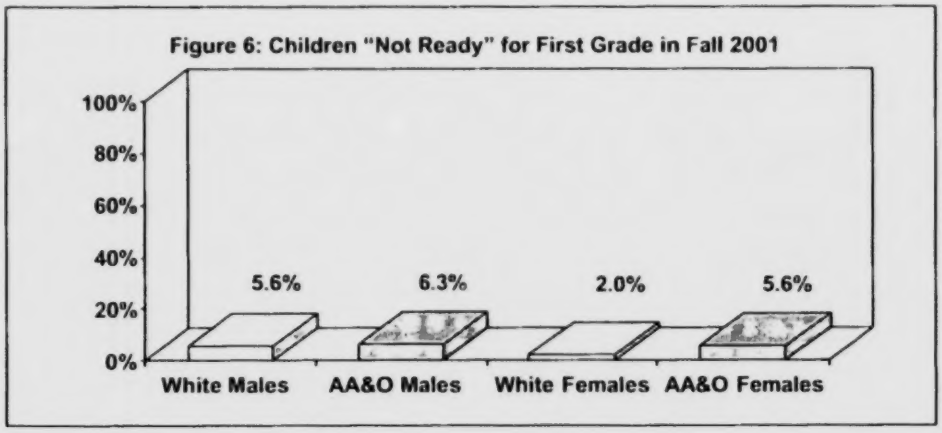
Ambulatory Care: When children lack adequate primary care, whether through lack of insurance, through limite access, or through failing to utilize available care, preventable and treatable conditions become serious and requi hospitalization. A useful indicator of inadequate primary care is the percentage of all hospitalizations that could typicall have been avoided through ambulatory care, especially for pneumonia, asthma, diarrhea and vomiting, dehydration, a severe ear, nose, and throat infections. The share of hospitalizations for these types of conditions could normally be ke below 20%; for children in the county under the age of 18 during 2001, the share was 35.7% for Whites and 43.8% f African-Americans and Others.

READINESS AND EARLY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Too many children reach school without the readiness skills needed for success in learning, such as language, soci skills, visual and auditory discrimination, memory recall, and knowledge of colors, letters, numbers, names of objects, et Likewise, some schools are not ready to respond appropriately to the varying developmental levels of children in the ear grades. As a result, too many students do not experience the success needed to create the motivation and engagement th sustain learning.

1st Grade "Readiness" on 2001-02 Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB):

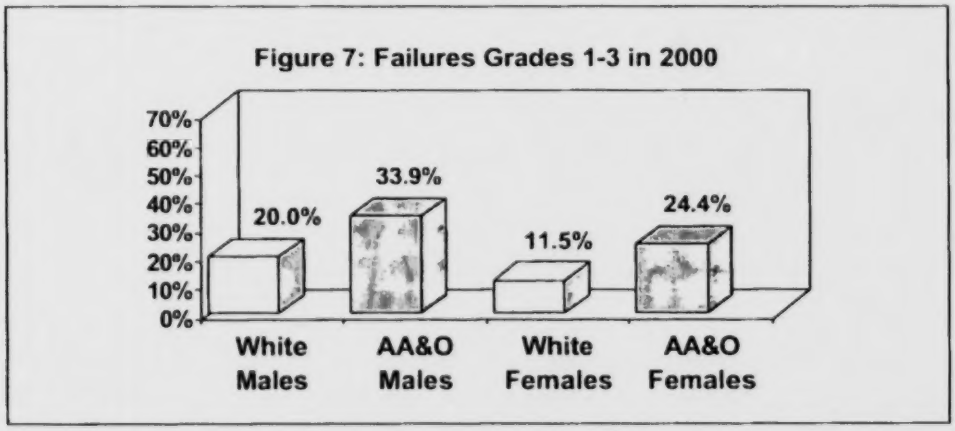
19 children not ready 4.8% children not ready



1st Grade Failures in 2002:

35 children failing 8.8% children failing

Failures Grades 1-3 in 2002 (approximate cumulative percentage of grades one, two and three):	
69 children failing	17.3% children failing



Over-age for Grade 3 in 2001	
91 children over-age	24.8% children over-age

Special Education: Large numbers of children are placed in special education classes. In elementary school, 178 six and seven year olds and 192 eight and nine year-olds were enrolled in special education classes during 2001-02, approximately 23.0% and 24.0% of their age groups respectively: 21.8% of White 8 – 9 year olds were in special education and 27.5% of African American and Others.

Readiness Summary: A serious problem exists in terms of student readiness and school success in the early grades. With 4.8% assessed not ready for the 1st grade, 24.8% over age in grade 3, and 24.0% of eight and nine year-olds placed in special education, unacceptably large numbers of students still begin school without good prospects of success in future school achievement and graduation; however, great improvement has occurred since the mid 1990s.

SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

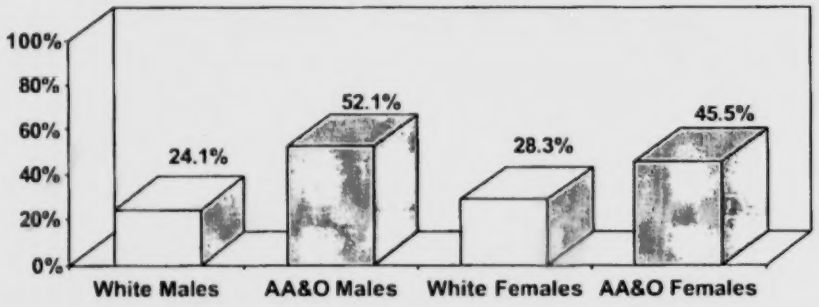
By the end of elementary school, significant numbers of students perform below minimum standards. The following standardized test measures, comparing student performance to state minimum standards, should be used in combination with routine classroom assessments more reflective of real-world performance skills.

Special Education: Special education placements reflect both the significant number of children with serious handicapping conditions and a large number of students with mild learning and behavioral problems that have not been accommodated successfully by the regular educational program. The result is a large system of self-contained, resource, and itinerant services to meet the needs of 200 speech and language impaired, 444 learning disabled, 10 emotionally disabled, 137 mentally impaired, and 111 physically handicapped, deaf, blind, and other handicapped students. Special education classes served approximately 18.2% of all students in grades 1 - 12 during 2001-2002.

Exit Exam - not passing all parts of Exit Exam on first attempt in the 10th grade in 2002

96 students did not pass all parts — 34.5% of students did not pass all parts

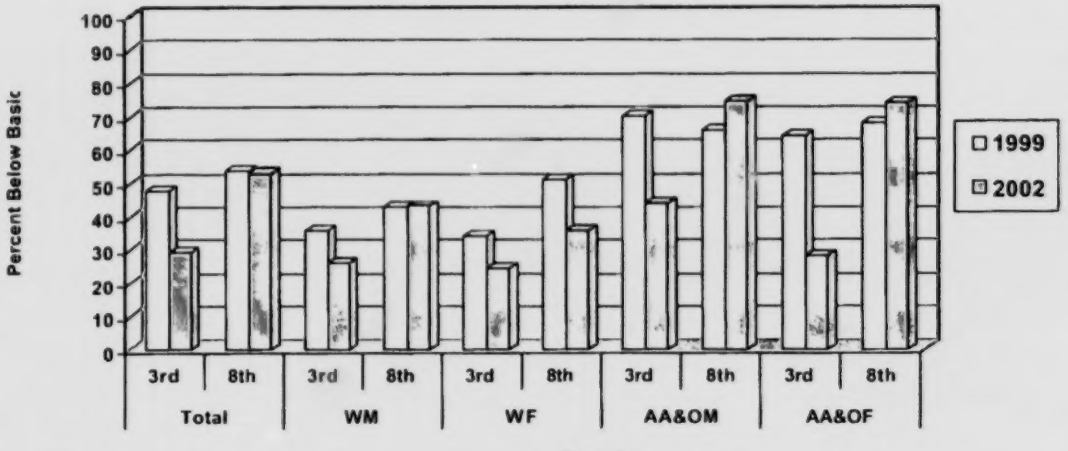
Figure 8: 10th Grade Students Not Passing All Parts of High School Exit Exam in 2000



Achievement Trends: How has performance on standardized achievement tests changed over the past 20 years During the 1980s, student performance on the BSAP tests improved dramatically. Between 1981 and 1990, the percentag of 8th grade students in Union County who did not meet standards declined from 47.1% to 17% in math and from 54.4% to 18.5% in reading. During the 1990's the BSAP trend changed, with 36.8% not meeting 8th grade math standards i 1998 and 36.3% in reading. On standardized tests, the first year when South Carolina students take the exam comparable to the challenge encountered by the national norm group which took the test only once. Looking at first yea data, the percentage of 4th grade students at or below the 25th percentile of national norms was 27.3% in 1983 on th CTBS, 36.9% in 1990 on the Stanford, and 30.8% in 1995 on the Metropolitan; for 9th graders, the percentage in th bottom quarter was 38.4% in 1990 and 28.9% in 1995. Although not comparable, the percent below basic on the 4th grad PACT in 1999, the first year of administration, was 52.5%, but in 2002 29.3% of 4th graders were below basic in readin and math; the percentage of 8th graders below basic in reading and math averaged 44.4% in 1999 and 48.7% in 2002.

PACT: The Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) was first administered in 1999 for grades 3 - 8 in math and reading/language arts. Math assesses skills in numbers, numerical and algebraic concepts, patterns and functions, geometry, measurement, probability and statistics. The percentage of students scoring below basic in math has decreased by 19.6% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 627 students below basic in grades 3-8 but there would have been an additional 153 at 1999 performance rates.

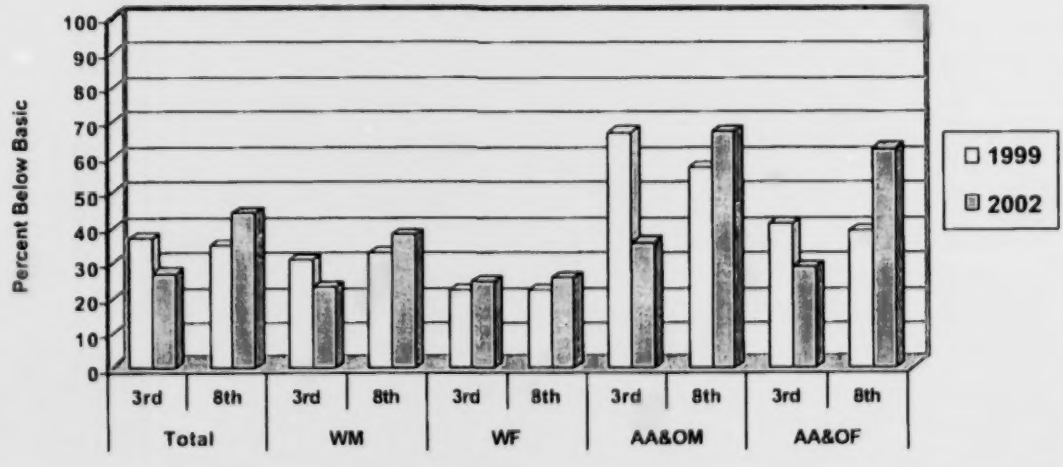
Figure 9: PACT Math Below Basic in Grades 3 and 8



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
	Math (%)					
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	29.3	25.9	24.6	43.9	28.4
	4	30.4	21.9	22.0	43.9	37.5
	5	47.1	44.9	33.1	60.3	61.2
	6	42.0	38.2	24.8	60.3	61.4
	7	53.6	47.4	35.7	66.3	71.9
	8	53.0	43.2	35.8	74.6	74.1
Basic	3	43.9	35.2	44.7	39.4	61.2
	4	41.1	45.7	40.7	34.1	42.5
	5	37.4	33.6	45.7	33.3	32.9
	6	40.8	40.0	52.2	29.4	33.3
	7	28.3	30.2	34.8	22.5	22.9
	8	37.3	43.2	48.5	25.4	22.2
Proficient	3	18.0	20.4	23.7	13.6	9.0
	4	19.3	20.0	22.0	17.1	17.5
	5	11.0	15.0	15.7	3.2	4.7
	6	12.1	15.5	15.0	8.8	3.5
	7	11.3	10.3	20.9	7.5	4.2
	8	7.3	9.5	12.7	0.0	2.5
Advanced	3	8.7	18.5	7.0	3.0	1.5
	4	9.2	12.4	15.4	4.9	2.5
	5	4.5	6.5	5.5	3.2	1.2
	6	5.2	6.4	8.0	1.5	1.8
	7	6.9	12.1	8.7	3.8	1.0
	8	2.4	4.2	3.0	0.0	1.2

Reading/Language Arts assesses reading, listening, speaking, writing, research, and communication with technology. The first PACT assessment found a high percentage of elementary and middle grades students performing below standards and only a modest number above basic. The percentage of students scoring below basic in reading/language arts has decreased by 19.7% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 473 students below basic in grades 3 - 8 but there would have been an additional 116 at 1999 performance rates.

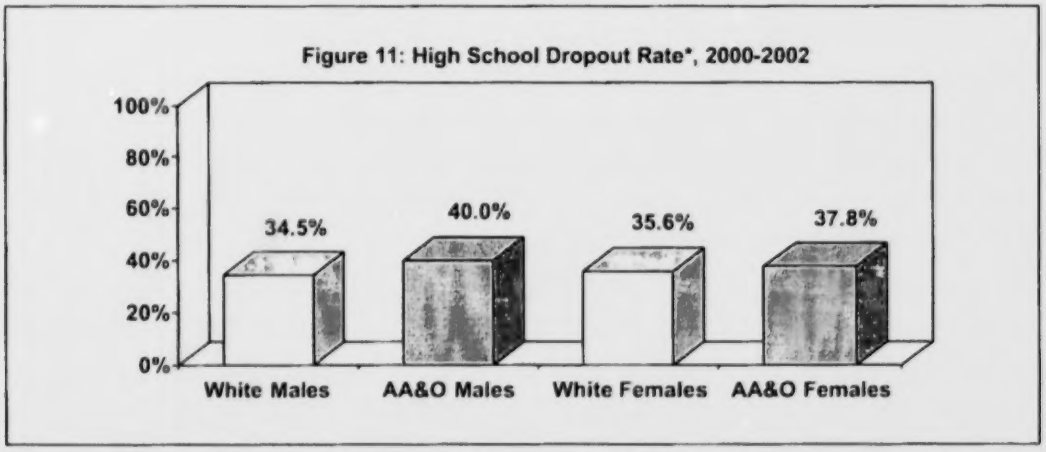
Figure 10: PACT Reading/Language Arts Below Basic in Grades 3 and 8



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
		Reading/Language Arts (%)				
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	27.0	23.1	24.6	35.8	28.8
	4	28.1	27.6	12.1	48.2	26.3
	5	34.1	34.3	19.7	49.2	44.7
	6	35.8	35.8	17.7	58.6	43.9
	7	37.6	43.4	13.8	59.7	41.7
	8	44.4	37.9	25.8	67.6	62.5
Basic	3	42.0	39.8	40.4	41.8	48.5
	4	44.8	42.9	41.8	41.0	55.0
	5	47.5	47.2	48.0	47.5	47.1
	6	38.1	40.4	39.8	34.3	35.1
	7	43.0	38.1	46.6	36.4	50.0
	8	36.5	43.2	40.2	32.4	26.3
Proficient	3	29.0	35.2	32.5	20.9	21.2
	4	25.9	28.6	42.9	10.8	18.8
	5	17.3	17.6	30.7	3.3	7.1
	6	21.8	18.3	37.2	5.7	17.5
	7	18.2	17.7	36.2	3.9	8.3
	8	16.9	17.9	28.8	0.0	11.3
Advanced	3	2.0	1.9	2.6	1.5	1.5
	4	1.1	1.0	3.3	0.0	0.0
	5	1.0	0.9	1.6	0.0	1.2
	6	4.3	5.5	5.3	1.4	3.5
	7	1.2	0.9	3.4	0.0	0.0
	8	2.1	1.1	5.3	0.0	0.0

Dropout Rate - 8th grade students no longer enrolled in grade 12
(average of students for the three years ending 2000-2002)

152 students drop out annually **36.6% students drop out?**



Dropouts: Distressing numbers of students drop out and fail to graduate. An average of 31.2% of 8th grader failed to graduate** from county schools five years later during the period 1980-84, 26.1% during 1985-89, and 30.7% during 1990-94, 35.4% during 1995-97 and 39.7% during 1998-2000***.

During 2001-02, 99.2% of all who did graduate received the State High School Diploma, while the remaining 0.8% received a State Certificate for meeting the required Carnegie units but not passing the Exit Exam.

*12th grade enrollment compared to 8th grade enrollment four years earlier
** This is calculated by using 8th grade enrollment to graduation data.
*** 2001 data will be available soon and will be posted on the website.

Fortunately, many dropouts enroll in adult education programs and either earn a high school diploma or obtain a GED. During 2001-02, 27 Adult Education high school diplomas were awarded to school completers and in 2001 31 GEDs were awarded in the county. Over time, adult education high school diplomas and GEDs increase the effective school completion rate substantially. In the 2000 Census, 20.5% of county resident 25 - 34 year-olds said they had not completed either high school or a GED.

Achievement Summary: The numbers of students testing below basic on the PACT and dropping out range from 27.0% to 61.4%. Thus, far too many students fail to acquire the knowledge, skills, learning habits, and motivation necessary to compete in the economy or contribute to society in the 21st Century.

ADOLESCENT RISK BEHAVIORS

Academic achievement is greatly influenced by the prevailing youth culture which often promotes popularity with peers and partying rather than studying and doing well in school. The prevalence of adolescent risk-taking and under-achievement is illustrated by the poor grades of substance-abusing teens.

Substance Abuser Rates at Levels of Academic Performance

	Usual School Grades in Past Year					Total
	A Range	B Range	C Range	D Range	F Range	
Smoked Cigarettes (in past 30 days)	10.5%	20.7%	32.3%	46.4%	81.4%	24.4%
Drank 5 or More Drinks on One Occasion (in past 30 days)	4.0%	12.6%	19.9%	26.1%	57.7%	14.3%
Used Any Illicit Drug (in past 30 days)	4.9%	12.5%	22.3%	19.9%	60.6%	15.1%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

As influence from parents and other adults declines during adolescence, significant numbers of students engage in violence, crime, school offenses, depressive emotions and attempted suicide:

Risk Behaviors Participated in During Past 12 Months	White Male		White Female		African American Male		African American Female		Total		Total (Grade 7-12)
	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	
Carried a handgun or knife for self-defense?	23.1%	24.7%	4.0%	4.2%	10.5%	17.0%	5.2%	8.0%	11.1%	13.6%	12.3%
Carried a handgun or knife as a weapon?	6.3%	6.9%	1.6%	2.1%	5.0%	11.0%	1.7%	4.8%	3.6%	5.8%	4.7%
Been in a fight with someone?	36.9%	28.9%	15.8%	14.4%	40.7%	29.6%	32.2%	25.7%	29.5%	24.0%	26.9%
Hit your boyfriend or girlfriend?	3.0%	0.3%	8.2%	6.9%	6.2%	7.1%	18.2%	26.7%	8.2%	9.0%	8.6%
Been hit by your boyfriend or girlfriend?	6.9%	4.7%	7.5%	9.1%	11.3%	14.7%	7.8%	14.5%	8.0%	10.0%	9.0%
Rec'd detention or in-school suspension?	30.1%	34.6%	16.1%	25.4%	28.2%	48.5%	29.5%	37.1%	24.9%	35.1%	29.8%
Been suspended from school?	15.8%	12.5%	4.9%	8.9%	12.7%	23.8%	18.5%	17.1%	12.1%	14.5%	13.2%
Stolen anything worth > $5?	12.3%	11.7%	4.2%	8.1%	8.8%	12.5%	2.3%	3.7%	7.1%	9.1%	8.0%
Had an accident while driving?	NA	13.4%	NA	12.3%	NA	7.1%	NA	5.8%	NA	10.5%	NA
Been arrested and booked?	3.9%	7.3%	1.3%	3.0%	4.7%	11.4%	2.4%	3.2%	2.9%	5.9%	4.4%
Felt hopeless for two weeks or more?	12.7%	10.1%	16.1%	28.7%	9.8%	13.2%	17.4%	26.7%	14.3%	19.8%	16.9%
Seriously considered attempting suicide?	5.9%	4.2%	4.8%	11.7%	3.4%	6.6%	4.2%	9.6%	4.8%	8.0%	6.3%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

Adolescence is often a time of taking risks and asserting independence from adults. When asked whether they would tell an adult about a problem, the following percentages of county students said they would be "not likely" or "very unlikely" to tell if they:

-heard a student threaten to harm someone: 31.7% middle school, 45.0% high school;
-saw a student with a handgun at school: 27.3% middle school, 18.5% high school;
-saw a student with a knife at school: 27.5% middle school, 27.4% high school;
-saw a student with drugs at school: 34.1% middle school, 56.2% high school;

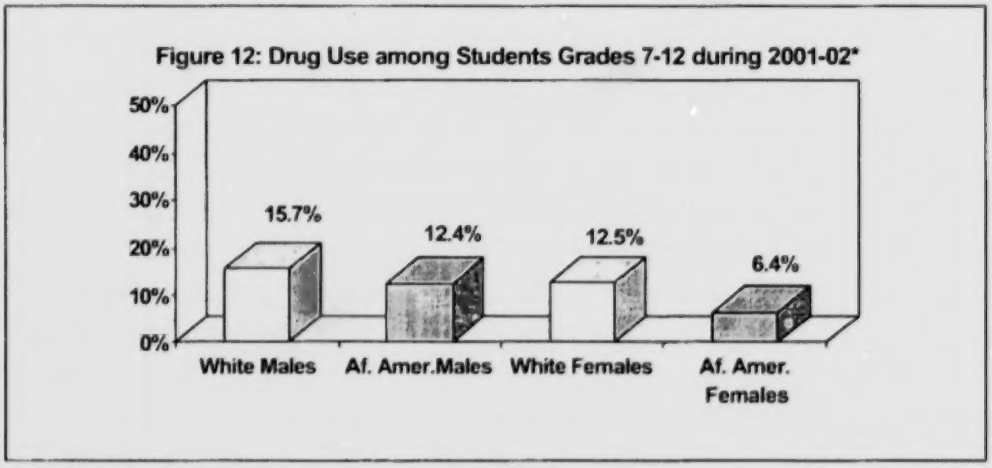
Alcohol Use:* In the county during 2001-02, 19.5% of 7th and 8th graders and 31.9% of high schoolers said they had used alcohol in the past month. Of White males in grades 7 - 12, 27.3% had used it in the past month, compared with 27.9% of African-American males; likewise, 23.9% of White females said they had used alcohol, compared with 27.4% of African-American females. Many youth first used alcohol at an early age: 11.2% had used alcohol by age 11 or younger, 30.0% by age 13, and 60.4% by age 15.

During the previous year, 16.7% of 7th and 8th graders and 28.5% of high schoolers said they had ridden with a drinking driver. Of seniors who drive, 14.2% said they had driven after drinking. Widespread use is encouraged by the ready availability and perceived low risk of alcohol use. Among students who expressed an opinion, 34.9% of eighth graders and 73.1% of seniors felt that beer was easy to get. Also, 68.6% of eighth graders and 67.8% of seniors felt there was not a great risk in drinking two drinks a day, and 45.3% of eighth graders and 51.7% of high schoolers felt there was not a great risk in drinking 5 drinks every weekend.

Heavy Drinking:* In 2001-02, 6.7% of 7th and 8th graders and 14.3% of high school students in the county reported drinking 5 or more drinks in a day during the past month. When asked how many drinks, if any, they usually consume, 10.0% of all county students in grades 7 - 12 in 2001-02 responded 3 or more drinks at a time and 5.2% reported usually 5 or more drinks. Among high school students, 14.0% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 7.6% 5 or more. Among seniors, 18.1% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 10.6% 5 or more; however 16.9% of seniors said that they drank 5 or more drinks in a day once or more during the past month.

Drugs:* In 2001-02, 8.9% of 7th and 8th graders and 15.2% of high schoolers in the county reported using illegal drugs during the previous month. Among students in grades 7 - 12, use was reported by 15.7% of White males, 12.5% White females, 12.4% of African-American males, and 6.4% of African-American females. Some young people initiated drug use at an early age: 4.2% had experienced their first use by age 11 or sooner; 14.6% had used a drug by age 13, and 34.7% by age 15.

In the past year, 7.8% of all high school students in the county who drive and 10.8% of seniors who drive said that they had driven after using drugs. Such use is encouraged by the ready availability of drugs: 16.1% of 8th graders who had an opinion said it is easy to get marijuana and 6.1% said it is easy to get cocaine or crack; 62.5% of seniors said it is easy to get marijuana and 23.6% said it was easy to get cocaine or crack.



* Data is from the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking.

Sexual Activity and Pregnancy: Many teenagers now engage in sexual activity. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) administered to a representative sample of high school students throughout South Carolina in 2001 showed that sexual activity begins at an early age: 7% of female and 21% of male students have engaged in intercourse before age 13; by age 15, 38% the females and 49% of males have engaged in sexual intercourse. Statewide, 48% of females and 50% of males in the 11th and 12th grades reported engaging in intercourse during the past three months. Furthermore, 27% of female and 33% of male 12th graders have had intercourse with four or more partners during their lifetimes.

Premature sexual activity often results in pregnancy. In the county, 43 girls between the ages of 14 and 17 became pregnant in 1999, 28 in 2000 and 29 in 2001. This represented 3.8% of all girls ages 14 – 17 in 2001; several times this percentage become pregnant at least once by age 18. The 2001 pregnancy rate for ages 14 - 17 was 3.3% for Whites and 4.7% for African-Americans and Others. Of all pregnancies of 14-17 year olds, 72.4% resulted in live births, with almost all other pregnancies ending in abortions.

Teen pregnancy rates increased substantially across the state during the 1980s; as a result, greater emphasis v devoted to preventing teen pregnancy. Since 1989, the teen pregnancy rate in Union County has decreased by 35.4 Overall, it has decreased by 17.5% for Whites, and decreased by 46.6% for African Americans and Others.

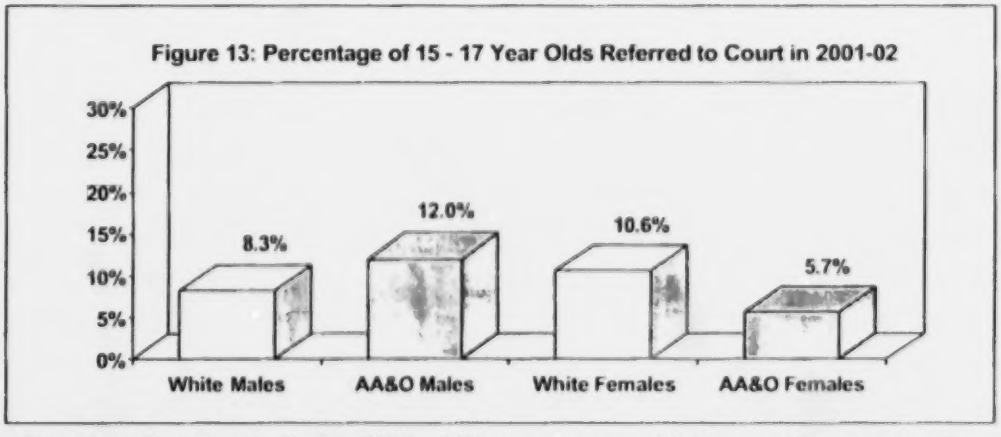
Juvenile Delinquency: In 2001-02, 193 individual juvenile offenders in the county were referred to the Solicitor for delinquency; of these, 10.9% were age 12 or younger, 32.1% were 13 or 14, and 57.0% were 15 or older.

Of the referrals to the family court, 3.5% of all referrals were for violent and serious crimes which include drug trafficking, acts against persons for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and serious property offenses for arson and burglary. Also, 44 juvenile cases constituting 13.9% of all referrals were for status offenses. Status offenses include truancy, running away, incorrigibility, and other offenses that would not be crimes for adults.

Delinquents are likely to live in families with low income: 30.4% lived in families with income under $10,000, 29.3% with $10,000-$19,999 and 40.3% with $20,000 or more. Furthermore, only 18.7% of delinquents lived with both natural parents, while 55.5% lived in a single parent household, 24.7% lived with other relatives, and 1.1% in other situations including parent plus step-parent. Delinquency or criminal activity occurs among many related family members: 38.7% had at least one family member who was delinquent or had some criminal record.

Youth referred to the family courts are likely to have been there before. In 2001-02, 71.0% had at least one prior referral and 32.6% had been referred to court 3 times or more. Many were referred at an early age. For delinquents 15 - 17 years old, 3.9% had been referred by the age of 10, 7.7% by the age of 12, and 28.7% by the age of 14.

During 2001-02, 108 youth ages 15 to 17 were referred to the family courts. In the county, 9.2% of all youth 15 to 17 were referred to court in one year and roughly double that percentage are referred at least once by age 18. Furthermore, the National Youth Survey indicates that typically across the United States the proportion of youth engaging in crime is two or three times the number ever apprehended. In 2001-02, there were 11 juveniles committed from the county to DJJ custody and placed in residential programs.



Not in School or Employed: During 2000, 242 teenagers ages 16-19 were idle, meaning they neither worked any hours nor were enrolled in school, even part-time. Idle teens comprised 15.8% of their age group: 11.7% for White and 21.8% African-American & Other teens. A much larger number, perhaps twice as many, were not engaged in either school full time or work full time. The data reflect a serious failure in both school completion and the critical transition from school to work, significantly affecting their development as future workers. For an in-depth description of the problems of young adults seeking to enter the labor force, visit our website at www.scyoungadults.org for our state and county reports on 18-29 year olds.

Deaths: During 1997-2001, 14 youth ages 15 to 19 died. Historically, automobile accidents have been the major cause, resulting in 9 deaths between 1996 and 2000; homicides killed youth 15 to 19 years old during the five-year period, and 2 youth committed suicide. Alcohol use is often a significant factor in deaths among teenagers.

Summary

Facing the Scope of Problems: The data on families, economic status, health, readiness, school achievement, and adolescent risk behaviors provide a troublesome picture of the condition of children in Union County. The 36.4% of children in single-parent families, 19.4% in poverty, 39.7% not graduating from school, 31.9% of high school students using alcohol and 15.2% using drugs each month, and other data profiled in this report suggest that too many children are at risk of not growing up to become self-supporting adults, good family members, and responsible community citizens.

Emphasizing the Positive: South Carolina Kids Count reports have been developed to describe the problems of children in each of the counties. Fortunately, the majority of children and youth are doing well, and some very well. One simple description is the percentage of children who do not fall into the problem categories reported. For the county, 82.6% of children are born to non-teen mothers ages 20 or older, 59.0% are born to married parents, and 63.6% lived in two-parent families; 80.6% were not poor and 50.6% lived in families with incomes above twice the poverty level for a family of three, $30,040 in 2002; 91.0% of babies were born with normal birthweights; 95.2% were assessed as ready for the first grade, 47.0% scored basic or better on PACT for 8th grade math and 55.6% for 8th grade reading, 65.5% passed all parts of the Exit Exam in the 10th grade, and 60.3% graduated with their class. In a typical month, 68.1% of high school students do not drink alcohol, 84.8% do not use drugs, and 75.4% do not smoke. Unfortunately, the absence of a problem is not always an indicator of success. Some data is available for exemplary performance: for example, 31.0% of 3rd graders and 19.0% of 8th graders scored proficient or advanced on PACT in reading and 26.7% of 3rd graders and 9.7% of 8th graders in math. Unfortunately, data on success is not generally available.

Despite the limitations of success data, we must emphasize the positive in providing good support and appropriate influences for children and youth. Recent philosophy and publications such as those of the Search Institute (700 South Third Street, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN, 55415-1138, tel. 1-800-888-7828, www.search-institute.org), emphasize the critical importance of "developmental assets" to promote and support positive development. One short book from the Search Institute, (What Kids Need to Succeed, by Peter J. Benson, Judy Gailbraith, and Pamela Espeland, 1995) presents an excellent array of suggestions for promoting developmental assets through families, community, faith congregations, and schools. If each family, school, religious congregation and community organization assertively worked to build such assets, the problems described in this report would be reduced dramatically. Such positive family-school-community efforts could improve South Carolina's national Kids Count ranking from the bottom 10 to the average or even into the top 10 by prevention of unnecessary problems affecting children and youth, as shown on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

All data presented in this report is the most recent available at the date it goes to the printer. This version of the Kids Count report will be revised as more recent and additional data become available. Please send us your corrections and suggestions for improvement. We welcome your ideas for ways to make the state and county reports more useful and accurate. Please utilize local data sources whenever possible to supplement the profile provided through our report.

Data related inquiries should be directed to:

Anne Wilson, Data Manager (awilson@drss.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-4810

Calls for **copies of reports** for other counties and inquiries regarding more recent reports should be made to:

Kim Hazel-Lohr, Project Manager (khazel@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-1295

For **policy questions and general comments**, please contact:

Dr. A. Baron Holmes, Project Director (bholmes@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
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Comparable reports for all 46 counties and for the state can also be found on the World Wide Web at

www.sckidscount.org

Our website also provides: links to other websites for indicators in our report; high to low rankings for individual indicators; information on how to improve SC's national rank; and a glossary of definitions.

The national Kids Count Report can be found on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website at

www.aecf.org

Union County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Indicators	Most Recent Year	Number					Percent					R	
		1980*	1990*	Most Recent Data	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980 Rank	199
Health													
Low Birth Weight	2001	35	38	33	-5.7%	-13.2%	7.3	8.3	9.0	23.3%	8.2%	7	
White babies	2001	19	11	20	+5.3%	+81.8%	6.6	3.9	8.3	25.8%	112.0%	30	
African American and Other babies	2001	16	27	13	-18.8%	-51.9%	8.3	15.3	10.2	22.8%	-33.3%	4	
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	2001	269	184	96	+64.3%	-47.8%	55.8	40.3	26.1	-53.2%	-35.2%	43	
White babies	2001	127	84	51	-59.8%	-39.3%	43.8	29.9	21.3	-51.4%	-28.7%	43	
African American and Other babies	2001	142	100	45	-68.3%	-55.0%	74.0	56.8	35.4	-52.1%	-37.6%	46	
Infant Mortality	2001	26	12	9	-65.4%	-25.0%	1.9	0.9	0.8	-58.0%	-16.8%	29	
White babies	2001	16	5	4	-75.0%	-20.0%	2.0	0.7	0.6	-72.1%	-18.1%	40	
African American and Other babies	2001	10	7	5	-50.0%	-28.6%	1.7	1.3	1.1	-31.4%	-10.8%	4	
Family													
Births to mothers under 18	2001	38	33	22	-42.1%	-33.3%	7.9	7.2	6.0	-23.9%	-16.9%	15	
White babies	2001	19	20	13	-31.6%	-35.0%	6.6	7.1	5.4	-17.6%	-24.1%	32	
African American and Other babies	2001	19	13	9	-52.6%	-30.8%	9.9	7.4	7.1	-28.4%	-4.1%	7	
Baths to mothers under 20	2001	110	110	64	-41.8%	-41.8%	22.8	24.1	17.4	-23.8%	-27.7%	32	
White babies	2001	58	70	34	-41.4%	+51.4%	20.0	24.9	14.2	-29.0%	-43.0%	40	
African American and Other babies	2001	52	40	30	-42.3%	+25.0%	27.1	22.7	23.6	-12.8%	3.9%	26	
Births to mothers with less than a high school education	2001	198	143	87	-56.1%	-39.2%	41.1	31.3	23.6	-42.5%	-24.6%	39	
White babies	2001	107	94	51	-52.3%	-45.7%	36.9	33.5	21.3	-42.3%	-36.3%	40	
African American and Other babies	2001	91	49	36	-60.4%	-26.5%	47.4	27.8	28.3	-40.2%	1.8%	13	
Baths to single mothers****	2001	99	169	151	+52.5%	-10.7%	20.5	37.0	41.0	99.6%	10.9%	11	
White babies	2001	13	52	65	+400.0%	+25.0%	4.5	18.5	27.1	504.5%	46.4%	7	
African American and Other babies	2001	86	117	86	+0.0%	-26.5%	44.8	66.5	67.7	51.2%	1.9%	14	
Children in single parent families	2000	1,384	1,711	2,134	+54.2%	+24.7%	17.1	26.9	36.4	113.1%	35.4%	14	
White	2000	516	624	855	+65.7%	+37.0%	9.4	15.4	23.2	147.0%	50.8%	15	
African American and Other	2000	867	1,087	1,279	+47.5%	+17.7%	30.5	47.1	58.8	92.8%	24.9%	11	
Education													
Not Ready for Grade 1	2001	193	106	19	-90.2%	-82.1%	35.9	23.7	4.8	-86.6%	-79.7%	18	
White males	2001	33	17	7	-78.8%	-58.8%	21.7	14.8	5.6	-74.2%	-62.2%	4	
White females	2001	36	22	2	-94.4%	-90.9%	25.7	15.4	2.0	-92.2%	-87.0%	38	
African American and Other males	2001	64	38	6	-90.6%	-84.2%	50.8	36.9	6.3	-87.6%	-82.9%	13	
African American and Other females	2001	60	29	4	-93.3%	-86.2%	50.0	33.7	5.6	-88.8%	-83.4%	33	
Repeating Grades 1-3	2000	173	116	95	-45.1%	-18.1%	33.0	26.4	21.4	-35.2%	-18.9%	43	
White males	2000	48	26	24	-50.0%	-7.7%	31.4	22.6	20.0	-36.3%	-11.5%	42	
White females	2000	22	29	14	-36.4%	-51.7%	15.9	22.4	11.5	-27.7%	-48.7%	40	
African American and Other males	2000	57	37	34	-40.4%	-8.1%	50.0	36.5	33.9	-32.2%	-7.1%	45	
African American and Other females	2000	46	24	23	-50.0%	-4.2%	39.3	26.5	24.4	-37.9%	-7.9%	46	
Grade 3 Math below standards****	2002	133	33	104	-21.8%	+215.2%	26.0	8.1	29.3	12.7%	261.7%	2	
White males	2002	28	6	28	+0.0%	+366.7%	17.1	5.8	25.9	51.5%	346.6%	3	
White females	2002	22	6	28	+27.3%	+366.7%	16.2	5.4	24.6	51.9%	355.6%	3	
African American and Other males	2002	45	9	29	-35.6%	+222.2%	42.1	10.3	43.9	4.3%	326.2%	3	
African American and Other females	2002	38	12	19	-50.0%	+58.3%	36.2	11.5	28.4	-21.5%	147.0%	2	
Grade 3 Reading below standards****	2002	172	20	96	-44.2%	+380.0%	33.6	4.9	27.0	-19.6%	451.0%	17	
White males	2002	41	3	25	-39.0%	+733.3%	25.0	2.9	23.1	-7.6%	696.6%	14	
White females	2002	26	3	28	+7.7%	+833.3%	19.1	2.1	24.6	28.8%	811.1%	26	
African American and Other males	2002	65	11	24	-63.1%	+118.2%	60.7	12.6	35.8	-41.0%	184.1%	32	
African American and Other females	2002	40	3	19	-52.5%	+533.3%	38.1	2.9	28.8	-24.4%	893.1%	16	
Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT Grade 4	1998	121	156	141	+16.5%	-9.6%	27.3	36.9	36.5	33.7%	-1.1%	15	
White males	1998	35	44	37	+5.7%	-15.9%	25.0	35.8	32.7	30.8%	-8.7%	23	
White females	1998	12	15	18	+50.0%	+20.0%	10.3	12.2	14.4	39.8%	18.0%	11	
African American and Other males	1998	48	57	42	-12.5%	-26.3%	54.6	60.0	61.8	13.2%	3.0%	32	
African American and Other females	1998	24	40	44	+83.3%	+10.0%	27.0	48.8	55.7	106.3%	14.1%	6	

*Year of data is approximate in many cases.
**1 is best, 46 is worst.
*** Data include paternity acknowledgements.
**** BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Union County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Education (continued)

Indicators		Number					Percent				
	Most Recent Year	1980*	1990*	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres
Grade 8 Math below state standards**	2002	212	71	202	-4.7%	+184.5%	47.1	17	53.0	12.5%	211.8%
White males	2002	44	9	41	-6.8%	+355.6%	32.1	7.6	43.2	34.6%	468.4%
White females	2002	51	15	48	-5.9%	+220.0%	40.2	11.5	35.8	-10.9%	211.3%
African American and Other males	2002	50	22	53	+6.0%	+140.9%	58.8	25.6	74.6	26.9%	191.4%
African American and Other females	2002	64	25	60	-6.3%	+140.0%	66.7	30.1	74.1	11.1%	146.2%
Grade 8 Reading below state standards**	2002	245	77	168	-31.4%	+118.2%	54.4	18.5	44.4	-18.4%	140.0%
White males	2002	61	15	36	-41.0%	+140.0%	44.8	12.8	37.9	-15.4%	196.1%
White females	2002	52	15	34	-34.6%	+126.7%	40.9	11.5	25.8	-36.9%	124.3%
African American and Other males	2002	63	28	48	-23.8%	+71.4%	74.1	32.6	67.6	-8.8%	107.4%
African American and Other females	2002	67	19	50	-25.4%	+163.2%	69.1	22.6	62.5	-9.6%	176.5%
Grade 9 Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT	1998	NA	138	114	NA	-17.4%	NA	38.4	33.1	NA	-13.8%
White males	1998	NA	32	NA	NA	NA	NA	30.2	29.0	NA	-4.0%
White females	1998	NA	32	NA	NA	NA	NA	28.3	22.3	NA	-21.2%
African American and Other males	1998	NA	38	NA	NA	NA	NA	60.3	49.3	NA	-18.2%
African American and Other females	1998	NA	36	NA	NA	NA	NA	46.7	43.3	NA	-7.3%
Exit Exam (not passing all parts on 1st attempt)	2002	177	102	98	-45.8%	-5.9%	42.6	29.7	34.5	-19.0%	16.2%
White males	2002	50	22	20	-60.0%	-9.1%	36.2	21.2	24.1	-33.4%	13.7%
White females	2002	36	12	26	-27.8%	+116.7%	27.7	12.6	28.3	2.2%	124.6%
African American and Other males	2002	46	35	25	-45.7%	-28.6%	63.0	50.0	52.1	-17.3%	4.2%
African American and Other females	2002	45	33	25	-44.4%	-24.2%	60.8	44.0	45.5	-25.2%	3.4%
Dropout Rate (8th graders no longer enrolled in 12th grade 4 years later)	2000-02	115	124	152	+31.9%	+22.8%	24.4	25.2	36.6	50.1%	45.4%
White males	2000-02	52	49	42	-19.2%	-14.3%	33.5	31.9	34.5	2.9%	8.1%
White females	2000-02	37	26	46	+26.9%	+81.7%	24.7	19.0	35.6	44.5%	87.3%
African American and Other males	2000-02	12	30	35	+207.2%	+17.8%	14.4	29.7	40.0	178.3%	34.7%
African American and Other females	2000-02	15	19	28	+86.7%	+47.4%	16.9	18.7	37.8	124.5%	102.1%
Young Adults Not Completing High School (18-24)	2000	1,438	1,011	760	-47.1%	-24.8%	39.3	34.8	20.5	-47.8%	-41.0%
White males	NA	482	325	NA	NA	NA	39.3	34.2	NA	NA	NA
White females	NA	386	268	NA	NA	NA	33.8	27.3	NA	NA	NA
African American and Other males	NA	300	242	NA	NA	NA	47.7	48.4	NA	NA	NA
African American and Other females	NA	270	176	NA	NA	NA	40.6	36.8	NA	NA	NA

Economics

Poverty Rate	2000	1,132	1,641	1,350	+19.3%	-17.7%	12.9	22.0	19.4	50.4%	-11.8%
White children	2000	391	626	534	+36.6%	-14.7%	7.1	13.7	12.8	80.3%	-6.6%
African American and Other children	2000	741	1,015	816	+10.1%	-19.6%	22.5	34.8	29.2	30.0%	-16.0%
Income of Families w/children (1999 $)	2000	$ 38,758	$ 37,408	$ 39,323	+1.5%	+5.1%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
White families	2000	$ 41,227	$ 41,731	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
African American and Other families	2000	$ 32,936	$ 28,383	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Adolescent Risk Factors

Teenage Pregnancy (ages 14-17)	2001	55	45	29	-47.3%	-35.6%	5.0	4.9	3.8	-24.0%	-22.4%
White	2001	29	26	15	-48.3%	-42.3%	4.2	4.6	3.3	-21.4%	-28.3%
African American and Other	2001	26	19	14	-46.2%	-26.3%	6.3	5.6	4.7	-25.9%	-16.1%
Delinquency	2002	80	91	108	+35.0%	+18.7%	5.0	7.1	9.2	84.6%	30.0%
White males	2002	33	36	29	-12.1%	-19.4%	6.7	9.8	8.3	23.7%	-15.5%
White females	2002	11	13	36	+227.3%	+176.9%	2.2	3.3	10.6	381.3%	220.9%
African American and Other males	2002	23	36	30	+30.4%	-16.7%	7.7	13.8	12.0	55.8%	-13.0%
African American and Other females	2002	13	6	13	+0.0%	+116.7%	4.2	2.4	5.7	34.6%	135.5%

*Closest available data to this year was used in many cases.
**BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Kids Count 2003

Williamsburg County

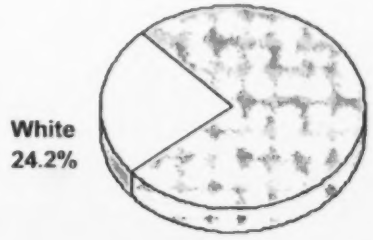
DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2000 there were an estimated 10,661 children under age 18 in the county. Of these, 2,579 were White, 7,951 were African-American, and 131 were other races. There were 11,980 children under age 18 in 1990, 13,765 in 1980, 15,095 in 1970, and 20,969 in 1960.

Children represent a shrinking portion of the county's population. Those under 18 constituted 28.6% of the population in 2000, down from 51.2% in 1960, 44.1% in 1970, and 36.0% in 1980.

In 2000 the 3,077 pre-schoolers under age 6 were 8.3% of the overall population: 6.7% of Whites and 9.0% of African Americans.

Figure 1: Population Ages 0-17 in 2000



* In all charts African-American is combined with other races, and often abbreviated as AA&O. Other races comprise 1.2% of children in the county, with "two or more races" at 0.7% and Asian Alone at 0.2% as the largest Other groups.

FAMILY

Families have always been the most important influence in a child's life. Children depend on their families for material needs, stimulation and guidance. Family life is different in numerous ways from previous generations, and many families now face exceptional challenges.

Families with children now make up a smaller share of all households. Only 34.5% of all households in 2000, as compared with 53.0% of households in 1960, had children below the age of 18.

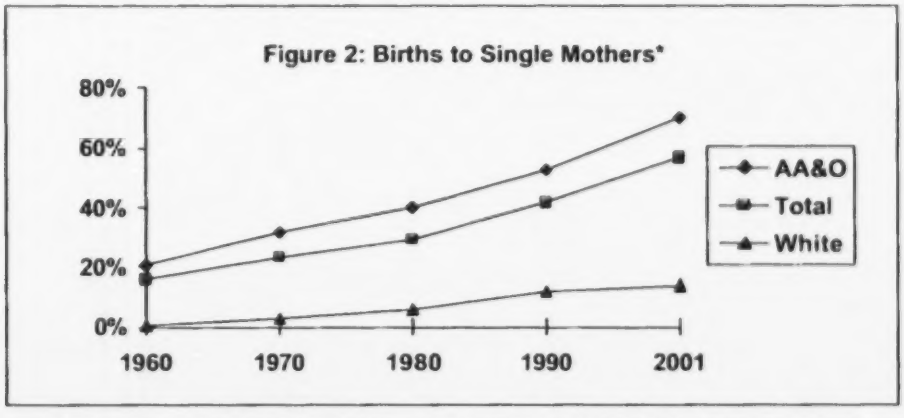
Births to Teen Mothers: In 2001, 34 babies were born to mothers younger than age 18. They were 6.3% of all babies born in the county; 3.1% of all White and 7.3% of all African-American and Other babies were born to teen mothers under the age of 18. Of the babies born to these teens in 2001, 97.1% were born to single mothers, including babies whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers.

In 2001, 92 babies were born to mothers younger than age 20. These babies were 17.0% of all born in the county; 8.5% of all White and 19.8% of all African-American and Other babies were born to mothers under the age of 20. Of the babies born to these mothers in 2001, 92.4% were born to single mothers, including paternity acknowledeged babies.

Education of Mothers Giving Birth: Children's success is strongly influenced by the education of their parents. In 2001, 111 babies, 20.6% of all babies, were born to mothers of all ages who had not completed the 12th grade. In 2001, 21.5% of White and 20.3% of African-American and Other babies were born to mothers who had completed less than the 12th grade. This is a substantial improvement from 55.0% in 1970. In addition, during 2001, 42.3% had completed 12 grades (36.2% of Whites and 44.3% of African Americans and Others) and 37.1% had more than a high school degree (42.3% of Whites and 35.5% of African American and Others).

Births to Single Mothers: Births to single mothers have increased steadily over four decades. In 2001, 269 babies, 49.8% of all babies, were recorded as born to single mothers. A decade earlier in 1990, the percentage was 39.1% and in 1960 it was 15.7%. In 2001, 7.7% of White children and 63.2% of African-American and Other children were born to single mothers. These numbers, however, do not include paternity acknowlegement births.

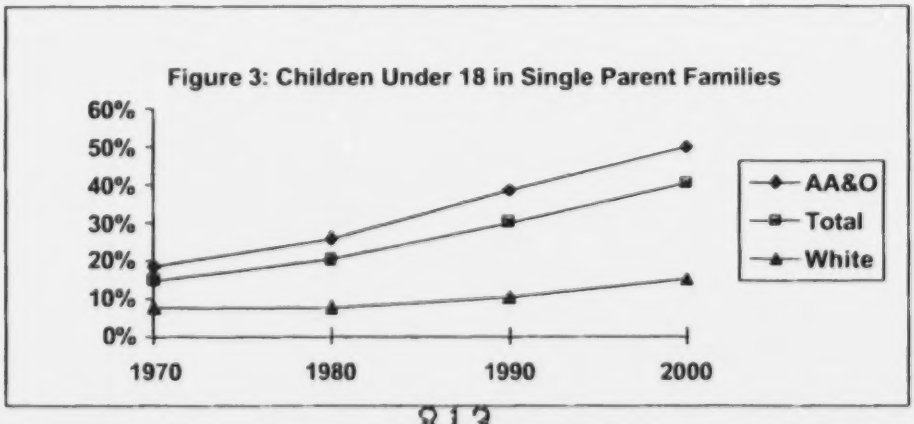
Thus, to these numbers should be added an additional group of 36 babies, 6.7% of all born in 2001, whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers. When the paternity-acknowledged babies are added, the total number born to single mothers in 2001 was 305, constituting 56.5% of all babies, 13.8% of White babies, and 70.0% of African-American and Others.



*Includes paternity acknowleged babies in 1980, 1990 and 2001. Prior to 1979, paternity acknowleged cases were not a statistical category, and thus were included in births to single mothers.

Divorce Rate: In 2001, 233 marriage licenses were issued, while 92 divorce decrees involving 63 children were filed. In 1970, only 6 children were in families involved in divorce.

Single-Parent Family: Increasing numbers of children live in single-parent families. In 2000, 3,479 children lived with only one parent. This was 40.4% of all children, up from 30.1% in 1990, 20.2% in 1980, and 14.9% in 1970. In 2000, 15.2% of White and 50.0% of African-American and Other children lived in single-parent families. Also in 2000, 785 or 38.9% of children under age 6 lived in single parent families: 13.5% of White and 51.1% of African American and Other pre-schoolers.



Parents Working and Child Care: Increasingly, parents must divide their time between children and employers. In order to meet family financial needs, most parents must work and thus have less time for family life. In 2000, 66.5% of mothers with children under 6 and 68.7% with children 6 - 17 were in the labor force. This has increased substantially from 1960 when 36.0% of mothers with children under 6 were in the labor force. Most fathers also work: 60.6% of children under 6 are in families where the single parent or both parents work. Caring for children is a problem for parents unable to obtain quality, affordable daycare while they are at work.

Overall, there are 2,092 spaces in state-regulated childcare facilities* in the county, 65.4% of these are in licensed programs and 34.6% are in registered programs. Of the spaces, 53.3% are in licensed childcare centers serving more than 12 children, 34.4% are in registered or licensed family childcare homes serving six or fewer children, 9.1% are in licensed group childcare homes serving 7-12 children, and 3.2% are in registered or licensed church programs.

The homes and centers are severely constrained by the limited ability of parents to pay. In the county, the average weekly charge is $ 55.08 for centers and $ 53.89 for homes. Consequently, center wages are low: 50% of centers with pre-school staff and 75% of centers with assistant pre-school staff report paying these staff under $6 per hour. Paying $6-$8 per hour are 37.5% of centers with pre-school staff and 25% of centers with assistants. Low wages attract workers with limited education. In 62.5% of centers, most pre-school staff and in 50% of centers most assistants have only a high school degree. In 37.5% of centers few to none of the pre-school staff have early childhood credentials. In childcare homes, 63.9% of lead providers have no more education than a high school degree or GED; 11.1% have less than a high school degree.

Family Violence: In 2000, 150 domestic assaults were recorded by law enforcement officials. These domestic assaults comprised 30.1% of all assaults, which include aggravated assaults, simple assaults, and intimidation. Overall, 43.3% of all domestic assaults involve spouse abuse which constitutes 13.0% of all assaults. Since most family violence is not reported, the true incidence of family disruption is much more widespread than even the large number of reported cases would indicate.

Separation from Parents: Some children do not live with their natural parents. In 2000, 7.7% of all children did not live with their natural parents. Approximately 678 or 6.4% of all children lived with relatives, 117 or 1.1% lived with non-relatives, 12 or 0.1% were householders or spouses, and 18 or 0.2% were in institutional facilities.

Abuse and Neglect: In 2000-01, there were 118 investigations into reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children. Through its investigations, the Department of Social Services (DSS) determined that 56 of the investigations were indicated for abuse or neglect: 8.6% for physical abuse, 0.0% for sexual abuse, 1.7% for mental injury, 41.4% for physical neglect, 0.0% for educational neglect, 0.0% for medical neglect, 48.3% for threat of harm for physical/sexual abuse, and 0.0% for other types of abuse.

In the indicated cases of abuse and neglect, DSS determined there were 122 children who were victims of abuse or neglect. Of these, 51.6% were male, 48.4% were female; 13.1% were White, 86.9% were African-American and Other. By age, 39.7% were ages 0 - 5, 43.8% were ages 6 - 12, and 16.5% were ages 13 - 17. In the indicated cases, 19.7% of the children lived in two-parent families, 61.5% in single parent families, 14.8% with unmarried couples, and 4.1% in other circumstances.

Out of Home Placements: As of June 2001, 47 children lived in foster care. The median age at first placement in the county is 5.2 years. The ages of children in foster care were 17.0% 0-2, 10.6% 3-5, 17.0% 6-10, 19.2% 11-13, and 36.2% 14 and above. The foster care population is 44.7% males and 55.3% females. Regarding their future, 19.2% were under a plan for placement in adoptive homes, 27.7% for return to a parent or guardian, 10.6% for placement with a relative, 19.2% for independent living, 23.4% for permanent foster care, and 0.0% for other circumstances.

Adult/Child Ratio: A measure of potential adult attention for children from family and community is the ratio of adults to children and youth. In 2000 there were 2.49 adults for every person below age 18. This was up substantially from 1960, when there were only 0.95 adults for every person under the age 18. This indicates that today there are more adults potentially available to provide attention and care for each child than in the past.

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* This data is the best currently available; however, an effort is being made to check the coverage and improve the accuracy. As soon as more recent and complete data becomes available, it will be posted on the website.

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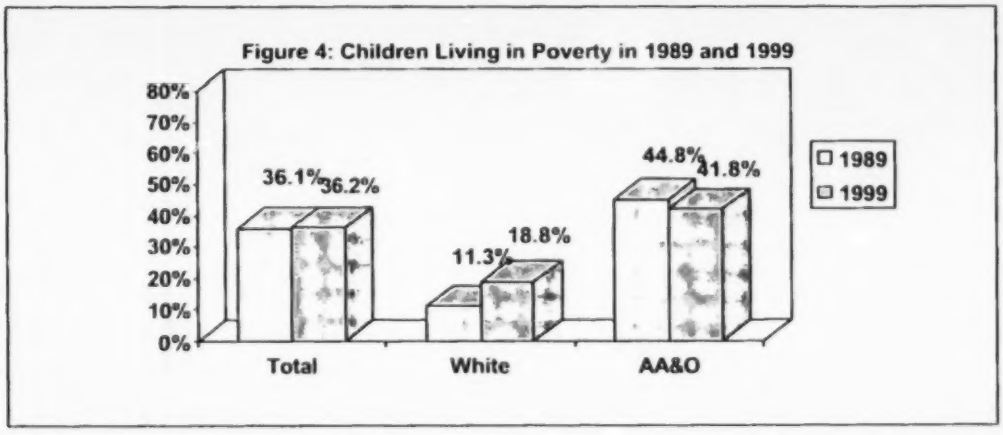
ECONOMIC STATUS

Low income makes it difficult for many families to provide the material and environmental enrichment necessary for healthy child development.

Poverty: In 1999, 3,844 children and youth under the age of 18 lived in 1,830 families with incomes below poverty, comprising 36.2% of all children and youth: 18.8% of Whites and 41.8% of African-Americans and Others. A rough estimate of child poverty in 2001 calculated by the Census Bureau was 23.0%.



Poverty has always been a serious problem. While the rate among children under age 18 in 1989 was 36.1%, it was 33.9% in 1979 and 56.4% in 1969.

Children and the elderly are the age groups most seriously affected by poverty. In 1999, 36.7% of children 0 - 5 (28.0% White, 39.6% African-American and Other), and 36.0% of children 6 - 17 (14.2% White, 42.7% African-American and Other), lived in poverty; 25.9% of persons 65 years and older lived in poverty. Historically, the poverty rate among the elderly was much higher. During the last three decades, federal policy actions have substantially improved the economic status of older persons but have not done so for children.

Single-parent families are most likely to be poor. In 1999, 58.1% of children in single-parent families lived in poverty, but only 20.3% of children in married-couple families were poor. Children in single-parent families made up 84.8% of all the county's children living in poverty.

In 2002, the poverty level was $15,020 for a family of three and $18,100 for a family of four. The poverty threshold is often criticized as an arbitrary number. People can still be poor but may be just above the poverty level. Federal programs utilize varying thresholds. For example, in 1999 there were 6,703 children ages 0-17 who were less than 200 percent of poverty; thus an additional 2,859 children were above the poverty level but could still be considered poor or near-poor with incomes below $30,040 and $36,200 respectively for 3 and 4 person families.

Children Under 18 in Poverty in 1999

Percent of Poverty	Total		White		African American & Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 50%	1,767	16.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 100%	3,844	36.2%	483	18.8%	3,361	41.8%
Under 125%	4,747	44.7%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 150%	5,454	51.4%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 175%	6,221	58.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 185%	6,454	60.8%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 200%	6,703	63.2%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total Children	10,661		2,579		8,082	

Note: Missing data will be released by the Census Bureau later in 2003, and will be posted on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

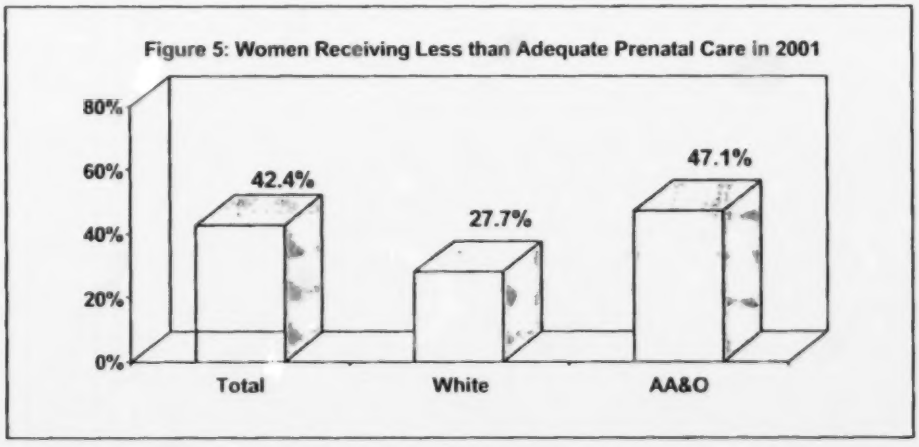
Income: The mean income of families with children in 1999 was $35,923. In 1989 it was $34,790, and 1979, it was $33,197, adjusted for inflation (i.e., in 1999 dollars). The mean income of single-parent families with children was $17,221 for single parents in 1999, as compared with $47,286 in married-couple families with children. From 1999 to 2000, Williamsburg County real dollar per capita income (eliminating inflation) increased by 5.0%.

Child Support Payments: There were 506[7] families receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families in fiscal year 2002, but only 26.5 % had child support court orders. Their average monthly payment of child support was $ 245, including child support receipts and tax refund intercepts. In addition, during fiscal year 2002, an estimated 978 parents in non-TANF families were obligated to pay a monthly average of $ 186. Information is not available regarding the amount actually paid.

HEALTH

Good health during a child's formative years helps children to reach their maximum potential. Good health requires healthy lifestyles and effective primary care, starting during the prenatal period and continuing through adolescence into adulthood. Children's health reflects the well-being of the community, as well as how adequately they are protected.

Prenatal Care: Early and continuous prenatal care can make a significant difference in assuring births of healthy babies. Delayed or insufficient prenatal care is associated with low birthweight and other health risks for infants. In 2001, 209, or 38.7% of pregnant women received no prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy. In 2001, 229, or 42.4% of pregnant women received less than adequate prenatal care: 36 or 27.7% of Whites and 193 or 47.1% of African-Americans and Others. In that same year, 9 women received no prenatal care at all.



Low Birthweight: Low birthweight of less than 5.5 pounds and very low birthweight of less than 3.3 pounds are associated with health risks and growth and development problems. In 2001, 87 or 16.1% of all babies in the county were born with low birthweight: 18.5% of African-American and Other babies and 8.5% of White babies. During 1999-2001, approximately 61 or 3.7% of all babies were born with very low birthweight and had the most serious complications: 2.2% of White babies and 4.3% of African-American and Other babies. The cost of hospitalization for each newborn low birthweight baby in the county in 1999 - 2001 was $10,408 and $97,068 for each very low birthweight baby, compared with $1,952 for a baby of normal birthweight. The result was excess cost in the county of $1,774,798 for all low birthweight babies, of which $1,490,144 was for very low birthweight babies.

Infant Mortality: During the decade since 1989-91, the overall infant mortality rate increased by 29.2% from 13.7 to 17.7 per 1000 live births. For Whites, the rate decreased 38.9% from 7.8 to 4.8 per 1000 live births, while for African-Americans and Others the rate increased 40.4% from 15.8 to 22.2 per 1000 live births. Over the three-year period 1999-2001, 2 White and 27 African-American and Other infants died before age one. By comparison, 4 White and 23 African-American and Other infants died during 1989-91.

[7] Number is an unduplicated count for the entire fiscal year.

Child Injuries and Deaths: Childhood deaths and injuries reflect whether communities are safe for children. In 2001, children in the Williamsburg County went to the emergency room 1,260 times because of injuries. Boys are injured more often than girls. Children visit the emergency room at comparable rates for each age from 0 to 17.

In South Carolina, the major causes of death among young children are unintentional injuries, cancer, homicide, and congenital anomalies. Over the three year period 1999-2001, 3 White and 7 African-American and Other children ages 1-14 died in the county. During 1989-91, 2 White and 12 African-American and Other children died.

Immunization: Immunization rates are an important indication of whether young children are receiving adequate preventive health care. During FY 1989-90, 59.1% of children less than two years old seen in public health clinics were not fully immunized against such preventable diseases as Polio, Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Haemophilus Influenza B and Whooping Cough. After a concerted statewide campaign to increase immunizations, the percentage of children seen in public health clinics who were not fully immunized in January 2001 had declined in the county to 18.2%. The DHEC statewide birth registry survey of all two year old children found that 88.1% were fully immunized in 2001. This success demonstrates the potential to improve the status of children when the leadership of the state and its communities act decisively together.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Children and youth are infected with sexually transmitted diseases through sexual abuse or irresponsible sexual activity. National prevalence rates indicate: a 1 in 8 chance that sexually active 15 year-old girls will develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), the most rapidly increasing cause of infertility; 10% of sexually active adolescent girls and boys are infected with chlamydia, the most common cause of PID; and as many as 15% of teen girls are infected with human papilloma virus, often with strains linked to cervical cancer. Furthermore, research evidence indicates that susceptibility to HIV/AIDS increases by 3 to 8 times through prior infection with various STDs.

According to national studies, approximately 1 in 4 sexually experienced youth aged 13-19 acquires a STD ever year; since two-thirds of all high school students have had sexual intercourse and half engage in intercourse over a three month period, this would suggest that 10-15% of teens are infected with STDs annually. For 2000, this would indicate that an estimated 434 to 651 youth ages 13-19 in the county were infected with a STD. Many infections are either not identified for treatment or not reported. In the county, there were 4 reported cases of children under age 15 and 75 youth ages 15 - 19 infected with gonorrhea; 7 youth under 15 and 112 ages 15 - 19 were reported infected with chlamydia. Youth with undiagnosed and untreated STDs often spread their infections.

Healthy Lifestyles: Although no county data is available, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2001 found that many high school students are not following good health habits. The YRBS revealed that 26% felt that they were overweight; 42% were trying to lose weight: 27% of boys and 57% of girls. Although during a week 79% of high school students ate fruit, 59% ate salad, and over 83% ate vegetables, only 17% ate the recommended five or more servings of fruit and vegetables per day. During a week, 49% did stretching or muscle strengthening exercises, and 59% exercised three or more times for 20 minutes in sports that made them sweat or breathe hard. However, 11% of students engaged in no vigorous or moderate activity at all during a week: 8% of boys and 13% of girls.

Tobacco Use:* Cigarette smoking starts at a young age and often becomes habitual. In the state during 2002 among all students 15 and older, 16.7% first smoked by age 11, 36.3% by age 13, and 51.4% by age 15. In a typical month, 17.1% of 7th and 8th graders and 25.3% of high school students smoked cigarettes. White youths were much more likely than African-Americans to smoke: 26.4% of White male and 27.2% of White female 7th to 12th graders used cigarettes, as compared with 18.9% of African-American males and 12.2% of African American females. A smaller but significant group of high school students (5.4%) used smokeless tobacco monthly; it was used primarily by White males (15.9% compared with 1.1% of all other race and sex groups).

* Schools in the county elected not to participate in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking. Therefore, data for all of South Carolina is presented here.

Disabilities: No data are collected on the true prevalence of disabilities within the county. According to national reported estimates, over 10% of children and youth have developmental disabilities at any point in time, and more than 17 are affected at some time before age 18 by deafness, blindness, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, speech defects, development delays, learning disabilities, and emotional or behavioral problems. For 2000 this suggests that at least 1,066 children ar youth under age 18 in the county are currently affected by disabilities.

Approximately 5% of children and youth nationally have serious disabilities which have lifelong implications f work, social life and community living. Typically among children and youth, there are 1 - 2% who are mentally retarded, - 3% with serious emotional disturbances, over 1% with orthopedic or multiple disabilities, including cerebral palsy an many hereditary conditions, and under 1% with visual or hearing impairments.

Other chronic health problems also affect the lives of many children. Over 3% of children have one or more these limitations. Such serious chronic conditions affect 1 - 2% who have respiratory problems (asthma and chron bronchitis), 0.5 - 1.0% with neurological problems (epilepsy and seizures), and less than 1% with circulatory proble (congenital heart defects and acquired diseases).

Other disabilities are identified primarily in school performance. These would include 467 students in grades 1- with learning disabilities and 165 students in grades 1-12 with speech/language deficits.

Disabilities are caused by genetics, disease, poor prenatal conditions, injuries, and environmental factors. For example, lead exposure, primarily from paint dust, was detected in over 1% of all children screened, including 16 in Williamsburg County.

Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: While over 20% of 9-17 year olds meet diagnostic criteria for some form of mental disorder, the number with serious emotional disturbance and impaired functioning in family, school, or community activities is: 9-13% for substantial functional impairment and 5-9% for extreme functional impairment. The rates among poor children are at the higher end of these ranges. Based on a federal formula for estimating prevalence, in the county there are 12% or 701 seriously emotionally disturbed 9-17 year olds with substantial functional impairment and 8% or 467 with extreme functional impairment during the course of a year. Conduct disorders, attention deficit, depression, and anxiety disorders are the most prevalent, each affecting 3% or more of school-aged children. These disorders may occur simultaneously in a child. The prevalence rates are highest among males, adolescents, and disadvantaged persons in communities under stress and lacking social cohesion; depression, however, is more prevalent among females. On the YRBS, 20% of boys and 33% of girls in high school reported that during the past year they felt so sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that they stopped doing some usual activities. Another indicator of emotional problems is the 8% of high school students in South Carolina who reported that they had "attempted suicide" in the past year: 5% of boys and 10% of girls. Suicide attempts resulted in 4% of high school students reporting that they required treatment by a doctor or nurse for injury, poisoning, or overdose.

Inadequate Healthcare: No county level data is routinely collected regarding the number of children and youth with inadequate healthcare. According to estimates for 2000-02 by the Bureau of the Census through the annual Current Population Survey, the statewide average rate of uninsured children and youth under age 18 in families with incomes under 200% of poverty in South Carolina was 16.6%, and 9.9% above 200% of poverty. If these rates are applied to the county, there are 1,114 children in the county below 200% of poverty with no health insurance, and 393 children above 200% of poverty with no health insurance, for a total of 1,507 uninsured children in Williamsburg County. The number lacking basic accessible primary care is at least double the number lacking insurance. Those lacking primary care are often dependent on health services at school. The ratio of students to nurses recommended nationally is 750:1. In the county, this would suggest the need for 8 nurses, compared with 0 currently working in the schools.

Medicaid: For several years, the State of South Carolina has emphasized enrolling eligible children into Medicaid. In late 1997, South Carolina implemented its version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, Partners for Healthy Children (PHC), and aggressively pursued outreach enrollment for PHC and Medicaid. As a result, enrollment of children ages 0 through 18 in Williamsburg County has increased by 77.8% from June 1997 to June 2001; thus Medicaid and PHC were serving 63.2% of all children in that age range. The total Medicaid expenditures in South Carolina for services provided to children ages 0 through 18 for state fiscal year 2002 were $991 million, at an average statewide expenditure of $2,343 per child enrolled, approximate Medicaid expenditure for children in the county would be $15.8 million.

In June 2001, the total number of Williamsburg County children, birth through 18, enrolled in Medicaid was 6,736. The total can be broken down into the following age and race groupings:

	White	African American	Hispanic	Other	Total
Children under 1	61	345	2	7	415
Children 1 - 5	217	1,536	12	58	1,823
Children 6 - 14	319	2,808	11	106	3,244
Children 15 - 18	124	1,107	5	18	1,254
Total	721	5,796	30	189	6,736

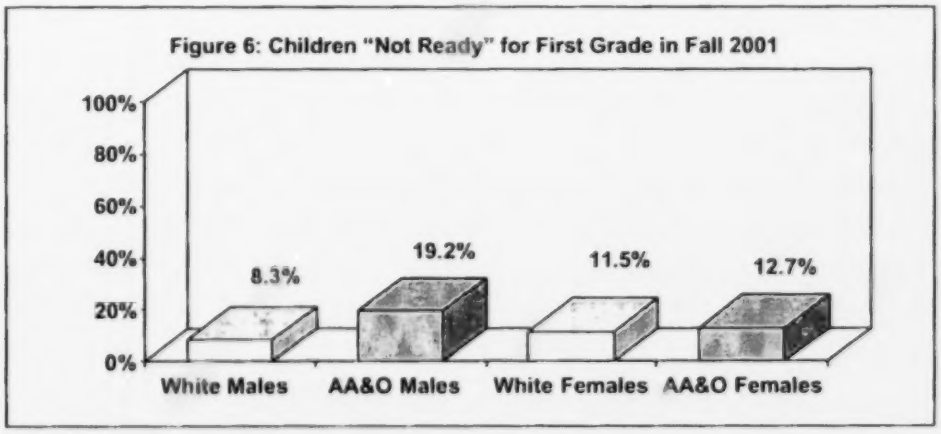
Ambulatory Care: When children lack adequate primary care, whether through lack of insurance, through limite access, or through failing to utilize available care, preventable and treatable conditions become serious and requi hospitalization. A useful indicator of inadequate primary care is the percentage of all hospitalizations that could typicall have been avoided through ambulatory care, especially for pneumonia, asthma, diarrhea and vomiting, dehydration, ar severe ear, nose, and throat infections. The share of hospitalizations for these types of conditions could normally be ke below 20%; for children in the county under the age of 18 during 2001, the share was 34.7% for Whites and 24.3% f African-Americans and Others.

READINESS AND EARLY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Too many children reach school without the readiness skills needed for success in learning, such as language, soci skills, visual and auditory discrimination, memory recall, and knowledge of colors, letters, numbers, names of objects, et Likewise, some schools are not ready to respond appropriately to the varying developmental levels of children in the ear grades. As a result, too many students do not experience the success needed to create the motivation and engagement th sustain learning.

1st Grade "Readiness" on 2001-02 Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB):

84 children not ready 15.8% children not ready

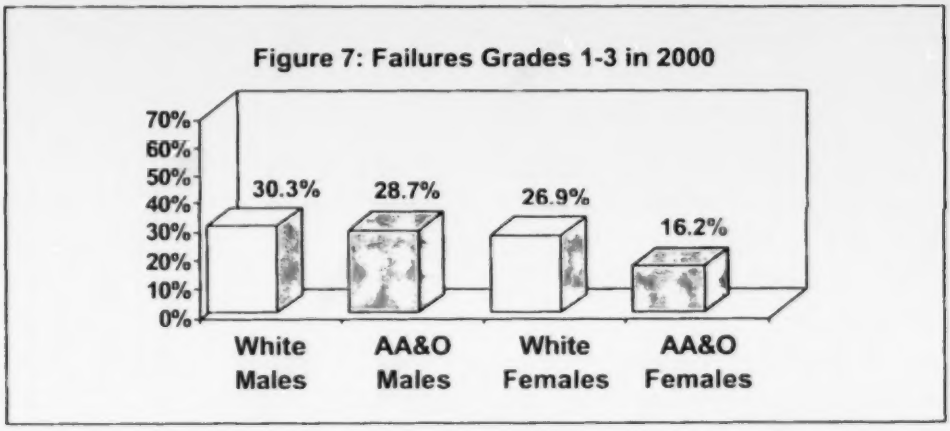


1st Grade Failures in 2002:

97 children failing 18.1% children failing

Failures Grades 1-3 in 2002 (approximate cumulative percentage of grades one, two and three):

137 children failing 26.4% children failing



Over-age for Grade 3 in 2001

129 children over-age 30.7% children over-age

Special Education: Large numbers of children are placed in special education classes. In elementary school, 140 six and seven year olds and 152 eight and nine year-olds were enrolled in special education classes during 2001-02, approximately 15.2% and 16.0% of their age groups respectively: 17.1% of White 8 – 9 year olds were in special education and 15.9% of African American and Others.

Readiness Summary: A serious problem exists in terms of student readiness and school success in the early grades. With 15.8% assessed not ready for the 1st grade, 30.7% over age in grade 3, and 16.0% of eight and nine year-olds placed in special education, unacceptably large numbers of students still begin school without good prospects of success in future school achievement and graduation; however, great improvement has occurred since the mid 1990s.

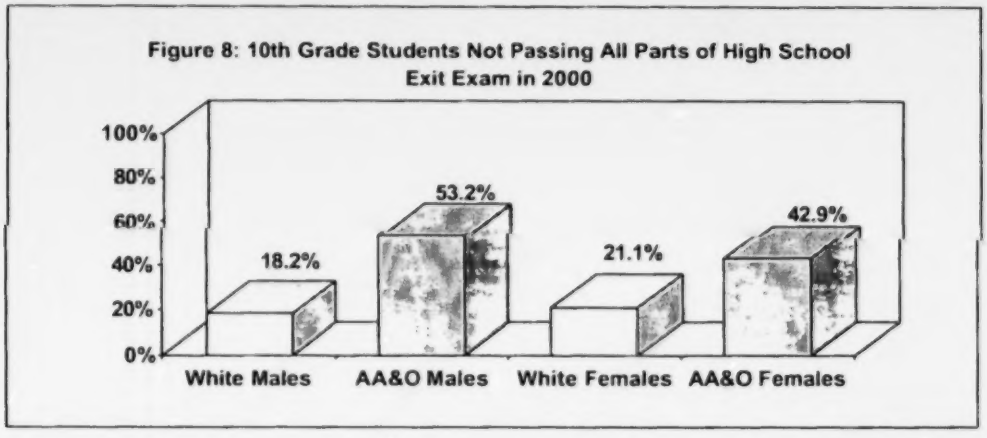
SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

By the end of elementary school, significant numbers of students perform below minimum standards. The following standardized test measures, comparing student performance to state minimum standards, should be used in combination with routine classroom assessments more reflective of real-world performance skills.

Special Education: Special education placements reflect both the significant number of children with serious handicapping conditions and a large number of students with mild learning and behavioral problems that have not been accommodated successfully by the regular educational program. The result is a large system of self-contained, resource, and itinerant services to meet the needs of 165 speech and language impaired, 467 learning disabled, 15 emotionally disabled, 544 mentally impaired, and 27 physically handicapped, deaf, blind, and other handicapped students. Special education classes served approximately 19.9% of all students in grades 1 - 12 during 2001-2002.

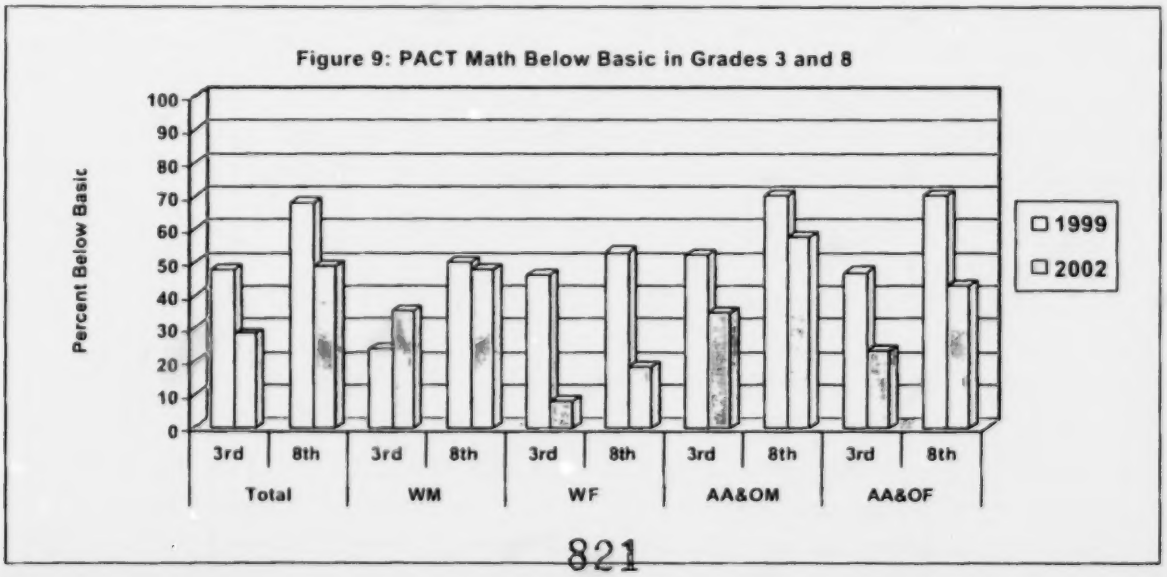
Exit Exam - not passing all parts of Exit Exam on first attempt in the 10th grade in 2002

147 students did not pass all parts	44.7% of students did not pass all parts



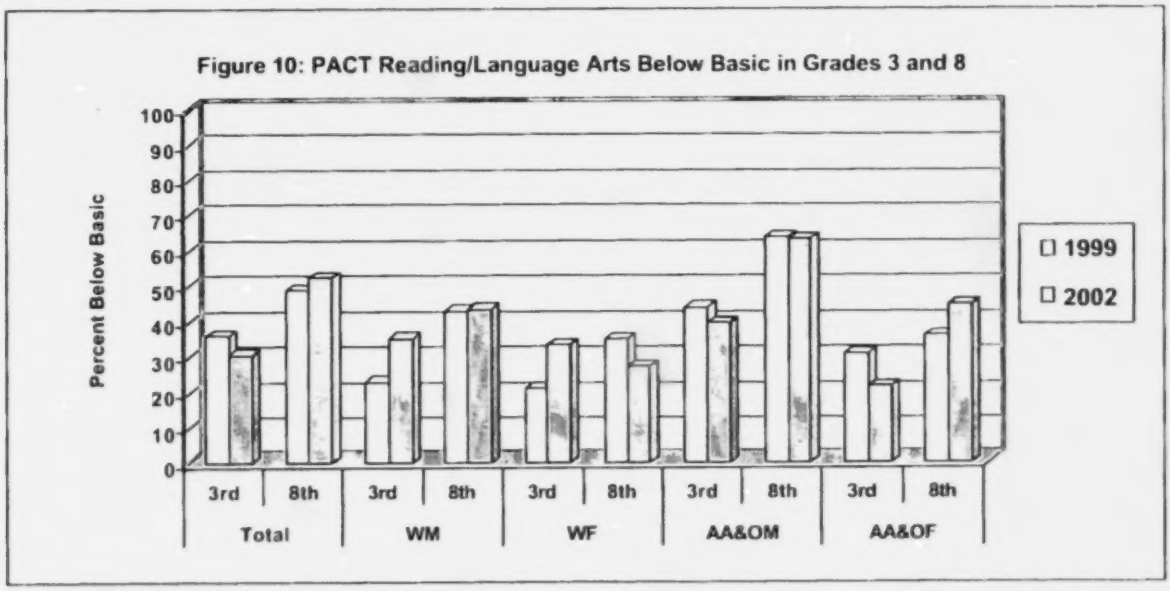
Achievement Trends: How has performance on standardized achievement tests changed over the past 20 years? During the 1980s, student performance on the BSAP tests improved dramatically. Between 1981 and 1990, the percentage of 8th grade students in Williamsburg County who did not meet standards declined from 86.1% to 29.8% in math and from 75% to 24.8% in reading. During the 1990's the BSAP trend changed, with 47.1% not meeting 8th grade math standards in 1998 and 44.9% in reading. On standardized tests, the first year when South Carolina students take the exam is comparable to the challenge encountered by the national norm group which took the test only once. Looking at first year data, the percentage of 4th grade students at or below the 25th percentile of national norms was 38.7% in 1983 on the CTBS, 41.8% in 1990 on the Stanford, and 33.3% in 1995 on the Metropolitan; for 9th graders, the percentage in the bottom quarter was 41.6% in 1990 and 49.5% in 1995. Although not comparable, the percent below basic on the 4th grade PACT in 1999, the first year of administration, was 55.8%, but in 2002 38.9% of 4th graders were below basic in reading and math; the percentage of 8th graders below basic in reading and math averaged 58.5% in 1999 and 50.8% in 2002.

PACT: The Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) was first administered in 1999 for grades 3 - 8 in math and reading/language arts. Math assesses skills in numbers, numerical and algebraic concepts, patterns and functions, geometry, measurement, probability and statistics. The percentage of students scoring below basic in math has decreased by 25.5% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 932 students below basic in grades 3-8 but there would have been an additional 319 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
		Math (%)				
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	28.5	35.3	8.3	34.9	23.2
	4	43.2	61.1	57.1	44.6	39.3
	5	49.5	40.9	31.6	56.1	44.7
	6	44.7	42.1	43.5	48.5	41.7
	7	60.6	57.1	41.2	63.9	58.6
	8	49.2	47.8	18.2	57.5	43.1
Basic	3	36.6	23.5	33.3	34.9	39.4
	4	43.6	22.2	28.6	40.4	49.8
	5	39.5	59.1	42.1	35.3	41.7
	6	44.3	36.8	34.8	43.9	46.1
	7	26.7	28.6	35.3	24.2	28.9
	8	42.2	43.5	54.5	34.4	48.7
Proficient	3	24.5	29.4	33.3	22.2	25.6
	4	10.3	11.1	14.3	12.7	7.6
	5	8.2	0.0	21.1	6.3	10.1
	6	8.7	5.3	21.7	6.1	10.2
	7	8.2	4.8	17.6	7.4	8.8
	8	6.5	8.7	18.2	5.9	6.2
Advanced	3	10.5	11.8	25.0	7.9	11.8
	4	2.9	5.6	0.0	2.3	3.3
	5	2.8	0.0	5.3	2.3	3.5
	6	2.2	15.8	0.0	1.5	1.9
	7	4.4	9.5	5.9	4.5	3.8
	8	2.2	0.0	9.1	2.2	2.1

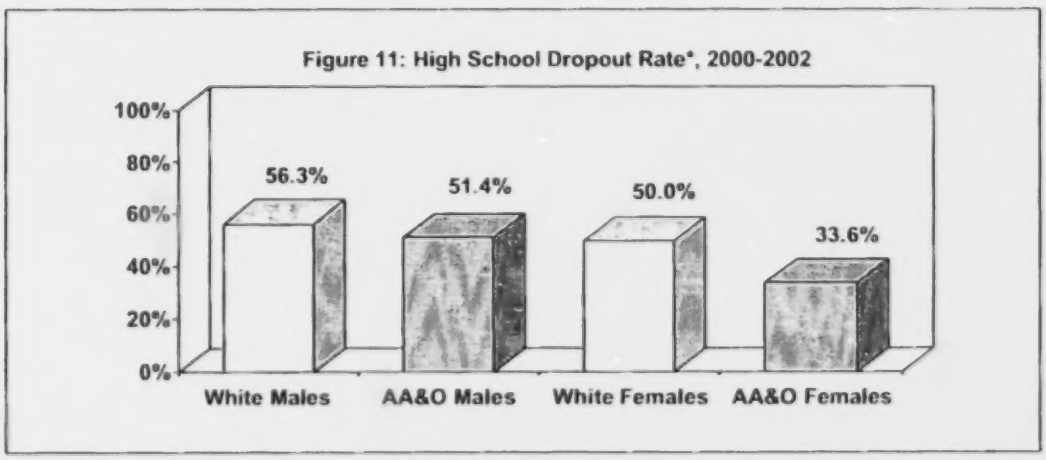
Reading/Language Arts assesses reading, listening, speaking, writing, research, and communication with technology. The first PACT assessment found a high percentage of elementary and middle grades students performing below standards and only a modest number above basic. The percentage of students scoring below basic in reading/language arts has decreased by 19.4% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 793 students below basic in grades 3 - 8 but there would have been an additional 191 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
		Reading/Language Arts (%)				
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	30.6	35.3	33.3	39.7	21.7
	4	34.6	58.8	35.7	46.3	20.9
	5	45.2	36.4	36.8	56.1	34.8
	6	44.5	36.8	34.8	54.0	37.4
	7	45.8	47.4	35.3	53.4	37.8
	8	52.4	43.5	27.3	63.2	44.6
Basic	3	40.1	58.8	33.3	33.3	45.3
	4	52.0	29.4	42.9	43.5	63.0
	5	45.2	54.5	36.8	38.0	53.0
	6	38.7	47.4	26.1	32.8	44.7
	7	45.2	42.1	23.5	39.9	52.9
	8	38.6	43.5	45.5	32.4	43.6
Proficient	3	27.3	5.9	33.3	25.4	30.5
	4	13.4	11.8	21.4	10.3	16.1
	5	9.3	9.1	26.3	5.9	11.6
	6	16.1	15.8	39.1	13.1	16.5
	7	9.0	10.5	41.2	6.7	9.2
	8	8.2	8.7	27.3	4.3	10.8
Advanced	3	1.9	0.0	0.0	1.6	2.5
	4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	5	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5
	6	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.5
	7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	8	0.7	4.3	0.0	0.0	1.0

Dropout Rate - 8th grade students no longer enrolled in grade 12
(average of students for the three years ending 2000-2002)

233 students drop out annually **43.6% students drop out***



Dropouts: Distressing numbers of students drop out and fail to graduate. An average of 33.9% of 8th graders failed to graduate** from county schools five years later during the period 1980-84, 35.6% during 1985-89, and 36.1% during 1990-94, 43.6% during 1995-97 and 41.7% during 1998-2000***.

During 2001-02, 97.6% of all who did graduate received the State High School Diploma, while the remaining 2.4% received a State Certificate for meeting the required Carnegie units but not passing the Exit Exam.

* 12th grade enrollment compared to 8th grade enrollment four years earlier
** This is calculated by using 8th grade enrollment to graduation data.
*** 2001 data will be available soon and will be posted on the website.

Fortunately, many dropouts enroll in adult education programs and either earn a high school diploma or obtain a GED. During 2001-02, 81 Adult Education high school diplomas were awarded to school completers and in 2001 42 GEDs were awarded in the county. Over time, adult education high school diplomas and GEDs increase the effective school completion rate substantially. In the 2000 Census, 20.9% of county resident 25 - 34 year-olds said they had not completed either high school or a GED.

Achievement Summary: The numbers of students testing below basic on the PACT and dropping out range from 28.5% to 60.6%. Thus, far too many students fail to acquire the knowledge, skills, learning habits, and motivation necessary to compete in the economy or contribute to society in the 21st Century.

ADOLESCENT RISK BEHAVIORS

Academic achievement is greatly influenced by the prevailing youth culture which often promotes popularity with peers and partying rather than studying and doing well in school. The prevalence of adolescent risk-taking and under-achievement is illustrated by the poor grades of substance-abusing teens.

Substance Abuser Rates at Levels of Academic Performance

	Usual School Grades in Past Year					Total
	A Range	B Range	C Range	D Range	F Range	
Smoked Cigarettes (in past 30 days)	13.3%	22.4%	31.7%	42.8%	63.6%	25.3%
Drank 5 or More Drinks on One Occasion (in past 30 days)	12.4%	17.3%	22.6%	26.8%	43.5%	18.9%
Used Any Illicit Drug (in past 30 days)	11.5%	17.1%	25.1%	34.1%	53.0%	20.0%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

As influence from parents and other adults declines during adolescence, significant numbers of students engage in violence, crime, school offenses, depressive emotions and attempted suicide:

Risk Behaviors Participated in During Past 12 Months	White Male		White Female		African American Male		African American Female		Total		Total (Grade 7-12)
	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	
Carried a handgun or knife for self-defense?	22.5%	26.1%	5.3%	6.3%	14.6%	20.2%	5.0%	7.6%	12.2%	14.9%	13.7%
Carried a handgun or knife as a weapon?	6.8%	9.4%	1.3%	1.6%	9.0%	13.9%	3.0%	5.0%	4.8%	6.9%	5.9%
Been in a fight with someone?	40.1%	31.3%	18.5%	16.2%	41.4%	31.9%	29.4%	22.4%	31.7%	24.9%	28.0%
Hit your boyfriend or girlfriend?	2.0%	1.6%	6.9%	10.0%	5.7%	4.9%	17.7%	24.2%	7.4%	9.7%	8.7%
Been hit by your boyfriend or girlfriend?	7.1%	6.1%	6.1%	8.5%	11.5%	9.7%	9.5%	10.6%	8.1%	8.5%	8.3%
Rec'd detention or in-school suspension?	38.1%	37.3%	22.4%	25.0%	41.6%	37.6%	34.3%	30.7%	33.3%	32.1%	32.7%
Been suspended from school?	12.9%	13.9%	5.2%	7.2%	24.0%	22.6%	14.8%	15.4%	13.1%	13.8%	13.5%
Stolen anything worth > $5?	12.9%	17.6%	6.9%	10.7%	14.2%	15.6%	8.5%	8.4%	10.4%	13.1%	11.9%
Had an accident while driving?	NA	14.3%	NA	12.6%	NA	7.7%	NA	6.3%	NA	11.0%	NA
Been arrested and booked?	3.9%	6.1%	1.5%	2.7%	5.7%	8.1%	2.2%	2.9%	3.2%	4.7%	4.0%
Felt hopeless for two weeks or more?	14.8%	15.9%	21.8%	29.0%	14.0%	13.3%	22.0%	24.8%	18.2%	21.4%	19.9%
Seriously considered attempting suicide?	6.9%	8.4%	9.6%	14.3%	5.5%	5.4%	6.8%	8.7%	7.4%	9.7%	8.7%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

Adolescence is often a time of taking risks and asserting independence from adults. When asked whether they would tell an adult about a problem, the following percentages of state students said they would be "not likely" or "very unlikely" to tell if they:

-heard a student threaten to harm someone: 33.2% middle school, 47.0% high school;
-saw a student with a handgun at school: 22.7% middle school, 20.5% high school;
-saw a student with a knife at school: 24.7% middle school, 31.6% high school;
-saw a student with drugs at school: 33.7% middle school, 61.9% high school;

Alcohol Use:* In the state during 2001-02, 21.0% of 7th and 8th graders and 37.1% of high schoolers said they had used alcohol in the past month. Of White males in grades 7 - 12, 33.8% had used it in the past month, compared with 26.0% of African-American males; likewise, 34.5% of White females said they had used alcohol, compared with 26.4% of African-American females. Many youth first used alcohol at an early age: 14.2% had used alcohol by age 11 or younger, 33.0% by age 13, and 61.1% by age 15.

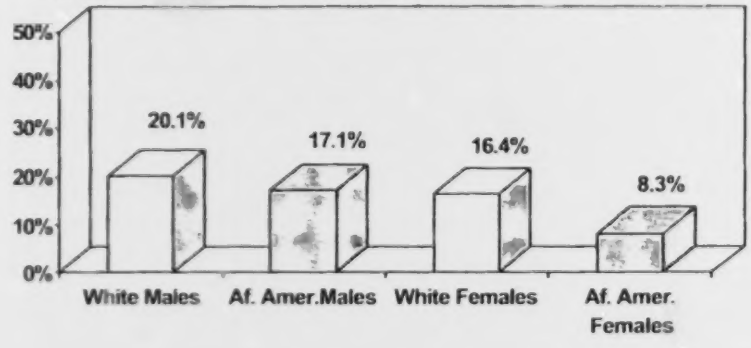
During the previous year, 21.0% of 7th and 8th graders and 30.4% of high schoolers said they had ridden with a drinking driver. Of seniors who drive, 19.4% said they had driven after drinking. Widespread use is encouraged by the ready availability and perceived low risk of alcohol use. Among students who expressed an opinion, 43.6% of eighth graders and 75.4% of seniors felt that beer was easy to get. Also, 71.6% of eighth graders and 70.7% of seniors felt there was not a great risk in drinking two drinks a day, and 47.3% of eighth graders and 53.1% of high schoolers felt there was not a great risk in drinking 5 drinks every weekend.

Heavy Drinking:* In 2001-02, 7.7% of 7th and 8th graders and 18.9% of high school students in the state repor drinking 5 or more drinks in a day during the past month. When asked how many drinks, if any, they usually consur 13.7% of all state students in grades 7 - 12 in 2001-02 responded 3 or more drinks at a time and 7.1% reported usually 5 more drinks. Among high school students, 18.6% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 10.0% 5 or mc Among seniors, 24.7% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 13.7% 5 or more; however 22.9% of seni said that they drank 5 or more drinks in a day once or more during the past month.

Drugs:* In 2001-02, 9.5% of 7th and 8th graders and 20.1% of high schoolers in the state reported using ille drugs during the previous month. Among students in grades 7 - 12, use was reported by 20.1% of White males, 16.4% Wl females, 17.1% of African-American males, and 8.3% of African-American females. Some young people initiated drug at an early age: 5.3% had experienced their first use by age 11 or sooner; 16.3% had used a drug by age 13, and 34.7% by 15.

In the past year, 10.3% of all high school students in the state who drive and 15.4% of seniors who drive said that they had driven after using drugs. Such use is encouraged by the ready availability of drugs: 22.3% of 8th graders who had an opinion said it is easy to get marijuana and 8.4% said it is easy to get cocaine or crack; 65.0% of seniors said it is easy to get marijuana and 29.5% said it was easy to get cocaine or crack.

Figure 12: Drug Use among Students Grades 7-12 during 2001-02*



* Schools in the county elected not to participate in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking. Therefore, data for all of South Carolina is presented here. The latest Williamsburg County data, for 1992-93, is available on the Kids Count website at www.sckidscount.org.

Sexual Activity and Pregnancy: Many teenagers now engage in sexual activity. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) administered to a representative sample of high school students throughout South Carolina in 2001 showed that sexual activity begins at an early age: 7% of female and 21% of male students have engaged in intercourse before age 13; by age 15, 38% the females and 49% of males have engaged in sexual intercourse. Statewide, 48% of females and 50% of males in the 11th and 12th grades reported engaging in intercourse during the past three months. Furthermore, 27% of female and 33% of male 12th graders have had intercourse with four or more partners during their lifetimes.

Premature sexual activity often results in pregnancy. In the county, 38 girls between the ages of 14 and 17 became pregnant in 1999, 37 in 2000 and 40 in 2001. This represented 3.3% of all girls ages 14 – 17 in 2001; several times this percentage become pregnant at least once by age 18. The 2001 pregnancy rate for ages 14 - 17 was 1.4% for Whites and 3.9% for African-Americans and Others. Of all pregnancies of 14-17 year olds, 85.0% resulted in live births, with almost all other pregnancies ending in abortions.

Teen pregnancy rates increased substantially across the state during the 1980s; as a result, greater emphasis v devoted to preventing teen pregnancy. Since 1989, the teen pregnancy rate in Williamsburg County has decreased by 37.4 Overall, it has decreased by 64.1% for Whites, and decreased by 31.6% for African Americans and Others.

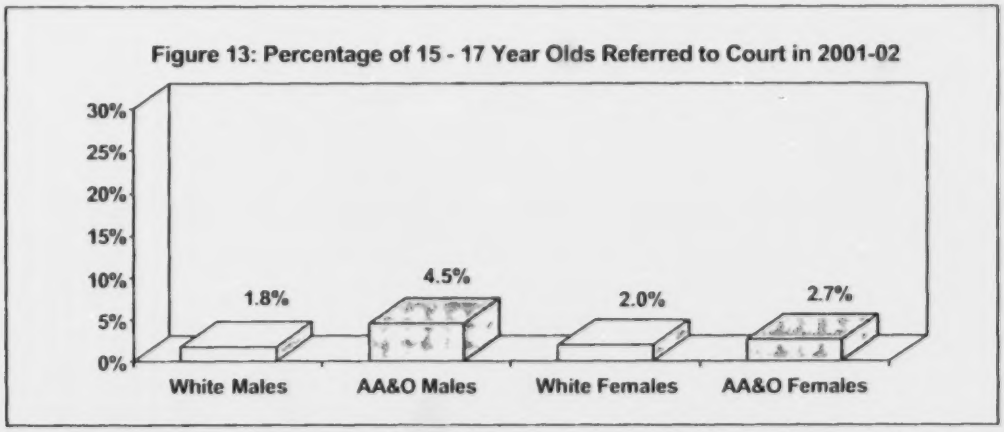
Juvenile Delinquency: In 2001-02, 103 individual juvenile offenders in the county were referred to the Solicitor for delinquency; of these, 7.8% were age 12 or younger, 34.0% were 13 or 14, and 58.3% were 15 or older.

Of the referrals to the family court, 11.3% of all referrals were for violent and serious crimes which include drug trafficking, acts against persons for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and serious property offenses for arson and burglary. Also, 41 juvenile cases constituting 27.3% of all referrals were for status offenses. Status offenses include truancy, running away, incorrigibility, and other offenses that would not be crimes for adults.

Delinquents are likely to live in families with low income: 62.5% lived in families with income under $10,000, 31.3% with $10,000-$19,999 and 6.3% with $20,000 or more. Furthermore, only 16.5% of delinquents lived with both natural parents, while 53.2% lived in a single parent household, 27.8% lived with other relatives, and 2.5% in other situations including parent plus step-parent. Delinquency or criminal activity occurs among many related family members: 32.4% had at least one family member who was delinquent or had some criminal record.

Youth referred to the family courts are likely to have been there before. In 2001-02, 60.2% had at least one prior referral and 20.4% had been referred to court 3 times or more. Many were referred at an early age. For delinquents 15 - 17 years old, 6.4% had been referred by the age of 10, 9.6% by the age of 12, and 21.3% by the age of 14.

During 2001-02, 59 youth ages 15 to 17 were referred to the family courts. In the county, 3.2% of all youth 15 to 17 were referred to court in one year and roughly double that percentage are referred at least once by age 18. Furthermore, the National Youth Survey indicates that typically across the United States the proportion of youth engaging in crime is two or three times the number ever apprehended. In 2001-02, there were 13 juveniles committed from the county to DJJ custody and placed in residential programs.



Not in School or Employed: During 2000, 272 teenagers ages 16-19 were idle, meaning they neither worked any hours nor were enrolled in school, even part-time. Idle teens comprised 11.3% of their age group: 9.3% for White and 11.9% African-American & Other teens. A much larger number, perhaps twice as many, were not engaged in either school full time or work full time. The data reflect a serious failure in both school completion and the critical transition from school to work, significantly affecting their development as future workers. For an in-depth description of the problems of young adults seeking to enter the labor force, visit our website at www.scyoungadults.org for our state and county reports on 18-29 year olds.

Deaths: During 1997-2001, 14 youth ages 15 to 19 died. Historically, automobile accidents have been the major cause, resulting in 6 deaths between 1996 and 2000; homicides killed 3 youth 15 to 19 years old during the five-year period, and 1 youth committed suicide. Alcohol use is often a significant factor in deaths among teenagers.

Summary

Facing the Scope of Problems: The data on families, economic status, health, readiness, school achievement, and adolescent risk behaviors provide a troublesome picture of the condition of children in Williamsburg County. The 40.4% of children in single-parent families, 36.2% in poverty, 41.7% not graduating from school, 37.1% of high school students using alcohol and 20.1% using drugs each month, and other data profiled in this report suggest that too many children are at risk of not growing up to become self-supporting adults, good family members, and responsible community citizens.

Emphasizing the Positive: South Carolina Kids Count reports have been developed to describe the problems of children in each of the counties. Fortunately, the majority of children and youth are doing well, and some very well. One simple description is the percentage of children who do not fall into the problem categories reported. For the county, 83.0% of children are born to non-teen mothers ages 20 or older, 43.5% are born to married parents, and 59.6% lived in two-parent families; 63.8% were not poor and 36.8% lived in families with incomes above twice the poverty level for a family of three, $30,040 in 2002; 83.9% of babies were born with normal birthweights; 84.2% were assessed as ready for the first grade, 50.8% scored basic or better on PACT for 8th grade math and 47.6% for 8th grade reading, 55.3% passed all parts of the Exit Exam in the 10th grade, and 58.3% graduated with their class. In a typical month, 62.9% of high school students do not drink alcohol, 79.9% do not use drugs, and 74.7% do not smoke. Unfortunately, the absence of a problem is not always an indicator of success. Some data is available for exemplary performance: for example, 29.2% of 3rd graders and 8.9% of 8th graders scored proficient or advanced on PACT in reading and 35.0% of 3rd graders and 8.7% of 8th graders in math. Unfortunately, data on success is not generally available.

Despite the limitations of success data, we must emphasize the positive in providing good support and appropriate influences for children and youth. Recent philosophy and publications such as those of the Search Institute (700 South Third Street, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN, 55415-1138, tel. 1-800-888-7828, www.search-institute.org), emphasize the critical importance of "developmental assets" to promote and support positive development. One short book from the Search Institute, (What Kids Need to Succeed, by Peter J. Benson, Judy Gailbraith, and Pamela Espeland, 1995) presents an excellent array of suggestions for promoting developmental assets through families, community, faith congregations, and schools. If each family, school, religious congregation and community organization assertively worked to build such assets, the problems described in this report would be reduced dramatically. Such positive family-school-community efforts could improve South Carolina's national Kids Count ranking from the bottom 10 to the average or even into the top 10 by prevention of unnecessary problems affecting children and youth, as shown on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

All data presented in this report is the most recent available at the date it goes to the printer. This version of the Kids Count report will be revised as more recent and additional data become available. Please send us your corrections and suggestions for improvement. We welcome your ideas for ways to make the state and county reports more useful and accurate. Please utilize local data sources whenever possible to supplement the profile provided through our report.

Data related inquiries should be directed to:

Anne Wilson, Data Manager (awilson@drss.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-4810

Calls for **copies of reports** for other counties and inquiries regarding more recent reports should be made to:

Kim Hazel-Lohr, Project Manager (khazel@ogc.state.sc.us)
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For **policy questions and general comments**, please contact:

Dr. A. Baron Holmes, Project Director (bholmes@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
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Comparable reports for all 46 counties and for the state can also be found on the World Wide Web at

www.sckidscount.org

Our website also provides: links to other websites for indicators in our report; high to low rankings for individual indicators; information on how to improve SC's national rank; and a glossary of definitions.

The national Kids Count Report can be found on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website at www.aecf.org

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Williamsburg County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Indicators	Most Recent Year	Number					Percent					R	
		1980*	1990*	Most Recent Data	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980 Rank	199
Health													
Low Birth Weight	2001	64	70	87	+35.9%	+24.3%	8.3	11.0	16.1	93.2%	46.1%	19	
White babies	2001	12	8	11	-8.3%	+37.5%	5.5	4.1	8.5	54.5%	80.6%	18	
African American and Other babies	2001	52	62	76	+46.2%	+22.6%	9.5	13.3	18.5	95.3%	39.0%	9	
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	2001	334	230	229	+31.4%	-0.4%	43.5	36.2	42.4	-2.5%	17.1%	29	
White babies	2001	51	44	36	-29.4%	-18.2%	23.2	25.9	27.7	19.4%	7.0%	13	
African American and Other babies	2001	283	186	193	-31.8%	+3.8%	51.6	40.0	47.1	-8.8%	17.7%	18	
Infant Mortality	2001	47	27	29	-38.3%	+7.4%	2.1	1.4	1.8	-14.8%	29.2%	34	
White babies	2001	5	4	2	-60.0%	-50.0%	0.9	0.8	0.5	-45.7%	-38.9%	5	
African American and Other babies	2001	42	23	27	-35.7%	+17.4%	2.5	1.6	2.2	-10.7%	40.4%	31	
Family													
Births to mothers under 18	2001	67	48	34	-49.3%	-29.2%	8.7	7.6	6.3	-27.8%	-16.7%	19	
White babies	2001	13	10	4	-69.2%	-60.0%	5.9	5.9	3.1	-47.5%	-47.3%	25	
African American and Other babies	2001	54	38	30	-44.4%	-21.1%	9.9	8.2	7.3	-25.7%	-10.5%	6	
Births to mothers under 20	2001	157	123	92	-41.4%	-25.2%	20.4	19.4	17.0	-16.8%	-12.2%	21	
White babies	2001	40	25	11	-72.5%	+56.0%	18.2	14.7	8.5	-53.3%	-42.2%	34	
African American and Other babies	2001	117	98	81	-30.8%	+17.3%	21.4	21.1	19.8	-7.5%	-6.3%	6	
Births to mothers with less than a high school education	2001	232	153	111	-52.2%	-27.5%	30.2	24.1	20.6	31.8%	-14.5%	11	
White babies	2001	62	50	28	-54.8%	-44.0%	28.2	29.4	21.5	-23.7%	-26.9%	23	
African American and Other babies	2001	170	103	83	-51.2%	-19.4%	31.0	22.2	20.2	-34.7%	-8.6%	32	
Births to single mothers****	2001	231	264	305	+32.0%	+15.5%	30.1	41.6	56.5	87.8%	35.9%	33	
White babies	2001	12	20	18	+50.0%	-10.0%	5.5	11.8	13.8	153.0%	17.3%	15	
African American and Other babies	2001	219	244	287	+31.1%	+17.6%	40.0	52.5	70.0	75.2%	33.4%	6	
Children in single parent families	2000	2,479	2,900	3,479	+40.3%	+20.0%	20.2	30.1	40.4	100.1%	34.3%	28	
White	2000	310	294	360	+16.1%	+22.4%	7.6	10.3	15.2	100.3%	47.8%	6	
African American and Other	2000	2,166	2,601	3,119	+44.0%	+19.9%	25.9	38.5	50.0	93.0%	29.8%	34	
Education													
Not Ready for Grade 1	2001	304	248	84	-72.4%	-66.1%	45.7	34.6	15.8	-65.4%	-54.3%	35	
White males	2001	18	12	2	-88.9%	-83.3%	33.3	21.8	8.3	-75.1%	-61.9%	28	
White females	2001	15	6	3	-80.0%	-50.0%	25.9	21.4	11.5	-55.6%	-46.3%	39	
African American and Other males	2001	154	141	52	-66.2%	-63.1%	52.7	41.2	19.2	-63.6%	-53.4%	20	
African American and Other females	2001	117	89	27	-76.9%	-69.7%	44.8	30.5	12.7	-71.7%	-58.4%	18	
Repeating Grades 1-3	2000	44	255	134	+204.5%	-47.5%	6.8	41.8	23.4	244.1%	-44.0%	2	
White males	2000	4	18	10	+150.0%	-44.4%	6.2	43.3	30.3	388.7%	-30.0%	2	
White females	2000	2	7	7	+250.0%	+0.0%	3.3	20.2	26.9	715.2%	33.2%	5	
African American and Other males	2000	25	147	76	+204.0%	-48.3%	9.1	53.5	28.7	215.4%	-46.4%	2	
African American and Other females	2000	12	83	40	+233.3%	-51.8%	4.8	31.9	16.2	237.5%	-49.2%	2	
Grade 3 Math below standards****	2002	360	116	120	-66.7%	+3.4%	55.2	21.5	28.5	-48.4%	32.6%	43	
White males	2002	15	1	6	-60.0%	+500.0%	23.1	3.6	35.3	52.8%	880.6%	5	
White females	2002	22	4	1	-95.5%	-75.0%	36.7	12.5	8.3	-77.4%	-33.6%	42	
African American and Other males	2002	175	63	66	-62.3%	+4.8%	65.5	25.3	34.9	-46.7%	37.9%	38	
African American and Other females	2002	140	48	47	-66.4%	-2.1%	56.9	21.0	23.2	-59.2%	10.5%	35	
Grade 3 Reading below standards****	2002	322	70	129	-59.9%	+84.3%	49.4	12.9	30.6	-38.1%	137.2%	41	
White males	2002	24	1	6	-75.0%	+500.0%	36.9	3.6	35.3	-4.3%	880.6%	38	
White females	2002	14	-	4	-71.4%	NA	23.3	-	33.3	42.9%	NA	34	
African American and Other males	2002	161	48	75	-53.4%	+56.3%	60.3	19.3	39.7	-34.2%	105.7%	31	
African American and Other females	2002	116	20	44	-62.1%	+120.0%	47.1	8.7	21.7	-53.9%	149.4%	36	
Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT Grade 4	1998	225	223	72	-68.0%	-67.7%	38.7	41.8	19.8	-48.8%	-52.6%	34	
White males	1998	15	5	3	-80.0%	-40.0%	25.9	17.9	14.3	-44.8%	-20.1%	27	
White females	1998	7	6	2	-71.4%	-66.7%	15.9	18.8	11.1	-30.2%	-41.0%	24	
African American and Other males	1998	116	128	38	-67.2%	-70.3%	51.1	52.2	24.5	-52.1%	-53.1%	19	
African American and Other females	1998	84	81	29	-65.5%	-64.2%	33.6	36.3	17.2	-48.8%	-52.6%	16	

*Year of data is approximate in many cases.
**1 is best, 46 is worst.
*** Data include paternity acknowledgements.
**** BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Williamsburg County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Education (continued)

Indicators	Most Recent Year	Number					Percent				
		1980*	1990*	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres
Grade 8 Math below state standards**	2002	606	136	204	-66.3%	+50.0%	86.1	29.8	49.2	-42.9%	65.1%
White males	2002	39	5	11	-71.8%	+120.0%	70.9	11.6	47.8	-32.6%	312.1%
White females	2002	40	3	2	-95.0%	-33.3%	62.5	13.6	18.2	-70.9%	33.8%
African American and Other males	2002	269	67	107	-60.2%	+59.7%	89.7	33.3	57.5	-35.9%	72.7%
African American and Other females	2002	256	61	84	-67.2%	+37.7%	90.5	32.3	43.1	-52.4%	33.4%
Grade 8 Reading below state standards**	2002	528	113	217	-58.9%	+92.0%	75.0	24.8	52.4	-30.1%	111.3%
White males	2002	31	6	10	-67.7%	+66.7%	56.4	14.0	43.5	-22.9%	210.7%
White females	2002	25	4	3	-88.0%	-25.0%	39.1	18.2	27.3	-30.2%	50.0%
African American and Other males	2002	250	59	117	-53.2%	+98.3%	83.3	29.4	63.2	-24.1%	115.0%
African American and Other females	2002	220	44	87	-60.5%	+97.7%	78.0	23.3	44.6	-42.8%	91.4%
Grade 9 Bottom Quartile Stanford/MAT	1998	NA	229	237	NA	+3.5%	NA	41.6	47.7	NA	14.7%
White males	1998	NA	6	NA	NA	NA	NA	21.4	40.9	NA	91.1%
White females	1998	NA	6	NA	NA	NA	NA	24	44.4	NA	85.0%
African American and Other males	1998	NA	10	NA	NA	NA	NA	46.1	55.5	NA	20.4%
African American and Other females	1998	NA	116	NA	NA	NA	NA	41.7	41.5	NA	-0.5%
Exit Exam (not passing all parts on 1st attempt)	2002	367	185	147	-59.9%	-20.5%	72.1	46.7	44.7	-38.0%	-4.3%
White males	2002	15	5	2	-86.7%	-60.0%	36.6	22.7	18.2	-50.3%	-19.8%
White females	2002	16	5	4	-75.0%	-20.0%	45.7	26.3	21.1	-53.8%	-19.8%
African American and Other males	2002	175	92	66	-62.3%	-28.3%	78.5	54.1	53.2	-32.2%	-1.7%
African American and Other females	2002	160	83	75	-53.1%	-9.6%	76.6	44.9	42.9	-44.0%	-4.5%
Dropout Rate (8th graders no longer enrolled in 12th grade 4 years later)	2000-02	327	252	233	-28.7%	-7.4%	43.4	37.3	43.6	0.4%	16.9%
White males	2000-02	39	36	13	-65.8%	-63.0%	56.5	56.3	56.3	-0.3%	0.2%
White females	2000-02	41	14	7	-82.9%	-48.1%	57.7	40.3	50.0	-13.4%	24.1%
African American and Other males	2000-02	134	118	132	-1.7%	+12.1%	42.1	38.2	51.4	22.1%	34.6%
African American and Other females	2000-02	113	85	81	-28.3%	-4.1%	38.3	31.4	33.6	-12.3%	7.2%
Young Adults Not Completing High School (18-24)	2000	1,290	1,340	871	-32.5%	-35.0%	28.5	36.2	20.9	-26.7%	-42.3%
White males	NA	236	179	NA	NA	NA	33.4	30.8	NA	NA	NA
White females	NA	180	227	NA	NA	NA	23.7	37.6	NA	NA	NA
African American and Other males	NA	473	497	NA	NA	NA	33.7	40.9	NA	NA	NA
African American and Other females	NA	401	437	NA	NA	NA	24.3	33.6	NA	NA	NA
Economics											
Poverty Rate	2000	4,676	4,247	3,844	-17.8%	-9.5%	33.9	36.1	36.2	6.8%	0.3%
White children	2000	474	345	483	+1.9%	+40.0%	11.6	11.3	18.8	62.1%	66.4%
African American and Other children	2000	4,190	3,902	3,361	-19.8%	-13.9%	43.4	44.8	41.8	-3.8%	-6.8%
Income of Families w/children (1999 $)	2000	$ 33,197	$ 34,790	$ 35,923	+8.2%	+3.3%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
White families	2000	$ 43,926	$ 46,161	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
African American and Other families	2000	$ 26,178	$ 27,820	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Adolescent Risk Factors											
Teenage Pregnancy (ages 14-17)	2001	84	55	40	-52.4%	-27.3%	5.4	4.0	3.3	-38.3%	-17.5%
White	2001	14	11	4	-71.4%	-63.6%	3.0	3.1	1.4	-53.0%	-54.8%
African American and Other	2001	70	44	36	-48.6%	-18.2%	6.4	4.3	3.9	-38.7%	-9.3%
Delinquency	2002	32	68	59	+84.4%	-13.2%	1.4	3.4	3.2	129.0%	-5.7%
White males	2002	6	8	4	-33.3%	-50.0%	1.9	3.0	1.8	-4.3%	-39.4%
White females	2002	1	3	4	+300.0%	+33.3%	0.3	1.1	2.0	566.7%	81.8%
African American and Other males	2002	21	42	32	+52.4%	-23.8%	2.6	5.7	4.5	73.3%	-20.9%
African American and Other females	2002	4	15	19	+375.0%	+26.7%	0.5	2.1	2.7	442.9%	29.3%

*Closest available data to this year was used in many cases.
**BSAP for 1980 and 1990, PACT for 2002

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Kids Count 2003 York County

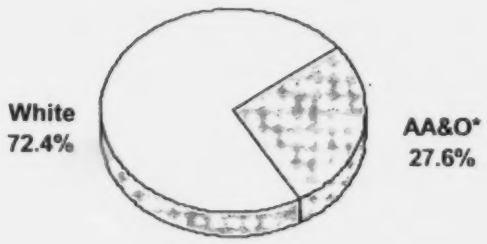
DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2000 there were an estimated 43,284 children under age 18 in the county. Of these, 31,325 were White, 9,801 were African-American, and 2,158 were other races. There were 34,072 children under age 18 in 1990, 32,379 in 1980, 30,755 in 1970, and 32,538 in 1960.

Children represent a shrinking portion of the county's population. Those under 18 constituted 26.3% of the population in 2000, down from 41.3% in 1960, 36.1% in 1970, and 30.3% in 1980.

In 2000 the 13,452 pre-schoolers under age 6 were 8.2% of the overall population: 7.6% of Whites and 9.3% of African Americans.

Figure 1: Population Ages 0-17 in 2000



* In all charts African-American is combined with other races, and often abbreviated as AA&O. Other races comprise 5.0% of children in the county, with "two or more races" at 1.6% and American Indian and Alaska Native Alone at 1.2% as the largest Other groups.

FAMILY

Families have always been the most important influence in a child's life. Children depend on their families for material needs, stimulation and guidance. Family life is different in numerous ways from previous generations, and many families now face exceptional challenges.

Families with children now make up a smaller share of all households. Only 35.4% of all households in 2000, as compared with 49.0% of households in 1960, had children below the age of 18.

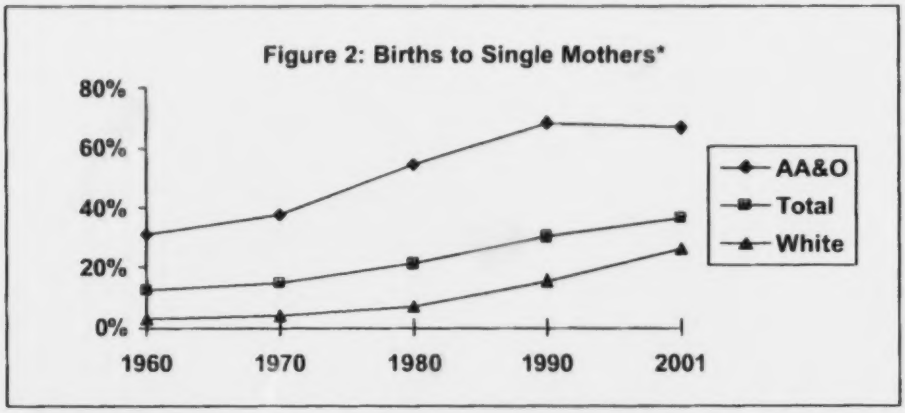
Births to Teen Mothers: In 2001, 107 babies were born to mothers younger than age 18. They were 4.6% of all babies born in the county; 3.5% of all White and 7.6% of all African-American and Other babies were born to teen mothers under the age of 18. Of the babies born to these teens in 2001, 92.5% were born to single mothers, including babies whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers.

In 2001, 324 babies were born to mothers younger than age 20. These babies were 13.9% of all born in the county; 11.2% of all White and 21.4% of all African-American and Other babies were born to mothers under the age of 20. Of the babies born to these mothers in 2001, 85.5% were born to single mothers, including paternity acknowledeged babies.

Education of Mothers Giving Birth: Children's success is strongly influenced by the education of their parents In 2001, 473 babies, 20.2% of all babies, were born to mothers of all ages who had not completed the 12th grade. In 2001 18.9% of White and 24.3% of African-American and Other babies were born to mothers who had completed less than th 12th grade. This is a substantial improvement from 48.0% in 1970. In addition, during 2001, 33.9% had completed 1 grades (30.6% of Whites and 43.4% of African Americans and Others) and 45.9% had more than a high school degre (50.6% of Whites and 32.4% of African American and Others).

Births to Single Mothers: Births to single mothers have increased steadily over four decades. In 2001, 65 babies, 27.9% of all babies, were recorded as born to single mothers. A decade earlier in 1990, the percentage was 28.7% and in 1960 it was 12.5%. In 2001, 17.2% of White children and 58.7% of African-American and Other children wer born to single mothers. These numbers, however, do not include paternity acknowlegement births.

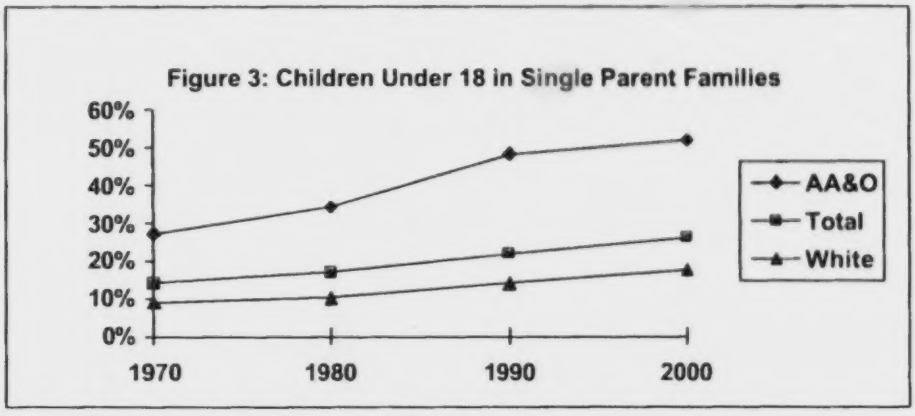
Thus, to these numbers should be added an additional group of 203 babies, 8.7% of all born in 2001, whose father formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers. When the paternity-acknowledged babies are added the total number born to single mothers in 2001 was 855, constituting 36.6% of all babies, 26.1% of White babies, an 66.7% of African-American and Others.



*Includes paternity acknowleged babies in 1980, 1990 and 2001. Prior to 1979, paternity acknowleged cases were not a statistical category, and thus were included in births to single mothers.

Divorce Rate: In 2001, 1,906 marriage licenses were issued, while 369 divorce decrees involving 292 childre were filed. In 1970, only 235 children were in families involved in divorce.

Single-Parent Family: Increasing numbers of children live in single-parent families. In 2000, 9,969 childre lived with only one parent. This was 26.0% of all children, up from 21.9% in 1990, 16.8% in 1980, and 14.0% in 1970. I 2000, 17.4% of White and 52.1% of African-American and Other children lived in single-parent families. Also in 200 2,426 or 23.4% of children under age 6 lived in single parent families: 14.2% of White and 51.6% of African American an Other pre-schoolers.



Parents Working and Child Care: Increasingly, parents must divide their time between children and employers. In order to meet family financial needs, most parents must work and thus have less time for family life. In 2000, 68.4% of mothers with children under 6 and 76.0% with children 6 - 17 were in the labor force. This has increased substantially from 1960 when 43.8% of mothers with children under 6 were in the labor force. Most fathers also work: 64.4% of children under 6 are in families where the single parent or both parents work. Caring for children is a problem for parents unable to obtain quality, affordable daycare while they are at work.

Overall, there are 6,038 spaces in state-regulated childcare facilities* in the county, 94.7% of these are in licensed programs and 5.3% are in registered programs. Of the spaces, 82.5% are in licensed childcare centers serving more than 12 children, 4.6% are in registered or licensed family childcare homes serving six or fewer children, 1.8% are in licensed group childcare homes serving 7-12 children, and 11.1% are in registered or licensed church programs.

The homes and centers are severely constrained by the limited ability of parents to pay. In the county, the average weekly charge is $ 83.58 for centers and $ 77.77 for homes. Consequently, center wages are low: 14.3% of centers with pre-school staff and 25% of centers with assistant pre-school staff report paying these staff under $6 per hour. Paying $6-$8 per hour are 71.4% of centers with pre-school staff and 70% of centers with assistants. Low wages attract workers with limited education. In 48.6% of centers, most pre-school staff and in 35% of centers most assistants have only a high school degree. In 48.6% of centers few to none of the pre-school staff have early childhood credentials. In childcare homes, 51.7% of lead providers have no more education than a high school degree or GED; 19.4% have less than a high school degree.

Family Violence: In 2000, 1,771 domestic assaults were recorded by law enforcement officials. These domestic assaults comprised 31.7% of all assaults, which include aggravated assaults, simple assaults, and intimidation. Overall, 55.5% of all domestic assaults involve spouse abuse which constitutes 17.6% of all assaults. Since most family violence is not reported, the true incidence of family disruption is much more widespread than even the large number of reported cases would indicate.

Separation from Parents: Some children do not live with their natural parents. In 2000, 6.2% of all children did not live with their natural parents. Approximately 1,685 or 3.9% of all children lived with relatives, 727 or 1.7% lived with non-relatives, 53 or 0.1% were householders or spouses, and 214 or 0.5% were in institutional facilities.

Abuse and Neglect: In 2000-01, there were 1,095 investigations into reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children. Through its investigations, the Department of Social Services (DSS) determined that 360 of the investigations were indicated for abuse or neglect: 9.4% for physical abuse, 6.0% for sexual abuse, 0.0% for mental injury, 34.6% for physical neglect, 7.9% for educational neglect, 3.9% for medical neglect, 35.9% for threat of harm for physical/sexual abuse, and 2.4% for other types of abuse.

In the indicated cases of abuse and neglect, DSS determined there were 593 children who were victims of abuse or neglect. Of these, 49.1% were male, 50.9% were female; 66.8% were White, 33.2% were African-American and Other. By age, 36.9% were ages 0 - 5, 38.6% were ages 6 - 12, and 24.5% were ages 13 - 17. In the indicated cases, 33.6% of the children lived in two-parent families, 40.3% in single parent families, 17.2% with unmarried couples, and 8.9% in other circumstances.

Out of Home Placements: As of June 2001, 103 children lived in foster care. The median age at first placement in the county is 9.3 years. The ages of children in foster care were 16.5% 0-2, 5.8% 3-5, 24.3% 6-10, 21.4% 11-13, and 32.0% 14 and above. The foster care population is 43.7% males and 56.3% females. Regarding their future, 23.3% were under a plan for placement in adoptive homes, 42.7% for return to a parent or guardian, 1.0% for placement with a relative, 17.5% for independent living, 13.6% for permanent foster care, and 1.9% for other circumstances.

Adult/Child Ratio: A measure of potential adult attention for children from family and community is the ratio of adults to children and youth. In 2000 there were 2.80 adults for every person below age 18. This was up substantially from 1960, when there were only 1.42 adults for every person under the age 18. This indicates that today there are more adults potentially available to provide attention and care for each child than in the past.

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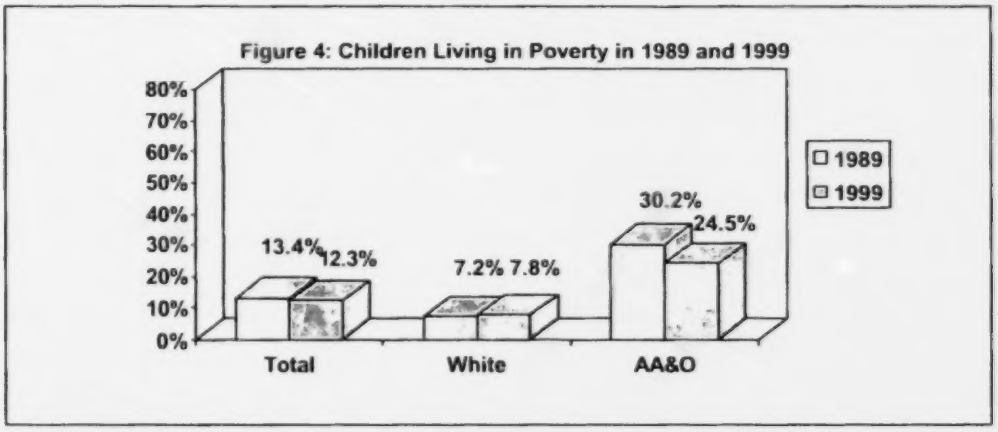
* This data is the best currently available; however, an effort is being made to check the coverage and improve the accuracy. As soon as more recent and complete data becomes available, it will be posted on the website.

ECONOMIC STATUS

Low income makes it difficult for many families to provide the material and environmental enrichment necessary for healthy child development.

Poverty: In 1999, 5,249 children and youth under the age of 18 lved in 2,529 families with incomes below poverty, comprising 12.3% of all children and youth: 7.8% of Whites and 24.5% of Africa n-Americans and Others. A rough estimate of child poverty in 2001 calculated by the Census Bureau was 23.0%.



Poverty has always been a serious problem. While the rate among children under age 18 in 1989 was 13.4%, it was 14.4% in 1979 and 19.1% in 1969.

Children and the elderly are the age groups most seriously affected by poverty. In 1999, 12.8% of children 0 - 5 (7.1% White, 28.3% African-American and Other), and 11.7% of children 6 - 17 (7.9% White, 21.8% African-America and Other), lived in poverty; 9.6% of persons 65 years and older lived in poverty. Historically, the poverty rate among th elderly was much higher. During the last three decades, federal policy actions have substantia lly improved the economi status of older persons but have not done so for children.

Single-parent families are most likely to be poor. In 1999, 31.7% of children in single-parent families lived i poverty, but only 4.8% of children in married-couple families were poor. Children in single-parent families made up 54.5% of all the county's children living in poverty.

In 2002, the poverty level was $15,020 for a family of three and $18,100 for a family of four. The poverty threshold is often criticized as an arbitrary number. People can still be poor but may be just above the poverty level. Federal programs utilize varying thresholds. For example, in 1999 there were 13,458 children ages 0-17 who were less than 200 percent of poverty; thus an additional 8,209 children were above the poverty level but could still be considered poor or near-poor with incomes below $30,040 and $36,200 respectively for 3 and 4 person families.

Children Under 18 in Poverty in 1999

Percent of Poverty	Total		White		African American & Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 50%	2,571	6.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 100%	5,249	12.3%	2,399	7.8%	2,850	24.5%
Under 125%	7,023	16.5%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 150%	8,777	20.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 175%	11,101	26.1%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 185%	12,338	29.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under 200%	13,458	31.7%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total Children	43,284		31,325		11,959	

Note: Missing data will be released by the Census Bureau later in 2003, and will be posted on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

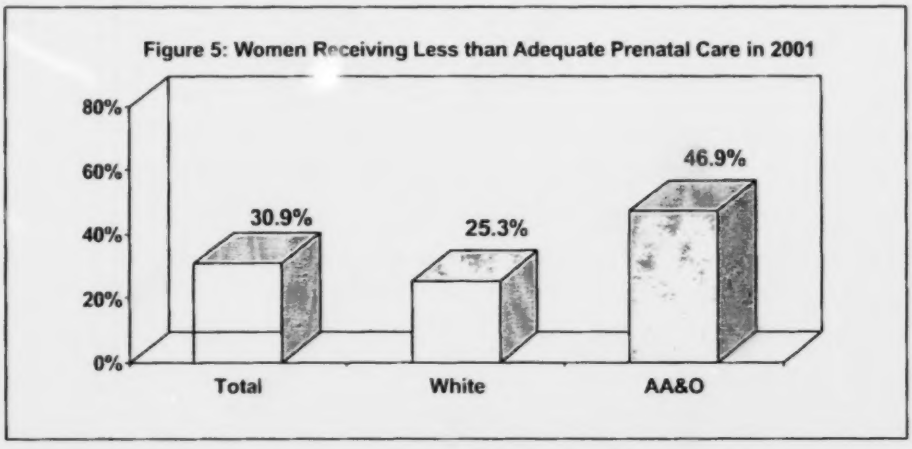
Income: The mean income of families with children in 1999 was $58,890. In 1989 it was $52,003, and 1979, it was $45,922, adjusted for inflation (i.e., in 1999 dollars). The mean income of single-parent families with children was $27,186 for single parents in 1999, as compared with $69,563 in married-couple families with children. From 1999 to 2000, York County real dollar per capita income (eliminating inflation) decreased by -0.4%.

Child Support Payments: There were 894[7] families receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families in fiscal year 2002, but only 22.0 % had child support court orders. Their average monthly payment of child support was $ 287, including child support receipts and tax refund intercepts. In addition, during fiscal year 2002, an estimated 2,360 parents in non-TANF families were obligated to pay a monthly average of $ 245. Information is not available regarding the amount actually paid.

HEALTH

Good health during a child's formative years helps children to reach their maximum potential. Good health requires healthy lifestyles and effective primary care, starting during the prenatal period and continuing through adolescence into adulthood. Children's health reflects the well-being of the community, as well as how adequately they are protected.

Prenatal Care: Early and continuous prenatal care can make a significant difference in assuring births of healthy babies. Delayed or insufficient prenatal care is associated with low birthweight and other health risks for infants. In 2001, 502, or 21.5% of pregnant women received no prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy. In 2001, 723, or 30.9% of pregnant women received less than adequate prenatal care: 440 or 25.3% of Whites and 283 or 46.9% of African-Americans and Others. In that same year, 24 women received no prenatal care at all.



Low Birthweight: Low birthweight of less than 5.5 pounds and very low birthweight of less than 3.3 pounds are associated with health risks and growth and development problems. In 2001, 195 or 8.3% of all babies in the county were born with low birthweight: 11.4% of African-American and Other babies and 7.3% of White babies. During 1999-2001, approximately 148 or 2.2% of all babies were born with very low birthweight and had the most serious complications: 1.7% of White babies and 3.6% of African-American and Other babies. The cost of hospitalization for each newborn low birthweight baby in the county in 1999 - 2001 was $16,133 and $45,590 for each very low birthweight baby, compared with $2,635 for a baby of normal birthweight. The result was excess cost in the county of $1,477,935 for all low birthweight babies, of which $587,045 was for very low birthweight babies.

Infant Mortality: During the decade since 1989-91, the overall infant mortality rate decreased by 20.4% from 12.8 to 10.2 per 1000 live births. For Whites, the rate decreased 22.6% from 9.5 to 7.4 per 1000 live births, while for African-Americans and Others the rate decreased 14.4% from 21.2 to 18.1 per 1000 live births. Over the three-year period 1999-2001, 37 White and 32 African-American and Other infants died before age one. By comparison, 44 White and 38 African-American and Other infants died during 1989-91.

[7] Number is an unduplicated count for the entire fiscal year.

Child Injuries and Deaths: Childhood deaths and injuries reflect whether communities are safe for children. In 2001, children in the York County went to the emergency room 3,127 times because of injuries. Boys are injured more often than girls. Children visit the emergency room at comparable rates for each age from 0 to 17.

In South Carolina, the major causes of death among young children are unintentional injuries, cancer, homicide, and congenital anomalies. Over the three year period 1999-2001, 20 White and 7 African-American and Other children ages 1-14 died in the county. During 1989-91, 16 White and 7 African-American and Other children died.

Immunization: Immunization rates are an important indication of whether young children are receiving adequate preventive health care. During FY 1989-90, 50.4% of children less than two years old seen in public health clinics were not fully immunized against such preventable diseases as Polio, Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Haemophilus Influenza B and Whooping Cough. After a concerted statewide campaign to increase immunizations, the percentage of children seen in public health clinics who were not fully immunized in January 2001 had declined in the county to 14.2%. The DHEC statewide birth registry survey of all two year old children found that 88.1% were fully immunized in 2001. This success demonstrates the potential to improve the status of children when the leadership of the state and its communities act decisively together.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Children and youth are infected with sexually transmitted diseases through sexual abuse or irresponsible sexual activity. National prevalence rates indicate: a 1 in 8 chance that sexually active 15 year-old girls will develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), the most rapidly increasing cause of infertility; 10% of sexually active adolescent girls and boys are infected with chlamydia, the most common cause of PID; and as many as 15% of teen girls are infected with human papilloma virus, often with strains linked to cervical cancer. Furthermore, research evidence indicates that susceptibility to HIV/AIDS increases by 3 to 8 times through prior infection with various STDs.

According to national studies, approximately 1 in 4 sexually experienced youth aged 13-19 acquires a STD every year; since two-thirds of all high school students have had sexual intercourse and half engage in intercourse over a three month period, this would suggest that 10-15% of teens are infected with STDs annually. For 2000, this would indicate that an estimated 1,690 to 2,535 youth ages 13-19 in the county were infected with a STD. Many infections are either not identified for treatment or not reported. In the county, there were 3 reported cases of children under age 15 and 50 youth ages 15 - 19 infected with gonorrhea; 6 youth under 15 and 172 ages 15 - 19 were reported infected with chlamydia. Youth with undiagnosed and untreated STDs often spread their infections.

Healthy Lifestyles: Although no county data is available, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2001 found that many high school students are not following good health habits. The YRBS revealed that 26% felt that they were overweight; 42% were trying to lose weight: 27% of boys and 57% of girls. Although during a week 79% of high school students ate fruit, 59% ate salad, and over 83% ate vegetables, only 17% ate the recommended five or more servings of fruit and vegetables per day. During a week, 49% did stretching or muscle strengthening exercises, and 59% exercised three or more times for 20 minutes in sports that made them sweat or breathe hard. However, 11% of students engaged in no vigorous or moderate activity at all during a week: 8% of boys and 13% of girls.

Tobacco Use:* Cigarette smoking starts at a young age and often becomes habitual. In the county during 2001 among all students 15 and older, 22.0% first smoked by age 11, 45.9% by age 13, and 62.6% by age 15. In a typical month, 19.2% of 7th and 8th graders and 33.7% of high school students smoked cigarettes. White youths were much more likely than African-Americans to smoke: 32.5% of White male and 29.9% of White female 7th to 12th graders used cigarettes, as compared with 21.8% of African-American males and 21.4% of African American females. A smaller but significant group of high school students (8.5%) used smokeless tobacco monthly; it was used primarily by White males (20.1% compared with 0.8% of all other race and sex groups).

* County participation in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking was not complete but county data is presented to provide the best available picture of teen risk-taking attitudes and behavior in York County. Only District participated out of the 4 districts.

Disabilities: No data are collected on the true prevalence of disabilities within the county. According to national reported estimates, over 10% of children and youth have developmental disabilities at any point in time, and more than 17 are affected at some time before age 18 by deafness, blindness, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, speech defects, development delays, learning disabilities, and emotional or behavioral problems. For 2000 this suggests that at least 4,328 children ar youth under age 18 in the county are currently affected by disabilities.

Approximately 5% of children and youth nationally have serious disabilities which have lifelong implications fo work, social life and community living. Typically among children and youth, there are 1 - 2% who are mentally retarded, - 3% with serious emotional disturbances, over 1% with orthopedic or multiple disabilities, including cerebral palsy an many hereditary conditions, and under 1% with visual or hearing impairments.

Other chronic health problems also affect the lives of many children. Over 3% of children have one or more these limitations. Such serious chronic conditions affect 1 - 2% who have respiratory problems (asthma and chron bronchitis), 0.5 - 1.0% with neurological problems (epilepsy and seizures), and less than 1% with circulatory problen (congenital heart defects and acquired diseases).

Other disabilities are identified primarily in school performance. These would include 1,727 students in grades 12 with learning disabilities and 975 students in grades 1-12 with speech/language deficits.

Disabilities are caused by genetics, disease, poor prenatal conditions, injuries, and environmental factors. For example, lead exposure, primarily from paint dust, was detected in over 1% of all children screened, including 7 in York County.

Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: While over 20% of 9-17 year olds meet diagnostic criteria for some form of mental disorder, the number with serious emotional disturbance and impaired functioning in family, school, or community activities is: 9-13% for substantial functional impairment and 5-9% for extreme functional impairment. The rates among poor children are at the higher end of these ranges. Based on a federal formula for estimating prevalence, in the county there are 12% or 2,687 seriously emotionally disturbed 9-17 year olds with substantial functional impairment and 8% or 1,791 with extreme functional impairment during the course of a year. Conduct disorders, attention deficit, depression, and anxiety disorders are the most prevalent, each affecting 3% or more of school-aged children. These disorders may occur simultaneously in a child. The prevalence rates are highest among males, adolescents, and disadvantaged persons in communities under stress and lacking social cohesion; depression, however, is more prevalent among females. On the YRBS, 20% of boys and 33% of girls in high school reported that during the past year they felt so sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that they stopped doing some usual activities. Another indicator of emotional problems is the 8% of high school students in South Carolina who reported that they had "attempted suicide" in the past year: 5% of boys and 10% of girls. Suicide attempts resulted in 4% of high school students reporting that they required treatment by a doctor or nurse for injury, poisoning, or overdose.

Inadequate Healthcare: No county level data is routinely collected regarding the number of children and youth with inadequate healthcare. According to estimates for 2000-02 by the Bureau of the Census through the annual Current Population Survey, the statewide average rate of uninsured children and youth under age 18 in families with incomes under 200% of poverty in South Carolina was 16.6%, and 9.9% above 200% of poverty. If these rates are applied to the county, there are 2,237 children in the county below 200% of poverty with no health insurance, and 2,960 children above 200% of poverty with no health insurance, for a total of 5,197 uninsured children in York County. The number lacking basic accessible primary care is at least double the number lacking insurance. Those lacking primary care are often dependent on health services at school. The ratio of students to nurses recommended nationally is 750:1. In the county, this would suggest the need for 40 nurses, compared with 23 currently working in the schools.

Medicaid: For several years, the State of South Carolina has emphasized enrolling eligible children into Medicaid. In late 1997, South Carolina implemented its version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, Partners for Healthy Children (PHC), and aggressively pursued outreach enrollment for PHC and Medicaid. As a result, enrollment of children ages 0 through 18 in York County has increased by 84.3% from June 1997 to June 2001; thus Medicaid and PHC were serving 27.1% of all children in that age range. The total Medicaid expenditures in South Carolina for services provided to children ages 0 through 18 for state fiscal year 2002 were $991 million, at an average statewide expenditure of $2,343 per child enrolled, approximate Medicaid expenditure for children in the county would be $27.5 million.

In June 2001, the total number of York County children, birth through 18, enrolled in Medicaid was 11,735. The total can be broken down into the following age and race groupings:

	White	African American	Hispanic	Other	Total
Children under 1	557	392	40	41	1,030
Children 1 - 5	1,767	1,362	61	230	3,420
Children 6 - 14	2,529	2,568	34	291	5,422
Children 15 - 18	955	842	8	58	1,863
Total	5,808	5,164	143	620	11,735

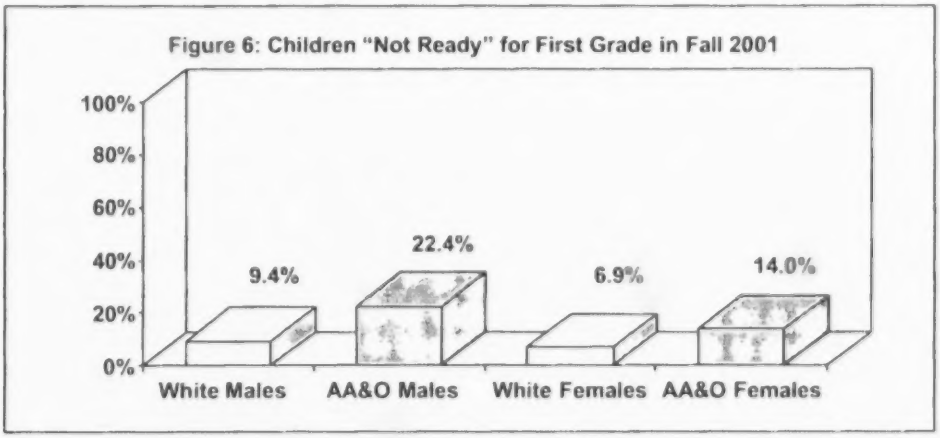
Ambulatory Care: When children lack adequate primary care, whether through lack of insurance, through limite access, or through failing to utilize available care, preventable and treatable conditions become serious and requi hospitalization. A useful indicator of inadequate primary care is the percentage of all hospitalizations that could typicall have been avoided through ambulatory care, especially for pneumonia, asthma, diarrhea and vomiting, dehydration, a severe ear, nose, and throat infections. The share of hospitalizations for these types of conditions could normally be ke below 20%; for children in the county under the age of 18 during 2001, the share was 38.2% for Whites and 38.8% f African-Americans and Others.

READINESS AND EARLY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Too many children reach school without the readiness skills needed for success in learning, such as language, soc skills, visual and auditory discrimination, memory recall, and knowledge of colors, letters, numbers, names of objects, et Likewise, some schools are not ready to respond appropriately to the varying developmental levels of children in the ear grades. As a result, too many students do not experience the success needed to create the motivation and engagement th sustain learning.

1st Grade "Readiness" on 2001-02 Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB):

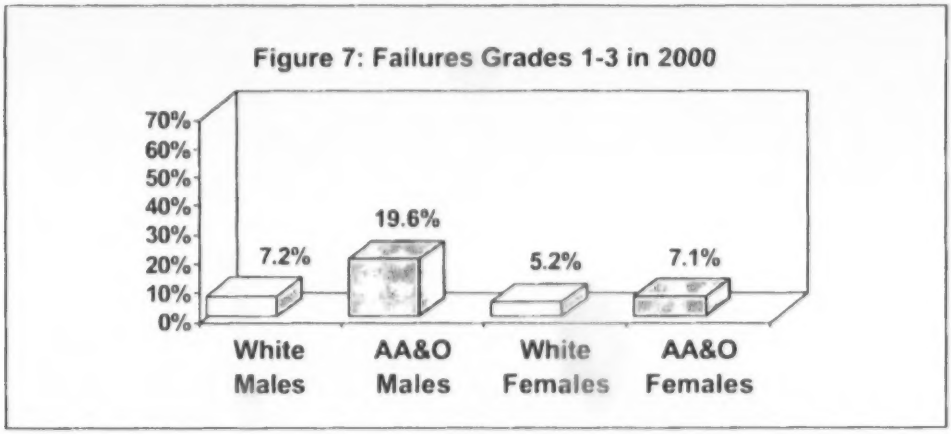
247 children not ready 11.1% children not ready



1st Grade Failures in 2002:

75 children failing 3.3% children failing

Failures Grades 1-3 in 2002 (approximate cumulative percentage of grades one, two and three):	
150 children failing	6.5% children failing



Over-age for Grade 3 in 2001	
261 children over-age	11.9% children over-age

Special Education: Large numbers of children are placed in special education classes. In elementary school, 683 six and seven year olds and 626 eight and nine year-olds were enrolled in special education classes during 2001-02, approximately 15.6% and 13.5% of their age groups respectively: 13.3% of White 8 – 9 year olds were in special education and 13.7% of African American and Others.

Readiness Summary: A serious problem exists in terms of student readiness and school success in the early grades. With 11.1% assessed not ready for the 1st grade, 11.9% over age in grade 3, and 13.5% of eight and nine year-olds placed in special education, unacceptably large numbers of students still begin school without good prospects of success in future school achievement and graduation; however, great improvement has occurred since the mid 1990s.

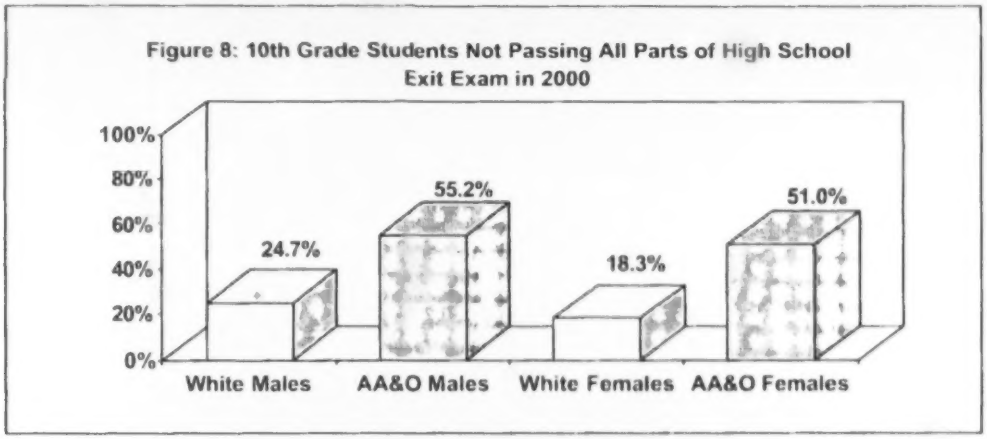
SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

By the end of elementary school, significant numbers of students perform below minimum standards. The following standardized test measures, comparing student performance to state minimum standards, should be used in combination with routine classroom assessments more reflective of real-world performance skills.

Special Education: Special education placements reflect both the significant number of children with serious handicapping conditions and a large number of students with mild learning and behavioral problems that have not been accommodated successfully by the regular educational program. The result is a large system of self-contained, resource, and itinerant services to meet the needs of 975 speech and language impaired, 1,727 learning disabled, 145 emotionally disabled, 380 mentally impaired, and 329 physically handicapped, deaf, blind, and other handicapped students. Special education classes served approximately 11.8% of all students in grades 1 - 12 during 2001-2002.

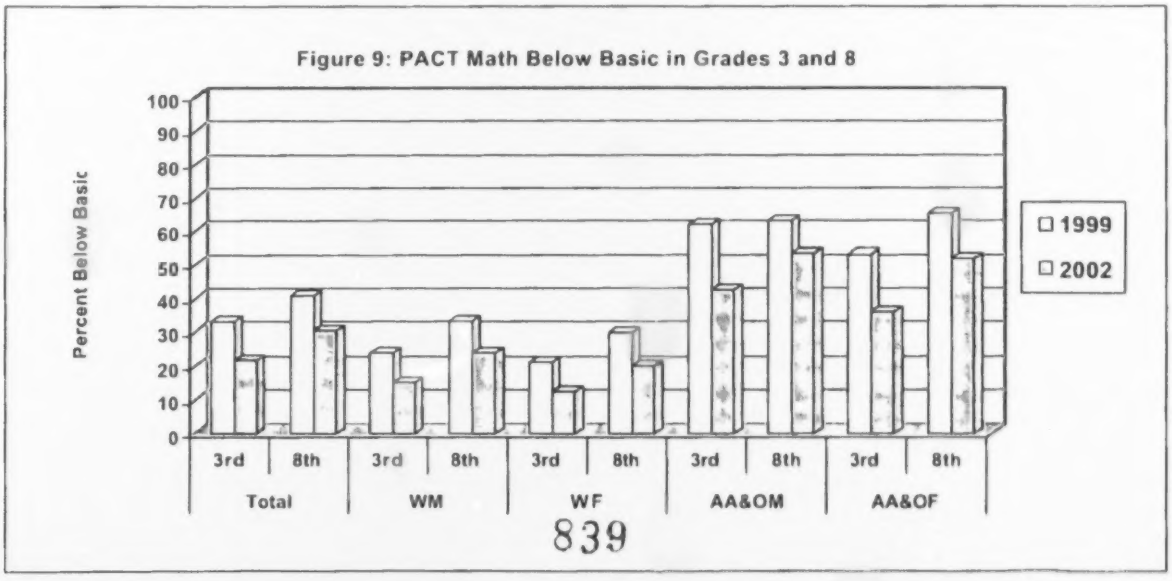
Exit Exam - not passing all parts of Exit Exam on first attempt in the 10th grade in 2002

612 students did not pass all parts — 29.5% of students did not pass all parts



Achievement Trends: How has performance on standardized achievement tests changed over the past 20 years? During the 1980s, student performance on the BSAP tests improved dramatically. Between 1981 and 1990, the percentage of 8th grade students in York County who did not meet standards declined from 47.1% to 24.6% in math and from 39.3% to 21.4% in reading. During the 1990's the BSAP trend changed, with 28.1% not meeting 8th grade math standards in 1998 and 26.7% in reading. On standardized tests, the first year when South Carolina students take the exam is comparable to the challenge encountered by the national norm group which took the test only once. Looking at first year data, the percentage of 4th grade students at or below the 25th percentile of national norms was 23.7% in 1983 on the CTBS, 25.6% in 1990 on the Stanford, and 27.3% in 1995 on the Metropolitan; for 9th graders, the percentage in the bottom quarter was 25.6% in 1990 and 19.0% in 1995. Although not comparable, the percent below basic on the 4th grade PACT in 1999, the first year of administration, was 32.7%, but in 2002 18.5% of 4th graders were below basic in reading and math; the percentage of 8th graders below basic in reading and math averaged 37.4% in 1999 and 29.0% in 2002.

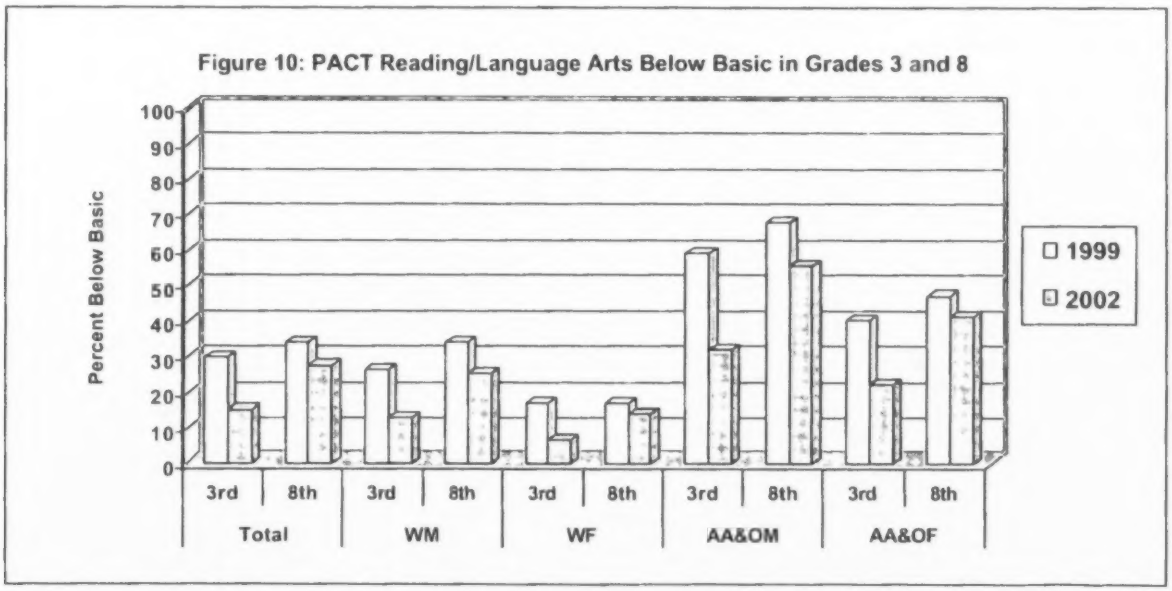
PACT: The Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) was first administered in 1999 for grades 3 - 8 in math and reading/language arts. Math assesses skills in numbers, numerical and algebraic concepts, patterns and functions, geometry, measurement, probability and statistics. The percentage of students scoring below basic in math has decreased by 28.3% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 2,112 students below basic in grades 3-8 but there would have been an additional 832 at 1999 performance rates.



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
		Math (%)				
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	21.8	14.9	12.4	42.5	36.1
	4	19.0	12.4	12.9	36.6	32.4
	5	23.7	14.9	15.2	43.6	42.1
	6	21.0	13.8	12.5	46.7	34.3
	7	29.0	23.1	20.1	54.1	40.8
	8	30.4	23.7	20.1	53.2	51.4
Basic	3	42.0	38.5	43.1	40.7	49.1
	4	34.7	30.1	32.3	42.0	44.2
	5	39.1	33.7	43.7	39.6	40.9
	6	38.9	37.6	37.9	39.9	44.2
	7	32.5	29.8	34.7	27.5	39.9
	8	44.0	45.3	46.6	37.7	40.3
Proficient	3	22.3	26.2	28.1	13.6	9.9
	4	25.1	28.6	30.0	15.7	13.9
	5	21.6	28.6	23.1	11.4	12.6
	6	24.1	26.0	32.2	8.9	15.1
	7	20.1	22.9	24.0	10.2	13.3
	8	15.0	17.5	19.7	6.4	5.4
Advanced	3	14.0	20.5	16.4	3.2	4.8
	4	21.3	28.9	24.8	5.7	9.4
	5	15.6	22.8	18.0	5.3	4.4
	6	15.9	22.6	17.4	4.5	6.4
	7	18.4	24.3	21.2	8.2	6.0
	8	10.5	13.5	13.6	2.7	2.9

Reading/Language Arts assesses reading, listening, speaking, writing, research, and communication with technology. The first PACT assessment found a high percentage of elementary and middle grades students performing below standards and only a modest number above basic. The percentage of students scoring below basic in reading/language arts has decreased by 35.6% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2002. In 2002 there were 1,676 students below basic in grades 3 - 8 but there would have been an additional 929 at 1999 performance rates.

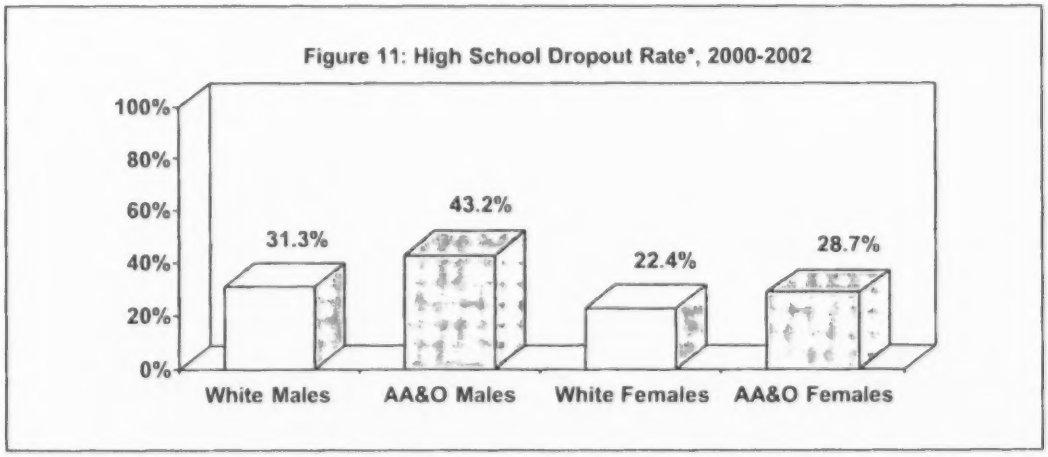
Figure 10: PACT Reading/Language Arts Below Basic in Grades 3 and 8



Test Results of Students on PACT in 2002						
	Reading/Language Arts (%)					
Test Result	Grade	Total	WM	WF	AA&OM	AA&OF
Below Basic	3	15.3	12.8	6.8	32.0	21.9
	4	18.0	16.2	8.8	39.8	22.7
	5	21.7	15.8	11.4	46.7	32.4
	6	24.7	20.6	12.3	53.6	35.6
	7	21.3	19.1	8.3	51.3	28.9
	8	27.6	25.1	14.1	55.6	41.3
Basic	3	35.0	33.2	29.5	43.0	42.0
	4	41.3	42.0	34.8	46.8	50.0
	5	47.3	48.3	45.7	42.9	52.9
	6	34.6	35.8	32.0	34.1	38.5
	7	44.1	45.7	43.4	35.9	50.5
	8	43.3	45.2	43.6	35.3	45.0
Proficient	3	43.8	47.6	54.0	24.0	33.5
	4	37.4	38.5	50.8	12.8	26.7
	5	29.4	34.9	39.7	10.1	13.8
	6	31.8	35.9	40.4	10.8	22.1
	7	30.6	31.7	40.9	12.3	20.0
	8	23.8	25.5	33.3	7.1	12.0
Advanced	3	6.0	6.4	9.7	0.9	2.6
	4	3.3	3.3	5.5	0.6	0.6
	5	1.6	1.1	3.2	0.3	0.9
	6	8.9	7.7	15.2	1.5	3.8
	7	4.1	3.4	7.4	0.6	0.6
	8	5.2	4.3	9.0	2.0	1.7

Dropout Rate - 8th grade students no longer enrolled in grade 12
(average of students for the three years ending 2000-2002)

631 students drop out annually **29.2% students drop out?**



Dropouts: Distressing numbers of students drop out and fail to graduate. An average of 32.3% of 8th graders failed to graduate** from county schools five years later during the period 1980-84, 27.4% during 1985-89, and 27.0% during 1990-94, 27.5% during 1995-97 and 27.4% during 1998-2000***.

During 2001-02, 97.9% of all who did graduate received the State High School Diploma, while the remaining 2.1% received a State Certificate for meeting the required Carnegie units but not passing the Exit Exam.

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*12th grade enrollment compared to 8th grade enrollment four years earlier

** This is calculated by using 8th grade enrollment to graduation data.

*** 2001 data will be available soon and will be posted on the website

Fortunately, many dropouts enroll in adult education programs and either earn a high school diploma or obtain a GED. During 2001-02, 30 Adult Education high school diplomas were awarded to school completers and in 2001 315 GEDs were awarded in the county. Over time, adult education high school diplomas and GEDs increase the effective school completion rate substantially. In the 2000 Census, 16.8% of county resident 25 - 34 year-olds said they had not completed either high school or a GED.

Achievement Summary: The numbers of students testing below basic on the PACT and dropping out range from 15.3% to 35.6%. Thus, far too many students fail to acquire the knowledge, skills, learning habits, and motivation necessary to compete in the economy or contribute to society in the 21st Century.

ADOLESCENT RISK BEHAVIORS

Academic achievement is greatly influenced by the prevailing youth culture which often promotes popularity with peers and partying rather than studying and doing well in school. The prevalence of adolescent risk-taking and under-achievement is illustrated by the poor grades of substance-abusing teens.

Substance Abuser Rates at Levels of Academic Performance

	Usual School Grades in Past Year					Total
	A Range	B Range	C Range	D Range	F Range	
Smoked Cigarettes (in past 30 days)	16.1%	30.8%	43.0%	58.3%	62.1%	33.8%
Drank 5 or More Drinks on One Occasion (in past 30 days)	19.8%	21.7%	32.2%	31.2%	56.8%	25.7%
Used Any Illicit Drug (in past 30 days)	18.0%	27.0%	34.5%	46.2%	62.1%	29.1%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

As influence from parents and other adults declines during adolescence, significant numbers of students engage in violence, crime, school offenses, depressive emotions and attempted suicide:

Risk Behaviors Participated in During Past 12 Months	White Male		White Female		African American Male		African American Female		Total		Total (Grade 7-12)
	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	Middle school	High School	
Carried a handgun or knife for self-defense?	27.7%	32.1%	6.1%	5.8%	16.7%	22.2%	3.8%	14.3%	14.9%	19.0%	17.2%
Carried a handgun or knife as a weapon?	7.6%	11.5%	1.1%	3.5%	8.4%	11.6%	1.4%	4.6%	4.4%	7.7%	6.3%
Been in a fight with someone?	48.1%	32.5%	22.3%	24.6%	48.5%	22.6%	37.0%	25.2%	36.7%	27.6%	31.5%
Hit your boyfriend or girlfriend?	1.8%	1.3%	5.8%	12.2%	1.8%	6.1%	11.3%	39.6%	4.5%	10.2%	7.8%
Been hit by your boyfriend or girlfriend?	6.9%	7.1%	5.6%	11.9%	10.5%	10.8%	3.4%	21.4%	6.4%	11.0%	9.0%
Rec'd detention or in-school suspension?	48.4%	24.4%	23.8%	14.9%	42.0%	21.8%	28.6%	26.1%	35.5%	20.6%	27.0%
Been suspended from school?	14.4%	13.3%	4.7%	9.0%	13.2%	14.2%	8.2%	18.2%	9.6%	12.3%	11.1%
Stolen anything worth > $5?	11.6%	14.2%	7.1%	9.5%	11.6%	12.1%	8.3%	15.4%	9.4%	12.3%	11.1%
Had an accident while driving?	NA	15.3%	NA	11.2%	NA	10.5%	NA	8.7%	NA	12.6%	NA
Been arrested and booked?	5.2%	9.1%	1.3%	4.4%	0.8%	11.1%	2.5%	4.0%	2.8%	6.9%	5.2%
Felt hopeless for two weeks or more?	14.4%	16.3%	22.9%	31.8%	11.0%	7.6%	27.0%	30.6%	18.9%	23.0%	21.3%
Seriously considered attempting suicide?	5.3%	8.7%	8.6%	15.2%	5.0%	6.3%	5.4%	9.5%	6.6%	11.1%	9.2%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

Adolescence is often a time of taking risks and asserting independence from adults. When asked whether they would tell an adult about a problem, the following percentages of county students said they would be "not likely" or "very unlikely" to tell if they:

-heard a student threaten to harm someone: 28.3% middle school, 45.0% high school;
-saw a student with a handgun at school: 16.3% middle school, 14.4% high school;
-saw a student with a knife at school: 18.7% middle school, 27.5% high school;
-saw a student with drugs at school: 28.0% middle school, 64.4% high school;

Alcohol Use:* In the county during 2001-02, 21.9% of 7th and 8th graders and 46.7% of high schoolers said they had used alcohol in the past month. Of White males in grades 7 - 12, 42.2% had used it in the past month, compared with 23.5% of African-American males; likewise, 39.0% of White females said they had used alcohol, compared with 38.0% of African-American females. Many youth first used alcohol at an early age: 14.0% had used alcohol by age 11 or younger, 34.7% by age 13, and 68.2% by age 15.

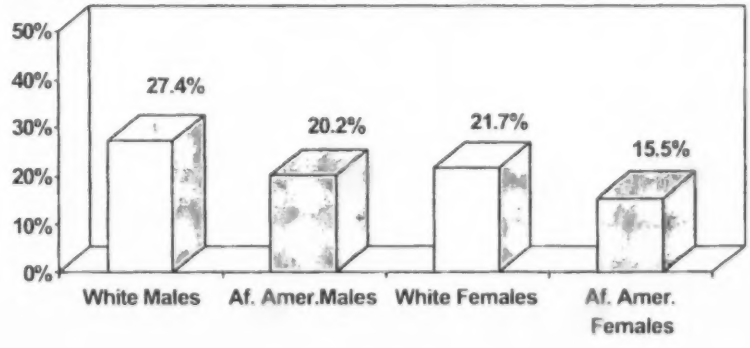
During the previous year, 22.5% of 7th and 8th graders and 36.7% of high schoolers said they had ridden with a drinking driver. Of seniors who drive, 23.8% said they had driven after drinking. Widespread use is encouraged by the ready availability and perceived low risk of alcohol use. Among students who expressed an opinion, 38.0% of eighth graders and 77.3% of seniors felt that beer was easy to get. Also, 76.9% of eighth graders and 76.8% of seniors felt there was not a great risk in drinking two drinks a day, and 46.2% of eighth graders and 54.1% of high schoolers felt there was not a great risk in drinking 5 drinks every weekend.

Heavy Drinking:* In 2001-02, 8.9% of 7th and 8th graders and 25.5% of high school students in the county repor drinking 5 or more drinks in a day during the past month. When asked how many drinks, if any, they usually consur 19.8% of all county students in grades 7 - 12 in 2001-02 responded 3 or more drinks at a time and 10.8% reported usuall or more drinks. Among high school students, 26.3% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 14.7% 5 more. Among seniors, 35.3% reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 20.5% 5 or more; however 30.5% seniors said that they drank 5 or more drinks in a day once or more during the past month.

Drugs:* In 2001-02, 11.4% of 7th and 8th graders and 28.9% of high schoolers in the county reported using ille drugs during the previous month. Among students in grades 7 - 12, use was reported by 27.4% of White males, 21.7% Wh females, 20.2% of African-American males, and 15.5% of African-American females. Some young people initiated drug at an early age: 7.4% had experienced their first use by age 11 or sooner; 24.8% had used a drug by age 13, and 47.0% by a 15.

In the past year, 15.0% of all high school students in the county who drive and 22.7% of seniors who drive said that they had driven after using drugs. Such use is encouraged by the ready availability of drugs: 29.6% of 8th graders who had an opinion said it is easy to get marijuana and 7.0% said it is easy to get cocaine or crack; 71.9% of seniors said it is easy to get marijuana and 28.1% said it was easy to get cocaine or crack.

Figure 12: Drug Use among Students Grades 7-12 during 2001-02*



* County participation in the DAODAS South Carolina Survey of adolescent substance abuse and risk-taking was not complete but county data is presented to provide the best available picture of teen risk-taking attitudes and behavior in York County. Only District 1 participated out of the 4 districts.

Sexual Activity and Pregnancy: Many teenagers now engage in sexual activity. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) administered to a representative sample of high school students throughout South Carolina in 2001 showed that sexual activity begins at an early age: 7% of female and 21% of male students have engaged in intercourse before age 13; by age 15, 38% the females and 49% of males have engaged in sexual intercourse. Statewide, 48% of females and 50% of males in the 11th and 12th grades reported engaging in intercourse during the past three months. Furthermore, 27% of female and 33% of male 12th graders have had intercourse with four or more partners during their lifetimes.

Premature sexual activity often results in pregnancy. In the county, 149 girls between the ages of 14 and 17 became pregnant in 1999, 117 in 2000 and 124 in 2001. This represented 2.4% of all girls ages 14 – 17 in 2001; several times this percentage become pregnant at least once by age 18. The 2001 pregnancy rate for ages 14 - 17 was 1.9% for Whites and 3.9% for African-Americans and Others. Of all pregnancies of 14-17 year olds, 83.9% resulted in live births, with almost all other pregnancies ending in abortions.

Teen pregnancy rates increased substantially across the state during the 1980s; as a result, greater emphasis v devoted to preventing teen pregnancy. Since 1989, the teen pregnancy rate in York County has decreased by 57.1%. Over it has decreased by 53.7% for Whites, and decreased by 59.4% for African Americans and Others.

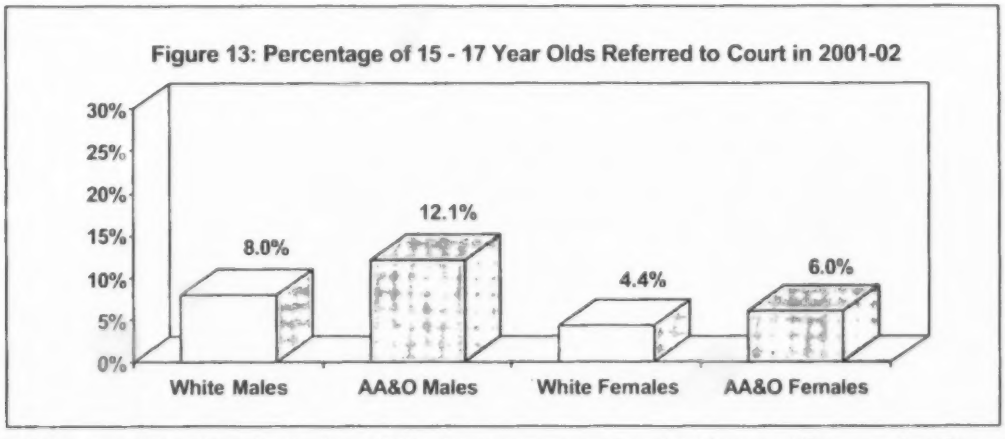
Juvenile Delinquency: In 2001-02, 887 individual juvenile offenders in the county were referred to the Solicitor for delinquency; of these, 12.5% were age 12 or younger, 29.0% were 13 or 14, and 58.5% were 15 or older.

Of the referrals to the family court, 7.5% of all referrals were for violent and serious crimes which include drug trafficking, acts against persons for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and serious property offenses for arson and burglary. Also, 289 juvenile cases constituting 20.4% of all referrals were for status offenses. Status offenses include truancy, running away, incorrigibility, and other offenses that would not be crimes for adults.

Delinquents are likely to live in families with low income: 21.4% lived in families with income under $10,000, 38.1% with $10,000-$19,999 and 40.5% with $20,000 or more. Furthermore, only 16.3% of delinquents lived with both natural parents, while 59.3% lived in a single parent household, 21.1% lived with other relatives, and 3.3% in other situations including parent plus step-parent. Delinquency or criminal activity occurs among many related family members: 51.3% had at least one family member who was delinquent or had some criminal record.

Youth referred to the family courts are likely to have been there before. In 2001-02, 53.4% had at least one prior referral and 21.6% had been referred to court 3 times or more. Many were referred at an early age. For delinquents 15 - 17 years old, 2.1% had been referred by the age of 10, 8.1% by the age of 12, and 22.7% by the age of 14.

During 2001-02, 515 youth ages 15 to 17 were referred to the family courts. In the county, 6.9% of all youth 15 to 17 were referred to court in one year and roughly double that percentage are referred at least once by age 18. Furthermore, the National Youth Survey indicates that typically across the United States the proportion of youth engaging in crime is two or three times the number ever apprehended. In 2001-02, there were 41 juveniles committed from the county to DJJ custody and placed in residential programs.



Not in School or Employed: During 2000, 778 teenagers ages 16-19 were idle, meaning they neither worked any hours nor were enrolled in school, even part-time. Idle teens comprised 8.6% of their age group: 8.0% for White and 10.2% African-American & Other teens. A much larger number, perhaps twice as many, were not engaged in either school full time or work full time. The data reflect a serious failure in both school completion and the critical transition from school to work, significantly affecting their development as future workers. For an in-depth description of the problems of young adults seeking to enter the labor force, visit our website at www.scyoungadults.org for our state and county reports on 18-29 year olds.

Deaths: During 1997-2001, 43 youth ages 15 to 19 died. Historically, automobile accidents have been the major cause, resulting in 14 deaths between 1996 and 2000; homicides killed 5 youth 15 to 19 years old during the five-year period, and 5 youth committed suicide. Alcohol use is often a significant factor in deaths among teenagers.

SUMMARY

Facing the Scope of Problems: The data on families, economic status, health, readiness, school achievement, and adolescent risk behaviors provide a troublesome picture of the condition of children in York County. The 26.0% of children in single-parent families, 12.3% in poverty, 27.4% not graduating from school, 46.7% of high school students using alcohol and 28.9% using drugs each month, and other data profiled in this report suggest that too many children are at risk of not growing up to become self-supporting adults, good family members, and responsible community citizens.

Emphasizing the Positive: South Carolina Kids Count reports have been developed to describe the problems of children in each of the counties. Fortunately, the majority of children and youth are doing well, and some very well. One simple description is the percentage of children who do not fall into the problem categories reported. For the county, 86.1% of children are born to non-teen mothers ages 20 or older, 63.4% are born to married parents, and 74.0% lived in two-parent families; 87.7% were not poor and 68.3% lived in families with incomes above twice the poverty level for a family of three, $30,040 in 2002; 91.7% of babies were born with normal birthweights; 88.9% were assessed as ready for the first grade, 69.6% scored basic or better on PACT for 8th grade math and 72.4% for 8th grade reading, 70.5% passed all parts of the Exit Exam in the 10th grade, and 72.6% graduated with their class. In a typical month, 53.3% of high school students do not drink alcohol, 71.1% do not use drugs, and 66.3% do not smoke. Unfortunately, the absence of a problem is not always an indicator of success. Some data is available for exemplary performance: for example, 49.8% of 3rd graders and 29.0% of 8th graders scored proficient or advanced on PACT in reading and 36.3% of 3rd graders and 25.5% of 8th graders in math. Unfortunately, data on success is not generally available.

Despite the limitations of success data, we must emphasize the positive in providing good support and appropriate influences for children and youth. Recent philosophy and publications such as those of the Search Institute (700 South Third Street, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN, 55415-1138, tel. 1-800-888-7828, www.search-institute.org), emphasize the critical importance of "developmental assets" to promote and support positive development. One short book from the Search Institute, (What Kids Need to Succeed, by Peter J. Benson, Judy Gailbraith, and Pamela Espeland, 1995) presents an excellent array of suggestions for promoting developmental assets through families, community, faith congregations, and schools. If each family, school, religious congregation and community organization assertively worked to build such assets, the problems described in this report would be reduced dramatically. Such positive family-school-community efforts could improve South Carolina's national Kids Count ranking from the bottom 10 to the average or even into the top 10 by prevention of unnecessary problems affecting children and youth, as shown on our website at www.sckidscount.org.

All data presented in this report is the most recent available at the date it goes to the printer. This version of the Kids Count report will be revised as more recent and additional data become available. Please send us your corrections and suggestions for improvement. We welcome your ideas for ways to make the state and county reports more useful and accurate. Please utilize local data sources whenever possible to supplement the profile provided through our report.

Data related inquiries should be directed to:

Anne Wilson, Data Manager (awilson@drss.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-4810

Calls for **copies of reports** for other counties and inquiries regarding more recent reports should be made to:

Kim Hazel-Lohr, Project Manager (khazel@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-1295

For **policy questions and general comments**, please contact:

Dr. A. Baron Holmes, Project Director (bholmes@ogc.state.sc.us)
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Fax: (803) 734-3619, Phone: (803) 734-2291

Comparable reports for all 46 counties and for the state can also be found on the World Wide Web at

www.sckidscount.org

Our website also provides: links to other websites for indicators in our report; high to low rankings for individual indicators; information on how to improve SC's national rank; and a glossary of definitions.

The national Kids Count Report can be found on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website at

www.aecf.org

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York County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Indicators		Number					Percent					R	
	Most Recent Year	1980*	1990*	Most Recent Data	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980 Rank	199
Health													
White babies	2001	82	92	126	+53.7%	+37.0%	7.0	5.7	7.3	4.3%	27.5%	35	
African American and Other babies	2001	70	81	69	-1.4%	-14.8%	12.9	13.2	11.4	-11.6%	-13.1%	30	
White babies	2001	548	564	440	-19.7%	-22.0%	46.5	35.1	25.3	-45.6%	-27.9%	44	
African American and Other babies	2001	378	409	283	-25.1%	-30.8%	69.9	66.5	46.9	-32.9%	-29.4%	41	
White babies	2001	34	44	37	+8.8%	-15.9%	1.0	1.0	0.7	-25.2%	-22.6%	13	
African American and Other babies	2001	36	38	32	-11.1%	-15.8%	2.3	2.1	1.8	-20.3%	-14.4%	24	
Family													
White babies	2001	66	73	61	-7.6%	-16.4%	5.6	4.5	3.5	-37.5%	-23.0%	24	
African American and Other babies	2001	88	80	46	-47.7%	-42.5%	16.3	13.0	7.6	-53.1%	-41.4%	46	
White babies	2001	193	233	195	+1.0%	+16.3%	16.4	14.5	11.2	-31.6%	-22.8%	25	
African American and Other babies	2001	166	171	129	-22.3%	+24.6%	30.7	27.8	21.4	-30.3%	-23.1%	40	
White babies	2001	338	393	327	-3.3%	-16.8%	28.7	24.5	18.8	-34.4%	-23.1%	26	
African American and Other babies	2001	251	219	146	-41.8%	-33.3%	46.4	35.6	24.2	-47.8%	-32.0%	38	
White babies	2001	83	251	453	+445.8%	+80.5%	7.0	15.6	26.1	270.7%	67.1%	31	
African American and Other babies	2001	294	421	402	+36.7%	-4.5%	54.3	68.5	66.7	22.7%	-2.6%	43	
White	2000	2,307	3,221	5,016	+117.4%	+55.7%	10.1	14.0	17.4	72.7%	24.6%	23	
African American and Other	2000	2,618	3,259	4,953	+89.2%	+52.0%	34.1	48.3	52.1	52.7%	7.8%	37	
Education													
White males	2001	217	134	79	-63.6%	-41.0%	34.8	19.4	9.4	-73.0%	-51.5%	33	
White females	2001	124	78	51	-58.9%	-34.6%	23.6	11.5	6.9	-70.8%	-40.0%	32	
African American and Other males	2001	160	116	72	-55.0%	-37.9%	56.3	36.9	22.4	-60.2%	-39.3%	30	
African American and Other females	2001	133	97	45	-66.2%	-53.6%	49.3	32.7	14.0	-71.6%	-57.2%	31	
White males	2000	141	132	61	-56.7%	-53.8%	23.2	19.4	7.2	-69.0%	-62.9%	33	
White females	2000	71	88	40	-43.7%	-54.5%	12.7	13.5	5.2	-59.1%	-61.5%	35	
African American and Other males	2000	99	110	64	-35.4%	-41.8%	35.1	37.5	19.6	-44.2%	-47.7%	33	
African American and Other females	2000	58	58	23	-60.3%	-60.3%	21.5	20.4	7.1	-67.0%	-65.2%	30	
White males	2002	194	57	120	-38.1%	+110.5%	31.2	8.6	14.9	-52.2%	73.3%	27	
White females	2002	138	53	88	-36.2%	+66.0%	23.7	8.5	12.4	-47.7%	45.9%	10	
African American and Other males	2002	158	42	144	-8.9%	+242.9%	53.0	15.7	42.5	-19.8%	170.7%	15	
African American and Other females	2002	123	52	127	+3.3%	+144.2%	44.7	20.1	36.1	-19.2%	79.6%	12	
White males	2002	191	65	103	-46.1%	+58.5%	30.7	9.8	12.8	-58.3%	30.6%	27	
White females	2002	111	45	48	-56.8%	+6.7%	19.0	7.2	6.8	-64.2%	-5.6%	25	
African American and Other males	2002	160	48	108	-32.5%	+125.0%	53.7	18.0	32.0	-40.4%	77.8%	15	
African American and Other females	2002	102	39	77	-24.5%	+97.4%	37.0	15.1	21.9	-40.8%	45.0%	14	
White males	1998	121	151	177	+46.3%	+17.2%	21.3	23.1	21.8	2.3%	-5.6%	16	
White females	1998	84	97	119	+41.7%	+22.7%	14.5	14.8	15.5	6.9%	4.7%	20	
African American and Other males	1998	110	127	156	+41.8%	+22.8%	44.7	51.8	55.3	23.7%	6.8%	12	
African American and Other females	1998	77	83	146	+89.6%	+75.9%	30.0	35.0	46.5	55.0%	32.9%	8	

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York County
Kids Count Trends 1980 to Present

Education (continued)

Indicators		Number					Percent				
	Most Recent Year	1980*	1990*	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres	1980	1990	Most Recent	Percent Change 80-pres	Percent Change 90-pres
White males	2002	237	132	205	-13.5%	+55.3%	38.5	20.7	23.7	-38.4%	14.5%
White females	2002	229	117	161	-29.7%	+37.6%	37.1	19.5	20.1	-45.8%	3.1%
African American and Other males	2002	170	80	158	-7.1%	+97.5%	70.5	37.7	53.2	-24.5%	41.1%
African American and Other females	2002	172	75	180	+4.7%	+140.0%	71.4	38.3	51.4	-28.0%	34.2%
White males	2002	202	134	217	+7.4%	+61.9%	32.8	21.0	25.1	-23.5%	19.5%
White females	2002	159	82	113	-28.9%	+37.8%	25.7	13.6	14.1	-45.1%	3.7%
African American and Other males	2002	164	83	164	+0.0%	+97.6%	67.8	39.1	55.6	-18.0%	42.2%
African American and Other females	2002	150	54	145	-3.3%	+168.5%	62.2	27.6	41.3	-33.6%	49.6%
White males	1998	NA	160	NA	NA	NA	NA	24.3	18.2	NA	-25.1%
White females	1998	NA	79	NA	NA	NA	NA	14.1	12.7	NA	-9.9%
African American and Other males	1998	NA	87	NA	NA	NA	NA	46	45.7	NA	-0.7%
African American and Other females	1998	NA	89	NA	NA	NA	NA	40.6	36.8	NA	-9.4%
White males	2002	221	105	191	-13.6%	+81.9%	34.0	20.8	24.7	-27.4%	18.8%
White females	2002	158	87	142	-10.1%	+63.2%	23.9	15.3	18.3	-23.4%	19.6%
African American and Other males	2002	152	91	128	-15.8%	+40.7%	69.4	49.7	55.2	-20.5%	11.1%
African American and Other females	2002	131	80	151	+15.3%	+88.8%	57.5	40.8	51.0	-11.3%	25.0%
White males	2000-02	180	222	258	+43.1%	+16.1%	25.6	30.5	31.3	22.1%	2.4%
White females	2000-02	156	169	174	+11.7%	+3.1%	24.4	24.8	22.4	-7.9%	-9.5%
African American and Other males	2000-02	111	88	116	+4.7%	+31.4%	38.1	32.1	43.2	13.4%	34.5%
African American and Other females	2000-02	63	76	84	+33.9%	+10.1%	25.5	27.7	28.7	12.6%	3.7%
White males	NA	1,461	1,540	NA	NA	NA	30.3	27.6	NA	NA	NA
White females	NA	1,432	1,237	NA	NA	NA	24.4	19.3	NA	NA	NA
African American and Other males	NA	779	730	NA	NA	NA	45.7	45.8	NA	NA	NA
African American and Other females	NA	527	592	NA	NA	NA	25.7	29.4	NA	NA	NA

Economics

White children	2000	1,918	1,760	2,399	+25.1%	+36.3%	8.4	7.2	7.8	-7.1%	8.3%
African American and Other children	2000	2,584	2,747	2,850	+10.3%	+3.7%	28.5	30.2	24.5	-14.2%	-19.0%
White families	2000	$ 49,072	$ 56,877	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
African American and Other families	2000	$ 34,435	$ 34,652	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Adolescent Risk Factors

White	2001	70	117	72	+2.9%	-38.5%	2.2	3.8	1.9		
African American and Other	2001	88	112	52	-40.9%	-53.6%	7.7	9.9	3.9		
White males	2002	92	181	211	+129.3%	+16.6%	4.0	7.6	8.0	100.6%	5.6%
White females	2002	35	108	120	+242.9%	+11.1%	1.5	4.8	4.4	190.9%	-9.1%
African American and Other males	2002	51	93	120	+135.3%	+29.0%	6.2	12.5	12.1	95.5%	-3.0%
African American and Other females	2002	10	72	64	+540.0%	-11.1%	1.2	8.7	6.0	398.4%	-31.2%

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